



Agenda

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Optional: TAC Visits (Tickets for TAC Visits must be purchased in-advance and are now sold out.)

When?	What?	Where?
9:00 a.m.	TAC Visits Badge Pick up	Lobby of Hôtel Plaza Québec
9:30 a.m.	Shuttle Bus Departure from the Hôtel Plaza Québec 3031 Boul Laurier, Québec, QC G1V 2M2	Lobby of Hôtel Plaza Québec
10:00 a.m.	TAC Visits Join us for an optional day of TAC Visits to tour four centres in Québec City and enjoy a networking lunch. Participants will take a shuttle bus to visit and learn more about these outstanding TACs: Bus 1 – Group 1 & 2: Centre for Imaging and Interactive Media (CIMMI), Cégep de Sainte-Foy CIMMI's mission is to support the innovation efforts of companies and public institutions in Québec and Canada by proposing innovative solutions in the many fields of digital technologies. The centre specializes in augmented and virtual reality, digital vision, 2D/3D imaging, geomatics, medical imaging, interactive web media, mobile platforms, and more. Forestry Education and Research Center (CERFO), Cégep de Sainte-Foy CERFO contributes, in a sustainable development perspective, to the technological advancement and growth of organizations and college-level educational institutions in Québec's forestry sector. The centre specializes in supplying plants, issues with wood production, ecosystem-based forest management, climate change, invasive alien species, wildlife management, remote sensing in forestry and agroforestry.	CIMMI, 2440, chemin Ste-Foy, Québec, QC G1V 1T2  CERFO, 2440, chemin Ste-Foy Québec, QC G1V 1T2 

When?	What?	Where?
10:00 a.m.	TAC Visits (continued) Bus 2 – Group 3 & 4: Centre for Industrial Robotics and Vision (CVRI), Cégep de Lévis CVRI specializes in advanced robotics, digital vision, and artificial intelligence. Its mission is to support business growth by offering applied research services, technology transfer, and guidance toward Industry 4.0 and 5.0. TransBIOTech, Cégep de Lévis TransBIOTech supports innovation in life sciences companies by providing access to biotechnology expertise, while contributing to training and knowledge transfer. Since 2002, with contributions from the Quebec government and the Canada Foundation for Innovation, TransBIOTech has built a cutting-edge research complex that complies with Health Canada's standards for biosafety level 2.	CRVI, 205, Rue Monseigneur-Bourget, Lévis, QC G6V 6Z9  TransBIOTech, 201, Rue Monseigneur-Bourget, Lévis, QC G6V 6Z3 
11:30 a.m.	Shuttle Bus to the Restaurant	
12:00 p.m.	Lunch at the Paris Grill	Paris Grill, 2820 Boul Laurier, Québec, QC G1V 0C1
1:30 p.m.	Shuttle Bus to the TACs	
2:00 p.m.	TAC Visits Bus 1 – Group 3 & 4: Centre for Digital Imaging and Interactive Media (CIMMI), Cégep de Sainte-Foy CIMMI's mission is to support the innovation efforts of companies and public institutions in Québec and Canada by proposing innovative solutions in the many fields of digital technologies. The centre specializes in augmented and virtual reality, digital vision, 2D/3D imaging, geomatics, medical imaging, interactive web media, mobile platforms, and more. Forestry Education and Research Center (CERFO), Cégep de Sainte-Foy CERFO contributes, in a sustainable development perspective, to the technological advancement and growth of organizations and college-level educational institutions in Québec's forestry sector. The centre specializes in supplying plants, issues with wood production, ecosystem-based forest management, climate change, invasive alien species, wildlife management, remote sensing in forestry and agroforestry.	CIMMI, 2440, chemin Ste-Foy, Québec, QC G1V 1T2  CERFO, 2440, chemin Ste-Foy Québec, QC G1V 1T2 



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3:30 p.m.	Shuttle Bus to the Hôtel Plaza Québec	3031 Boul Laurier, Québec, QC G1V 2M2
6:30 p.m.	Evening to Explore Québec City The Tech-Access Canada team will be in the lobby of the Hôtel Plaza Québec if you need help to find a restaurant or an activity for the evening.	

