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# OVERVIEW



6<sup>th</sup> AMERICAS  
COMPETITIVENESS  
EXCHANGE on Innovation  
and Entrepreneurship

CANADA, Sept 25 - Oct 1, 2016



● TORONTO ● KITCHENER-WATERLOO ● HAMILTON ● NIAGARA

SEPTEMBER 25 - OCTOBER 1, 2016, CANADA



# The 6<sup>th</sup> Americas Competitiveness Exchange on Innovation and Entrepreneurship (ACE)

## 1. About the 6<sup>th</sup> ACE



**6<sup>th</sup> AMERICAS  
COMPETITIVENESS  
EXCHANGE** on Innovation  
and Entrepreneurship  
CANADA, Sept 25 - Oct 1, 2016

Canada will host the sixth Americas Competitiveness Exchange (ACE) on Innovation and Entrepreneurship from September 25- October 1, 2016. The ACE invites key business leaders and policy shapers to share knowledge and best practices, and to learn how these practices have helped shape the way that Canada is transforming its economic competitiveness.

## 2. Overview

The 6<sup>th</sup> ACE will showcase Southern Ontario, one of Canada's strong innovation regions. Southern Ontario is traditionally part of Canada's economic heartland, with a long legacy of industrial innovation and deep social capital including world class research institutions and a strong policy environment. The region is home to several globally recognized educational institutions that consistently attract and nurture talent while reshaping industrial competitiveness through continuous learning, research and innovation.





The tour will showcase six different clusters:

1. Advanced Manufacturing;
2. Information Communication Technology (ICT);
3. Clean Tech;
4. Life Sciences;
5. Agri-food; and
6. Financial Technology

The program will highlight the important investments that Canada and Ontario have made in innovation, entrepreneurship and commercialization. Participants will see many examples of these investments, including the Ontario Network of Entrepreneurs (ONE), a network of over 130 centres that help Ontario's entrepreneurs, innovators and small and medium-sized enterprises to access needed resources.

By the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> ACE, participants will see how Canada is:

- Investing in its innovation networks and clusters;
- Creating a world-leading science base with a strong focus on commercialization;
- Building the labour force of the future;
- Strengthening its incubators and accelerators and helping high-impact firms scale up;
- Creating programs and regulations, developing new infrastructure, and expanding into new markets to help business innovate and grow; and
- Collaborating with partners from within the hemisphere to expand its presence in regional and global value chains.

## 3. The Program

### TORONTO (September 25-27)

*Arrive at Toronto Pearson International Airport on September 25*

The 6<sup>th</sup> ACE will kick off in Toronto, the capital city of Ontario, the largest city in Canada and fifth largest city in North America. With a population over 6 million, Toronto is a Canadian economic powerhouse and one of the most diverse and inclusive cities in the world.

Toronto is ranked as a global leader in competitiveness, innovation and liveability. Its geographical location places Toronto in the middle of a strong and growing technology and manufacturing corridor that runs from Quebec City, Quebec to Windsor, Ontario.

While in Toronto, the visit will showcase four of the themes covered by the program: clean tech; life sciences; financial technology; and ICT.





## Clean Tech

- Ontario is a world-class water technology centre, which is a result of its creative policy framework and strong manufacturing sector.
- Participants will visit one of **Ontario's high tech water facilities** to see firsthand Canadian technology, entrepreneurs and policy makers supported by Ontario's innovative non-profit organization WaterTap.

## Life Sciences

- The city is home to the second largest life science cluster in North America, and the largest biotechnology cluster in Canada with 163 companies.
- Participants will visit the **University of Toronto** and the **MaRS Discovery District**, where entrepreneurs, corporations, investors, mentors, university institutions and labs are collaborating on groundbreaking research and commercialization of new medical technologies and applications.

## Financial Technology

- Toronto was ranked eighth largest centre in the world in 2015 and is a major player in financial markets in the hemisphere. Canada will host participants for a roundtable discussion on disruptive technologies in the financial sector.

