

Program

SUMMIT

A Canadian Strategy to Harness the Power of Science Diplomacy

JUNE 15-18, 2026

Université de Montréal
Campus MIL
Montréal, Canada

Presented
by

Université
de Montréal



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY



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About this Event

At a pivotal moment for global cooperation, the Université de Montréal, the University of Calgary, and McGill University, in partnership with Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA) and the Swiss Embassy in Canada, are convening a four-day conference and training program titled **A Canadian Strategy to Harness the Power of Science Diplomacy**.

This initiative aims to equip Canada's science community and policymakers to better understand and leverage the connections between science, innovation, public policy, economic prosperity, and global engagement. It also seeks to reaffirm Canada's leadership in science diplomacy and position it as a key driver of international collaboration. Bringing together over 300 participants – including diplomats, researchers, policymakers, industry leaders, and civil society representatives – the event will explore how science diplomacy can rebuild trust, foster cooperation, and address complex global challenges where traditional diplomacy approaches sometimes fail.

A central objective is the creation of a pan-Canadian science diplomacy network linking actors across regions, sectors, and disciplines. This network will support ongoing collaboration, knowledge exchange, and coordinated action at national and international levels. By fostering a community that operates beyond institutional and political boundaries, the conference aims to build lasting partnerships and strengthen Canada's collective capacity in science diplomacy. The conference also seeks to advance the integration

of science diplomacy into Canada's policy and governance frameworks. By bridging research, diplomacy, and innovation ecosystems, it will promote stronger collaboration among public institutions, academia, and the private sector, while fostering shared practices and common understanding across communities.

Key outcomes include:

- Reinforcing Canada's role as a global leader in science diplomacy
- Increasing recognition of science diplomacy as a national strategic asset
- Strengthening collaboration across governmental, academic, and industry sectors
- Equipping participants with practical frameworks linking science to foreign policy and economic resilience
- Supporting the next generation of science diplomacy practitioners through training and mentorship
- Building durable international partnerships that advance an open and inclusive global science system

The program combines high-level dialogue, interactive sessions, and targeted training providing policymakers and institutional leaders with forward-looking insights into the evolving geopolitical role of science, technology, and innovation. Through evidence-based discussions, international comparisons, and case studies, participants will gain tools to develop more coherent, strategic, and values-driven approaches to science diplomacy. Participants will also develop a shared understanding of Canada's opportunities, identify collaboration gaps and emerging risks, expand their networks, and contribute to a draft roadmap for advancing science diplomacy nationwide. A specialized three-session GESDA training component will provide selected participants with practical tools to operate effectively at the intersection of science, innovation, and international affairs.

Ultimately, this conference is a call to action. In a rapidly evolving global landscape marked by technological disruption and geopolitical tension, it encourages participants to move beyond silos and traditional approaches toward a more collaborative, resilient, and values-driven model of global engagement through science diplomacy.

Message from the Hosting Universities

Last February, the Canadian Prime Minister, Mark Carney, highlighted the urgency of a renewed, mission-oriented multilateralism, urging the heads of state, diplomats, scientists, and industry leaders gathered in Davos to take action. Indeed, the current context, marked by geopolitical tensions and the fragmentation of international frameworks, demands an ambitious and concerted response. At the same time, technological advancements – particularly in strategic sectors such as artificial intelligence and quantum technologies – are redefining not only our economic priorities but also global power dynamics, which are critical to safeguarding sovereignty. In this spirit of strategic collaboration led by our leaders and universities, science diplomacy has become an essential lever for restoring international trust, strengthening cooperation, and addressing challenges that transcend borders.

Today, Canada must project a unique approach, combining its democratic values with heightened vigilance to protect research integrity, technological sovereignty, and economic competitiveness. This national Summit, co-organized by the Université de Montréal, McGill University, and the University of Calgary, serves as a space for strategic action aimed at structuring a strong, connected pan-Canadian community capable of actively influencing the international stage.