Day 1: Wednesday, October 22, 2025

Location: Hôtel Plaza Québec, 3031 Boul Laurier, Québec, QC G1V 2M2

When?	What?	Where?
7:30 a.m.	Registration and Hot Breakfast Grab some breakfast and connect with friends, colleagues and the individuals you want to meet!	Ravel Room Chopin / Mozart Room
8:30 a.m.	Opening Remarks Denis Boulanger, Director of Research, Centre for Digital Imaging and Interactive Media (CIMMI), Cégep de Sainte-Foy	Chopin / Mozart Room
8:45 a.m.	Tech-Access Canada Update Ken Doyle, Executive Director, Tech-Access Canada	Chopin / Mozart Room
9:15 a.m.	Meet The New TACs The newest TACs to join the network will deliver short presentations to provide overviews of their centres and research expertise of their teams. - Marie-Christine Ferland, General Manager, Centre for Industrial Robotics and Vision (CRVI), Cégep de Lévis - Isabelle Lessard, Researcher, Centre ÉCOBES, Cégep de la Jonquière - Eric Matte, Researcher and Mechanical Designer, GÉNIElab, La Cité; and - Marc-Antoine Benglia, Director, InnovaCité, GÉNIElab, La Cité - Maxim Tardiff, Interim CEO, Biopierre, Cégep de La Pocatière - Paul Adams, Director, Applied Genomics Centre (AGC), Kwantlen Polytechnic University; and - Abhinaya Venkatesan, Research and Partners Manager, Applied Genomics Centre (AGC), Kwantlen Polytechnic University - Kimberley Cathline, Associate Director, Horticultural and Environmental Sciences Innovation Centre (HESIC), Niagara College - Laleh Khodaparast, Director, Research and Innovation, Centre of Industrial Simulation and Prototyping (CISP), Georgian College	Chopin / Mozart Room
10:15 a.m.	Networking Break Recharge with a coffee and explore the exhibits for fresh ideas.	Carmen Room
10:45 a.m.	NRC IRAP: Update on the Interactive Visits Program Andy Church, Industrial Technology Advisor (ITA), Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP), National Research Council Canada (NRC)	Chopin / Mozart Room 



When?	What?	Where?
11:00 a.m.	Exploring TAC Growth Versus Scaling Back - Melanie Ross, Research Chair, Green Building Technologies (GBT), SAIT - Peter Laffin, Director, Office of Shared Services, Industry Solutions, NAIT Funding agencies, governments, post-secondary institutions and industry trends influence the expansion and retraction of a Technology Access Centre. It can be difficult to manage rapid growth or the need to scale back. This session will invite participants to share their experiences and learn from each other on three key challenge areas that influence shifts: funding changes, industry trends, and government focus. The session will balance the pros and cons of growth and reduction of services, teams, and impacts.	Chopin / Mozart Room
12:00 p.m.	Advancing AI and Sovereign Compute: A National Collaboration James Peltier, Director, IT Services, Research Computing Group, Simon Fraser University	Chopin / Mozart Room SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
12:15 p.m.	Lunch	Plaza I
1:30 p.m.	Travel to your next session	
1:45 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions: Series A A1: TAC Renewals: Best Practices and Lessons Learned - Richard Gale, Director, Camosun Innovates, Camosun College - Chloé Bois, General Manager and Principal Investigator, Printability and Graphic Communications Institute (ICI), Collège Ahuntsic - Karin Grosstessner-Hain, Manager, BC Beverage Technology Access Centre (BCBTAC), Okanagan College - Terry Peckham, Director and Research Chair, Digital Integration Centre of Excellence (DICE), Saskatchewan Polytechnic - Debjoyti Sen, Director, Centre for Innovation in Manufacturing Technology Access Centre (CIM-TAC), Red Deer Polytechnic - Jason Taylor, Department Head, and Researcher, Selkirk Technology Access Centre (STAC), Selkirk College This session will share best practices and lessons learned from leaders whose TACs recently went through the renewal process. It offers an opportunity for participants to compare strategies, discuss pain points, explore metrics and financials, and gain helpful advice.	Chopin / Mozart Room