## ICT

- Participants will visit **DMZ at Ryerson University**, ranked as the top university business incubator in North America. Participants will also learn about the University of Toronto's world-leading research in artificial intelligence.

## KITCHENER/WATERLOO (September 28-29)

Participants will visit the region of Kitchener-Waterloo, the fourth largest urban area in Ontario and the 10th largest in Canada with a population of 568,500. The region is gaining global recognition for its growing high-tech cluster. The economic corridor stretching from Toronto to Kitchener-Waterloo is home to Canada's "Quantum Valley", known for its strong emphasis on discovery research (quantum physics), fast growing start-ups, and unique innovation ecosystem.

Many of the region's success can be linked to its educational and research institutes, which continuously attract top talent from around the world. The **University of Waterloo** is known for shaping innovation thanks to its efforts to facilitate relationships between different disciplines, institutions, industries and communities.

While in Kitchener/Waterloo the tour will focus on the ICT cluster.



## ICT

- The tour will include visits to world leading institutes that form part of Waterloo’s unique “Quantum Valley” ecosystem, including research centres such as the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics and the Institute for Quantum Computing, as well as investors, entrepreneurs, and collaborators.
- Participants will also visit the University of Waterloo, a key to the region’s overall success given its “one-of-a-kind entrepreneurship ecosystem,” and Communitech, an industry-led innovation centre that supports companies at all stages of growth and development—from startups to rapidly-growing mid-sized companies and large global players.

## HAMILTON (September 29)

Participants will spend most of the fourth day in Hamilton, Ontario, the western end of Ontario’s Golden Horseshoe. Hamilton is a historic steel centre that is capitalizing on its deep social capital to transform traditional industries into global leaders of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Participants will see first-hand how **McMaster University**, ranked fourth among Canadian universities, plays a strong role in advancing research and development, innovation and competitiveness in Hamilton.

Participants will visit two key clusters in Hamilton: life sciences and advanced manufacturing.

### Life Sciences

- Recognized as world-leading experts in infectious disease, antimicrobial resistance, and biomaterials research, participants will visit McMaster University’s Michael G. DeGroote Institute for Infectious Disease Research and Biointerfaces Institute, and also learn about McMaster’s internationally recognized large scale clinical trials. The visit will showcase how McMaster researchers are shaping future research in the areas of drug discovery, infectious diseases and novel biomaterials.

### Advanced Manufacturing

- The visit will include tours of **CanmetMATERIALS (CMAT)** and **McMaster Automotive Resource Centre (MARC)** in the **McMaster Innovation Park**. Participants will see firsthand industry leading research into hybrid and electric vehicles and development of new advanced materials that are reshaping industrial production. Setting the stage will be a panel discussion on industrial transformation with industry leaders.

## NIAGARA REGION (September 30 – October 1)

The ACE will end with a tour of key sites in the Niagara region, home to Niagara Falls and one of the largest agri-food clusters in North America.



The tour will focus on the agri-food value chain - from farm to table - with a focus on how traditional sectors like the wine industry are being transformed by new technologies such as big data and automation, and are implementing new innovations through partnerships between research institutes and industry players.

### **Agri-food**

- Participants will visit leading food and farming clusters known for their global advancements in innovative technologies and research, including the **Vineland Research and Innovation Centre** with a focus on sustainable horticulture.
- The tour will also include **Brock University** and **Niagara College**, home to the Canadian Food and Wine Institute, Canada's first teaching brewery and commercial teaching winery and leader in research related to **food and beverage innovation**.

Complementing every segment of the tour will be discussions with national and international leaders and federal, provincial and municipal policy makers who will explore the building blocks for Canada's success. Most importantly, the ACE tour in Southern Ontario will provide global leaders with an opportunity to engage in two-way dialogue on how international partners can work together to advance competitiveness and productivity, and improve the health and environmental outcomes of the world's communities.

*Departure from Toronto Pearson International Airport on October 1.*

## **4. Contact Information**

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