We invite you to move beyond the role of passive observers and to become the agents of this transformation, by helping to build sustainable collaborations that will strengthen Canada's role as the spearhead of a more open, resilient, and cooperative global science diplomacy system. Your engagement is a powerful vehicle for this collective approach in service of the common good, innovation, and our nation's prosperity.

On behalf of all committee members, we welcome you to Montreal to shape together, over four days, the future of Canadian science diplomacy and outline the foundations of a national strategy.

Valérie Amiraux,

Vice-Rector, Global Engagement and First Peoples
Université de Montréal

Dominique Bérubé,

Vice-President, Research and Innovation
McGill University

William Ghali,

Vice-President, Research
University of Calgary

Message from **GESDA**, Geneva Science Diplomacy Anticipator

Science is advancing faster than our capacity to govern it. The distance between a breakthrough in a laboratory and a decision in a ministerial cabinet is where opportunity is too often lost. Narrowing that distance is the discipline of anticipation, and it is the reason GESDA is honoured to bring this Summit to Montréal.

The Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA) Foundation was established in 2019 by the Federal Government of Switzerland, the Republic and Canton of Geneva, and the City of Geneva, with the mission to anticipate emerging scientific discoveries and translate them into concrete actions for the benefit of humanity. Our Science Breakthrough Radar maps where quantum computing, artificial intelligence, neurotechnology, or ecosystems engineering will stand at five, ten, and twenty-five-year horizons – not as predictions, but as a shared foundation on which diplomats, scientists, industry leaders, and citizens can negotiate before crises harden into conflict.

Canada arrives at this moment with ambition and credibility. As a trusted convener with world-class research and a tradition of principled multilateralism, it is well placed to demonstrate that openness and security are not opposing instincts but complementary obligations.

We hope the long-standing tradition of International Geneva as a hub for diplomacy, science, and multilateral cooperation will bring inspiration to Canada as you pave your own path in science diplomacy.

We are grateful to the Université de Montréal, the University of Calgary, McGill University, the Embassy of Switzerland in Canada and the Consulate General of Switzerland in Montréal for their partnership, and to each of you for your engagement. Let us use the future to build the present.

Marilyne Andersen,
Director-General, GESDA



Message from the Embassy of Switzerland in Canada

It is a great honor for Switzerland to take part in this Summit, a major event in the field of science diplomacy.

Switzerland is a trusted partner of Canada, sharing a deep commitment to diplomacy and to a world based on shared principles and rules. In 2023, Switzerland and Canada renewed a joint statement to foster cooperation between our two countries in science, technology, and innovation. It is within this framework that our participation in this Summit takes place. I am delighted to see this project come to fruition and expand across Canada, following its inception during a meeting between Federal Councillor Ignazio Cassis, Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, and Quebec universities in October 2024.

In a world where technological advancements are reshaping our societies, geopolitical tensions are redefining diplomacy, and scientific achievements are increasingly called into question, dialogue is essential.

As the host state to numerous international organizations, Switzerland aims to act as a catalyst, putting science at the service of the common good. GESDA, the Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator, is a key mechanism in this effort. It aims to anticipate scientific breakthroughs and bridge the gap between the diplomatic and scientific communities, industry, and civil society, ensuring that scientific progress benefits the greatest number of people.

This is an ambitious agenda, and it is through events like this that we build the world of tomorrow. This Summit, one of the first under the auspices of GESDA, is also the first of its kind in North America. A high-level delegation will be in attendance, testifying to the strength of the bonds uniting Switzerland, Canada, and Quebec.

The Embassy of Switzerland in Canada, the Consulate General of Switzerland in Montreal, and the Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver wish to thank the host universities for organizing this gathering, and wish you all a promising Summit rooted in dialogue and trust.

Olaf Kjelsen,
Ambassador of Switzerland in Canada



Switzerland.