When?	What?	Where?
1:45 p.m.	A2: Collaborating for Impact: Alberta’s TAC PSIs Driving Applied Research Together • Tonya Wolfe, Associate Vice-President, Applied Research, Red Deer Polytechnic • Jamie McInnis, Director, Applied Research and Innovation Services, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) • Patricia Wolf Veiga, Manager, National Bee Diagnostic Centre (NBDC), Northwestern Polytechnic Alberta’s college and polytechnic institutions—NAIT, SAIT, Olds College, Red Deer Polytechnic (RDP), and Northwestern Polytechnic (NWP)—are working in unison to strengthen the province’s applied research ecosystem. Through a shared vision and coordinated action, these institutions are leveraging a \$1M Alberta Innovates Ecosystem Development grant to build a robust, province-wide innovation network. Attendees will gain insight into how initiatives like P2INACLE, Labs4, and the ERA Award are enabling cross-institutional collaboration, accelerating industry partnerships, and driving innovation in key sectors. The session will also highlight governance models, shared infrastructure, and success stories that demonstrate the power of collective impact. A3: How to Improve Quality and Consistency in Project Delivery: Our TACs Journey with ISO Certification • Heather Ward, Director, Reality Capture and Digitalization Technology Access Centre (RCD TAC), College of the North Atlantic (CNA) RCD TAC recently acquired ISO certification for ISO 21384-3 (Safe commercial unmanned aircraft system (UAS) operations). Heather will share information about the process of ISO certification, why they did it, what benefits it has, and how it helps the RCD-TAC and applied research group stand out from competitors. It’s exciting to be the first educational institution in the world with this certification!	Ravel Room Beethoven Room
2:30 p.m.	Networking Break Recharge with a coffee and explore the exhibits for fresh ideas.	Carmen Room



When?	What?	Where?
3:00 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions: Series B B1: Considering the Changing Landscapes of College Overhead - Richard Gale, Director, Camosun Innovates, Camosun College - Janine Meade, Business Development Lead, SEATAC, Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) - Melanie Ross, Research Chair, Green Building Technologies (GBT), SAIT - Neil Wilkinson, Director, Walker Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre (WAMIC), Niagara College - Naomi Tabata, Director, Centre for Applied Research and Innovation (CARTI), North Island College Recent budget unpleasantness has prompted a sector-wide review and reconsideration of college overhead for applied research and innovation activities. This session will identify some of the circumstances at TACs across the country and seek to build a shared knowledge base for grappling with new realities. B2: How We Help our Clients Cross the Valley of Death - Alain Tremblay, Deputy Executive Director, and Director of Operations, Kemitek, Cégep de Thetford Testimonial of Kemitek's experience in supporting companies through the various stages of development, up to the commercialization of their innovative products. B3: Supercharging Productivity with AI: Novel Tools for TACs - Amit Maraj, Principal Investigator, AI Hub, Durham College Technology Access Centres (TACs) are hubs of innovation, but they often face the challenge of doing more with fewer resources. This hands-on workshop explores how novel AI tools can transform the way TACs operate—streamlining workflows, accelerating research, and amplifying impact for industry partners. Participants will discover practical AI applications for documentation, prototyping, data analysis, and client collaboration, while also learning strategies to integrate these tools responsibly and effectively. Whether you're looking to boost productivity, enhance service delivery, or unlock new opportunities for innovation, this session will showcase actionable ways to embed AI into the daily operations of a TAC.	Chopin / Mozart Room Ravel Room Beethoven Room