**MONDAY
JUNE 15**

13:30	Registration	Université de Montréal Campus MIL 1375 Thérèse-Lavoie-Roux Ave., Montréal, QC H2V 0B3
14:00 – 15:30	Science Diplomacy Training: GESDA Anticipatory Leadership Lab Scientific breakthroughs in quantum technologies, advanced AI, human augmentation, climate and ecosystems engineering -as well as new diplomatic tools and methods - are advancing faster than most institutions can keep up. The Anticipatory Leadership Lab helps leaders understand these changes and prepare for what lies ahead. Grounded in the Science Breakthrough Radar®, GESDA's flagship science anticipation tool, this 90-minute session brings participants together from academia, government, industry and citizens to explore the scientific developments most relevant to their sector, industry, organization or country. Table facilitators guide the discussion to keep it focused and accessible to all. Participants examine how these breakthroughs may affect people, systems, and institutions in the future, and then translate their insights into clear strategic, policy, and organizational responses for action in the present. Working collaboratively, each group identifies a set of practical, near-term actions that leaders can prioritize and implement immediately. The goal is to help sectors prepare for disruption early and shape scientific and technological developments in ways that are inclusive, responsible, and beneficial for society as a whole.	
15:45	Welcoming remarks Evelyne Charuest , host	
16:00 – 16:30	Opening Remarks Marilyne Andersen , GESDA Martina Hirayama , The Swiss Confederation Olaf Kjelsen , Embassy of Switzerland in Canada Daniel Jutras , Université de Montréal Braden Manns , University of Calgary Deep Saini , McGill University	
16:30 – 17:00	Introducing GESDA Science Breakthrough Radar As the pace of scientific discovery accelerates, the ability to anticipate and govern the technologies of tomorrow has become a fundamental requirement for international stability and prosperity. This session introduces GESDA Science Breakthrough Radar®, a pioneering “compass” designed to map emerging trends in science and technology at 5, 10, and 25-year horizons. By providing a factual, evidence-based foundation for multilateral dialogue, the Radar enables diplomats, policymakers, and industry leaders to move from reactive to anticipatory science diplomacy. This presentation will demonstrate how anticipation serves as the engine for a modern diplomacy that is inclusive, forward-looking, and fit for the complexities of the 21st century. Marilyne Andersen , GESDA	

**MONDAY
JUNE 15**

17:15 – 18:15

Opening public conference

Science Diplomacy without Borders

This informal conversation brings together two of Canada’s most profound explorers – one of the digital frontier and one of the physical cosmos – to examine the ethical and existential responsibilities of science diplomacy. By pairing Yoshua Bengio, a foundational architect of deep learning and co-chair of the UN’s International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence (AI), with David Saint-Jacques, an astronaut, physician, and engineer, the session transcends traditional policy debates to explore the governance of humanity’s most powerful tools. Drawing on their unique perspectives from the cutting edge of AI and the collaborative isolation of the International Space Station, the speakers will discuss how scientific cooperation serves as a neutral ground for diplomacy and multilateral collaboration in contested environments.

Yoshua Bengio, Université de Montréal

David Saint-Jacques, Canadian Space Agency

Moderator: **Valérie Amiriaux**, Université de Montréal

**TUESDAY
JUNE 16**

8:30

Registration

Université de Montréal | Campus MIL
1375 Thérèse-Lavoie-Roux Ave.,
Montréal, QC H2V 0B3

9:00 – 9:15

Welcoming remarks: day’s agenda and panelists introductions

Evelyne Charuest, host

9:15 – 10:30

Reinvigorating Multilateralism with Science Diplomacy

At a time when the multilateral system faces increasing pressure, science diplomacy offers an avenue for rebuilding dialogue, trust, and cooperation among like-minded nations. Scientific collaboration - grounded in shared evidence, openness, and long-term partnerships - can serve as a stabilizing force that helps reinvigorate multilateral engagement and collective responses to global challenges. In this context, this high-level exchange between Canada and Switzerland will explore how science diplomacy can strengthen international cooperation and support a renewed commitment to effective multilateralism.

Martina Hirayama, The Swiss Confederation

Karim Bardeesy, House of Commons of Canada

Moderator: **Marilyne Andersen**, GESDA

10:30 – 11:00

Networking Break

10:45 – 13:15

Science Diplomacy Training

GESDA Quantum Diplomacy Game

Quantum technologies are advancing quickly, reshaping security, the global economy, and the balance of power. The Quantum Diplomacy Game helps participants understand these shifts by placing them inside a realistic multilateral negotiation set in a future where large-scale quantum computing has been achieved, but its benefits remain unequally distributed, leading to crises and geopolitical tensions. Grounded in the GESDA Science Breakthrough Radar®, this immersive simulation of 2 hours lets participants explore quantum opportunities, dual-use risks, supply-chain vulnerabilities, and global equity challenges. Guided by trained facilitators and a proven methodology, groups negotiate in roles as governments, industry, academia, or civil society, and then reflect on the governance tensions, power asymmetries, and cooperation strategies that emerged. Participants leave with a clearer understanding of the stakes of quantum innovation and practical insights to support fair, safe, and inclusive global governance of this transformative technology.

11:00 – 12:30

Building Resilient Food-Health-Environment Systems: One Health Innovation for Sustainable Development

Food systems sit at the intersection of human health, animal welfare, and environmental integrity – yet policy and research silos continue to fragment our responses to interconnected crises like antimicrobial resistance, climate-driven food insecurity, and nutritional inequality. This session advances a One Health framework as both a scientific and diplomatic lens, arguing that durable solutions to these challenges require coordinated action across sectors, disciplines, and borders. Drawing on emerging evidence in precision environmental nutrition, agri-food sustainability, and ecosystem health, the panel will explore how innovation in food processing, agricultural practice, and health systems can be aligned to produce co-benefits across the food-health-environment nexus. Particular attention will be given to equity dimensions – including how interventions play out differently across income groups, geographies, and demographic contexts – and to the role of science diplomacy in forging the multilateral partnerships necessary to scale solutions. Participants will leave with a shared vocabulary for cross-sectoral collaboration and a clearer picture of where Canadian research and policy leadership can catalyze global progress.

Herman Barkema, University of Calgary

Tom Bui, Global Affairs Canada

Renée Larocque, International Development Research Centre

Jane Parmley, University of Guelph

Moderator: **Ebenezer Miezah Kwofie**, McGill University

**TUESDAY
JUNE 16**

12:30 – 13:30	Lunch – Talk Swiss And Canada Funding Agencies: Approach and Support for Science Diplomacy Alejandro Adem, National Science and Engineering Research Council Torsten Schwede, Swiss National Science Foundation Moderator: Vincent Mooser, McGill University
13:30 – 15:00	Quantum Technologies: Balancing Scientific Cooperation and Strategic Competition Quantum technologies are reshaping not only computing and communications, but the geopolitics of science itself. Quantum sits at the intersection of open discovery and strategic advantage: progress depends on deep international collaboration, yet its applications – from secure communications to sensing – carry national security and economic implications. The question is not cooperation or competition, but how to manage both responsibly. Canada is uniquely positioned to lead. With world-class research, a growing industrial base, and a reputation as a trusted middle power, Canada can anchor standards development, secure supply chains, and talent partnerships while protecting sensitive capabilities. The government should lead in foundational research and standards, partner in scaling and commercialization, and protect critical infrastructure and intellectual property (IP). Effective science diplomacy will require new tools: coordinated export controls, research security frameworks, plurilateral agreements on standards, and trusted mobility pathways for talent. This discussion highlights Canada’s pivotal role as a trusted integrator in science diplomacy shaping a global quantum ecosystem that is innovative, secure, and inclusive. Alexandra Daoud, Quantum Industry Canada Martin Laforest, Quantacet Megan Lee, University of Calgary Christian Sarra-Bournet, Université de Sherbrooke Rayan Steven, University of Saskatchewan Moderator: Catherine Lefebvre, GESDA
15:00 – 15:30	Networking Break