When?	What?	Where?
3:45 p.m.	Travel to your next session	
4:00 p.m.	NSERC: Update on the Future of the TAC Grant and Renewals - Robbyn Plumb, Associate Vice-President, Research and Technology Partnerships, NSERC - Edward Irving, Director, Research and Technology Partnerships, College and Networks, NSERC	Chopin / Mozart Room
5:00 p.m.	Time on your own	
6:00 p.m.	TAC Innovate Awards Soirée 6:00 p.m. Cocktails 7:30 p.m. Welcome and Dinner 8:30 p.m. Awards Presentation In partnership with:	Indoor Garden Chopin / Mozart Room



Day 2: Thursday, October 23, 2025

Location: Hôtel Plaza Québec, 3031 Boul Laurier, Québec, QC G1V 2M2

When?	What?	Where?
8:00 a.m.	Hot Breakfast Grab some breakfast and connect with friends, colleagues and the individuals you want to meet!	Ravel Room Chopin / Mozart Room
9:00 a.m.	Welcome to Day 2 Melanie Ross, Research Chair, Green Building Technologies (GBT), SAIT, and Chair, Board of Directors, Tech-Access Canada	Chopin / Mozart Room
9:15 a.m.	TAC Café: Small Group Discussions Participants can choose from 8 topic-specific small group discussions to explore best practices, pertinent issues and opportunities. The session will include two rounds of 25-minute discussions. Table 1) From the Client's Side - Brock Husak, Advanced Manufacturing Scientist, Walker Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre (WAMIC), Niagara College Brock recently joined WAMIC from Airbus Helicopter Canada. In this session he will provide his perspective, "from the Client's Side" of what manufacturers are looking for from their interactions with TACs. Table 2) Creating a National R&D Network – Fab-circulaR and Agri-Innovation for a Sustainable, agile and inclusive logistics Ecosystem (FRAISE) - Chloé Bois, General Manager and Principal Investigator, Printability and Graphic Communications Institute (ICI), Collège Ahuntsic - Alexis Buzzee, Manager, Business Development, Integrated Agriculture Technology Centre (IATC), Lethbridge Polytechnic FRAISE is a pan-Canadian, cross-industry, interdisciplinary collegial network that combines the expertise of eight applied research centres. Chloé and Alexis will share their keys to success for developing FRAISE, including how it was started, what are the key components for building a network, what worked and what didn't.	Chopin / Mozart Room <i>There is no simultaneous translation for this session</i>



When?	What?	Where?
9:15 a.m.	TAC Café: Small Group Discussions (continued) Table 3) Strategies for Managing High Volume Projects - Brianne Bothwell PMP, Project Manager, Centre for Innovation in Manufacturing Technology Access Centre (CIM-TAC), Red Deer Polytechnic Brianne manages 50 projects annually for CIM-TAC. She will delve into how Monday.com and Harvest were implemented successfully to streamline the tracking of project activities and timesheets. These tools have revolutionized the team's workflow and ability to handle a high volume of projects efficiently. Brianne will also share her insights on the adaptation process, overall benefits, and how these platforms can be leveraged to enhance project management in similar environments. Table 4) Strategic Advocacy Priorities of the TAC Network - Lyndon Ashton, Associate Director, Food and Beverage Innovation Centre (FBIC), Niagara College - Laura Bratanek, Project Manager, Tech-Access Canada Tech-Access Canada will consult with members to get your input on advocacy priorities. Join this discussion to share your perspectives on the advocacy priorities that matter most to your TAC and the future of the network, so we can have informed discussions with government officials. Table 5) Solving Canada's Defence and Security Challenges - Alain Joseph, Director, Applied Research, Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) This discussion will explore the creation of a TAC-led network focused on addressing Canada's defence and security challenges. Participants will discuss potential opportunities for collaboration, potential project themes, and strategies to align research outcomes with federal priorities. Table 6) Transforming Canada's Housing Industry through Innovative Building Methods - Houssein Awada, Scientific Director, Inovem, Cégep de Victoriaville - Pape Diouf, Executive Director, SEREX, Cégep de Rimouski - Bernard Lefrançois, Director, Inovem, Cégep de Victoriaville Build Canada Homes is a new federal agency that will build affordable housing at scale. It aims to help catalyze a new housing industry – one that builds faster, and more sustainably, 365 days a year. Join this discussion to explore the creation of a TAC-led network on construction and housing that would lend its collective expertise to help achieve this ambitious vision.	Chopin / Mozart Room <i>There is no simultaneous translation for this session</i>