**TUESDAY
JUNE 16**

15:30 – 17:00	Artificial Intelligence, Technology Governance and Diplomacy As AI evolves from a technological frontier into a foundational pillar of the global economy, the challenge of governance has become the defining diplomatic issue of our time. While the promise of AI innovation is immense, the risks of fragmentation, digital inequality, and ethical oversight require a new architecture of “science diplomacy” that can move beyond localized initiatives toward enforceable, interoperable international standards. This panel will explore how the intersection of academic rigour and public policy can foster an “agile governance” framework capable of keeping pace with the exponential growth of large-scale AI models. Key themes will include the alignment of human rights with technological development, the role of legal frameworks in mitigating systemic risk, and the strategies required to integrate ethical safety measures into the very lifecycle of AI deployment. By bridging the gap between technical possibility and political viability, this session aims to articulate a clear vision for a responsible, secure, and democratic future for AI. Philippe Beaudoin, Independent Researcher Madeleine Chenette, House of Commons of Canada Valérie Pisano, Québec Artificial Intelligence Institute (MILA) Catherine Régis, Université de Montréal Moderator: Michel Audet, HEC Montréal
17:00 – 17:15	Wrapping up Day 2 Evelyne Charuest, Host
17:30 – 19:30	Networking Cocktail ATRIUM Campus MIL, Université de Montréal 1375 Thérèse-Lavoie-Roux Ave., Montréal, QC

**WEDNESDAY
JUNE 17**

8:30	Registration	Université de Montréal Campus MIL 1375 Thérèse-Lavoie-Roux Ave., Montréal, QC H2V 0B3
9:00 – 9:10	Welcoming remarks Evelyne Charuest, host	

9:10 – 10:10	Science Diplomacy in a Challenging Arctic Landscape In an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape, science diplomacy plays a vital role in sustaining dialogue, advancing collaboration, and supporting evidence-based decision-making across borders. By connecting research communities, governments, and international institutions, it helps address shared global challenges while reinforcing trust and strategic alignment among partners. This is particularly critical in the Arctic, where rapid environmental change intersects with growing geopolitical and economic interests. Bringing together perspectives from research, government, and multilateral cooperation, this panel will explore how science diplomacy in northern regions can strengthen partnerships, inform policy, and foster resilient, knowledge-driven collaboration in a changing world. Katherine Alivaktuk, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, ᐃᐅᐃᑦ ᑕᐱᐱᑦ ᑲᐱᑕᑦ Christine Barnard, ArcticNet David Hik, Polar Knowledge Canada Pooneh Maghoul, Polytechnique Montréal Ranjana Sharma, Natural Resources Canada Moderator: Mario Rivero-Huguet, British Consulate General, Montréal
10:10 – 10:40	Networking Break
10:30 – 13:00	Science Diplomacy Training GESDA Neurotechnology Diplomacy Game The global neurotechnology market is expanding rapidly as companies race to develop brain–computer interfaces (BCI), cognitive enhancement tools, and next-generation therapeutic devices. These innovations promise major breakthroughs for the one-third of humanity affected by neurological disorders, but they also raise profound ethical, geopolitical, and societal challenges. The Neurotechnology Diplomacy Game helps participants understand these tensions by immersing them in a future where neurotechnologies are fully deployed, and governance gaps have triggered inequalities and crises. Grounded in the GESDA Science Breakthrough Radar®, this immersive simulation of 2 hours explores ethical questions, dual-use risks, market acceleration, militarization, IP disputes, and the blurred lines between therapy and enhancement. Guided by trained facilitators and a proven methodology, participants negotiate as governments, industry, academia, or civil society and reflect on the dilemmas and trade-offs that emerge. They leave with practical insights into how to steer neurotechnology toward fair, safe, and beneficial outcomes for all through anticipatory, inclusive, and collaborative governance.

10:40 – 12:10

Trust Under Pressure: Ethics, Misinformation, and Science Policy

When scientific knowledge is contested, who - and what - restores trust? This panel brings together perspectives from philosophy of science, bioethics, misinformation research, AI governance, and institutional security to examine how epistemic erosion and information disorder undermine the conditions for scientific cooperation. Speakers diagnose the pressures bearing on public trust in science and identify the governance, communicative, and ethical tools needed to rebuild it, arguing that trust is not a soft externality but a structural precondition for effective science diplomacy.

Frédéric Bouchard, Université de Montréal

Aengus Bridgman, McGill University

Mylène Deschênes, Fonds de recherche du Québec

Phoebe Friesen, McGill University

Inez Jabalpurwala, Public Policy Forum

Moderator: **Amélie Quesnel-Vallée**, McGill University

12:10 – 13:40

Lunch – Talk

Youth Perspectives on Global Science Diplomacy

This session brings together students and young professionals to exchange ideas on the evolving role of science diplomacy in addressing global challenges. It provides a platform for emerging voices to share their perspectives on opportunities in the field, such as international collaboration, innovation, and policy engagement, as well as the challenges they perceive, including barriers to participation, equity, and communication across disciplines and cultures. The discussion aims to highlight the importance of youth engagement in shaping the future of science diplomacy and to generate fresh insights that can inform more inclusive and forward-looking approaches.

Emmanuel Amankrah Kwofie, McGill University

Gaëlle Foucault, Université de Montréal

Angela Qualizza, University of Calgary

Moderator: **Madison Rilling**, Optonique

13:40 – 15:10	Science Diplomacy in Today's Most Pressing Global Challenges: Biodiversity Loss and Climate Change Science diplomacy is no longer just a supportive function of foreign policy; it is a vital mechanism for addressing today's most pressing challenges. With world-renowned leaders in climate policy, ecology, and global health, this panel will address the urgent need for integrated scientific evidence in international decision-making during a period of significant geopolitical and environmental disruption. As the international community moves into the critical implementation phase of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Paris Climate Agreement, the panellists will explore how science diplomacy can bridge national interests to manage shared global challenges while promoting the trust and technical consensus necessary to transform high-level global commitments into measurable, nature-positive actions. Emily Charry Tissier, Whale Seeker Jean Lemire, Envoy for Government of Québec Sasha Luccioni, The Sustainable AI Group Jean-Éric Tremblay, Université Laval Moderator: Guillaume Lhermie, University of Calgary
15:10 – 15:40	Networking Break
15:40 – 17:10	Open Science vs. Security: Navigating A Delicate Frontier for Science Diplomacy Five years after the adoption of the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science, the global scientific community has moved from defining shared principles to confronting the complex challenge of systemic implementation. Initially driven by imperatives of transparency, collaboration, and efficiency, Open Science has evolved into a central pillar of science diplomacy. However, this evolution is unfolding within an increasingly fragmented geopolitical landscape marked by strategic competition, technological sovereignty, and heightened concerns over data security. As a result, Open Science has become a contested space, where the ambition to treat knowledge as a global public good collides with pressures to restrict access and safeguard national and economic interests. This tension between openness and security raises critical questions about whether Open Science can remain a neutral and trusted framework for international cooperation in an era where knowledge is increasingly viewed as a strategic asset. Marie-Josée Hébert, Université de Montréal David Lametti, Government of Canada Vincent Larivière, Université de Montréal Shawn McGuirk, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada Moderator: Anna Jahn, McGill University
17:10 – 17:30	Wrapping up Day 3 Evelyne Charuest, Host

8:30 – 8:40

Welcoming remarks

Evelyne Charuest, host

8:40 – 10:10

Water Diplomacy: Should Science Divert or Follow the Stream?