When?	What?	Where?
9:15 a.m.	Table 7) Benefits of Automation in the Laboratory • YunHeng (Alex) Li, Technical Support Manager, Aumintec • Shivangi Singh, Biomedical Sales Specialist, Aumintec • Luis Trillanes, Sales & Marketing Director, Aumintec This discussion will highlight the benefits of automation for laboratories operating in challenging environments, with insights drawn from Aumintec's experience in developing advanced lab automation systems. Participants will be invited to share perspectives and experiences from their own research centres, as well as their future laboratory equipment needs, to help shape and refine innovative bioscience solutions. Table 8) Ask Ken Anything • Ken Doyle, Executive Director, Tech-Access Canada Do you have a question for Ken? Join this table to chat with Ken, ask your questions, and seek his advice to help overcome the challenges your TAC or research centre is facing.	Chopin / Mozart Room <i>There is no simultaneous translation for this session</i>
10:30 a.m.	Networking Break Recharge with a coffee and explore the exhibits for fresh ideas.	Carmen Room
11:00 a.m.	Business Development Strategies to Drive TAC Growth Securing sustainable funding is a constant challenge for Technology Access Centres (TACs). This session will explore proven strategies to strengthen the pipeline of support and revenue. Speakers will share insights and best practices on how to: • Land large-scale projects valued at \$1 million and above by aligning R&D capabilities with industry and government priorities. • Solicit significant industry donations and in-kind contributions to ensure long-term operational stability. • Gain funder commitments to establish long-term projects and multi-year research initiatives. Speakers: • Marie-Christine Ferland, General Manager, Centre for Industrial Robotics and Vision (CRVI), Cégep de Lévis • Nicholas Berrouard, Director of Operations, CNETE, Cégep de Shawinigan • Gheorghe Marin, General Manager, Quebec Centre for Metallurgy (CMQ), Cégep de Trois-Rivières	Chopin / Mozart Room



When?	What?	Where?
12:00 p.m.	Networking Lunch	Ginger Resto-Bar
1:15 p.m.	Travel to the next session	
1:30 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions: C Series C1: In Camera Discussion for TAC Members (TAC Members only) - Ken Doyle, Executive Director, Tech-Access Canada - Melanie Ross, Research Chair, Green Building Technologies (GBT), SAIT, and Chair, Board of Directors, Tech-Access Canada TAC members will have a candid discussion and voice concerns regarding any of the challenges they are facing to solicit help from Tech-Access Canada or other TAC members. They can also put forward their thoughts on improving the future strategic operations of Tech-Access Canada. C2: GoEngineer: Collaborating with the TAC Network on Business Development Opportunities - Alireza Pasha, Enterprise Account Executive – Education & Public Sector, GoEngineer Alireza has been working with many TACs within the network and will explore how GoEngineer can support TACs with their future business development opportunities. C3: Branding InnovaCité to Position TACs and Applied Research Centres for Success - Marc-Antoine Benglia, Director, InnovaCité, La Cité This session will explore the amazing rebrand of the applied research office at La Cité. Marc-Antoine will discuss how he led the branding of InnovaCité, including the TAC and research centre names, website, and promotional materials.	Chopin / Mozart Room Tech-Access  Canada Ravel Room  goengineer Beethoven Room 
2:30 p.m.	Travel to the next session	
2:45 p.m.	Closing Remarks Ken Doyle, Executive Director, Tech-Access Canada	Chopin / Mozart Room Tech-Access  Canada