Water security is increasingly a practical governance issue with direct implications on economic stability, infrastructure planning, intergovernmental coordination, and international relations. Climate variability, aging infrastructure, competing demands, and cross-border watershed management require sustained policy attention and coordination across jurisdictions. Planning for water security is also part of building durable national systems, from regulatory frameworks and infrastructure investment to Indigenous partnerships and federal–provincial collaboration. At the same time, shared water resources create ongoing diplomatic responsibilities and opportunities for cooperation.

This session will focus on how governments can use science-informed approaches to improve risk management, strengthen policy alignment, and support stable cross-border relationships. The discussion will emphasize implementation, coordination, and practical policy tools that decision-makers can apply in both domestic and international contexts.

Christian Bréthaut, University of Geneva

Soula Chronopoulos, AquaAction

Martyn Clark, University of Calgary

Asim Zia, University of Vermont

Moderator: **Kerry Black**, University of Calgary

10:10 – 11:10

Science Diplomacy as a Catalyst for Growth Targets

In an era where technological leadership and economic security are closely linked and contribute to the sovereignty of the country, science diplomacy plays a key role in translating innovation into global market opportunities. This panel will explore how “innovation and science diplomacy” supports economic growth, by aligning scientific collaboration with international policy and market access. It will highlight how governments and industry can leverage science diplomacy, as a tool of soft power, to strengthen competitiveness and expand into global markets. What the private sector expects from diplomats and how science diplomacy in this context is changing the role of traditional diplomacy?

Houssam Alaouie, CAE

Anne-Béatrice Bullinger, Consulate General of Switzerland in Montréal

Stéphane Dion, Université de Montréal

Manuel Galindo Moreno, UNESCO

Pierre Seïñ Pyun, Bombardier

Moderator: **Nathalie de Marcellis-Warin**, CEO CIRANO

11:10 – 12:10

Closing conference

From Science Diplomacy to Action

In this closing plenary, Rémi Quirion will reflect on how science diplomacy is being actively implemented to address today's most pressing global challenges. Drawing on his extensive experience at the intersection of research, government, policy, and international collaboration, he will highlight concrete examples of science diplomacy in practice - from fostering cross-border scientific partnerships to informing evidence-based decision-making at the highest levels. The session will explore how scientists, policymakers, and institutions can work together to strengthen trust, advance innovation, and respond collectively to complex issues such as health crises, climate change, and sustainable development.

Rémi Quirion, Chief Scientist of Québec

Moderator: **Guillaume Lhermie**, University of Calgary

12:10 – 12:30

Wrapping up closing remarks and next steps

Evelyne Charuest, Host

Anne-Béatrice Bullinger, Consulate General of Switzerland in Montréal

Marga Gual Soler, GESDA

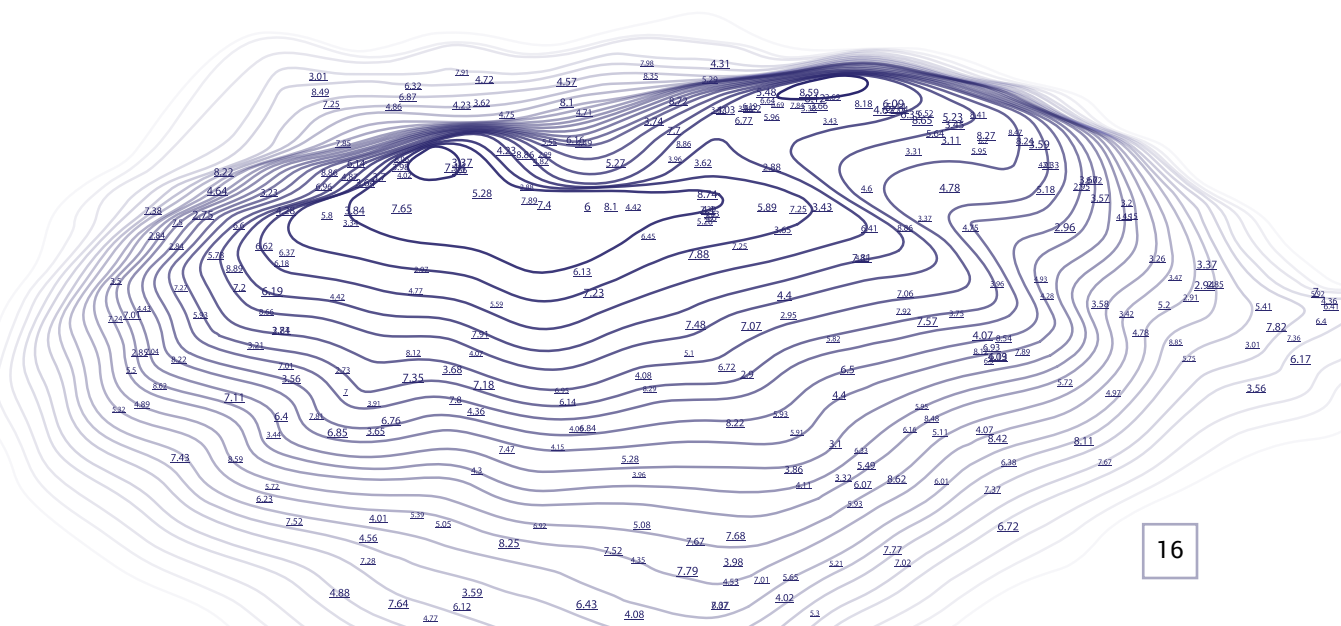
Guillaume Lhermie, University of Calgary

Vincent Mooser, McGill University

Catherine Régis, Université de Montréal

12:30

Activity ends



Speakers

(in alphabetical order)

Alejandro ADEM	President, National Science and Engineering Research Council
Houssam ALAOUIE	Global Head of Collaboration and Government Programs, and Academic Partnerships, CAE
Katherine ALIVAKTUK	Manager, Policy Advancement, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, ᐃᐅᐃᑦ ᑕᐱᐱᑦ ᑲᐅᑕᑦ
Emmanuel AMANKRAH KWOFIE	Student, McGill University
Valérie AMIRAUX	Vice-rector, Global Engagement and First Peoples, Université de Montréal
Marilyne ANDERSEN	Director General, GESDA
Michel AUDET	Adjunct Professor, Department of International Business, HEC Montréal
Karim BARDEESY	Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industry Canada, House of Commons of Canada
Herman BARKEMA	Professor, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Calgary
Christine BARNARD	Vice-President Research, ArcticNet
Philippe BEAUDOIN	Independent Researcher
Yoshua BENGIO	Professor of computer science, Université de Montréal
Kerry BLACK	Associate Processor Schulich School of Engineering, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Calgary
Frédéric BOUCHARD	Dean, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Université de Montréal
Christian BRÉTHAUT	Associate Professor in water governance, Department of Geography and Environment, Institute for Environmental Sciences, University of Geneva
Aengus BRIDGMAN	Assistant Professor, Max Bell School of Public Policy, McGill University
Tom BUI	Director of Environment at Global Affairs Canada
Anne-Béatrice BULLINGER	Consul General, Consulate General of Switzerland in Montréal
Emily CHARRY TISSIER	Chief Executive Officer and Co-founder Whale Seeker
Madeleine CHENETTE	Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture and Minister responsible for Official Languages and to the Secretary of State (Sport), House of Commons of Canada
Soula CHRONOPOULOS	President of AquaAction
Martyn CLARK	Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Calgary
Alexandra DAOUD	Chair of the Board, Quantum Industry Canada
Mylène DESCHÊNES	Directrice des affaires éthiques et juridiques, Fonds de recherche du Québec

Speakers

(in alphabetical order)

Nathalie DE MARCELLIS-WARIN	Chief Executive Officer, CIRANO
Stéphane DION	Diplomat in Residency, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Université de Montréal
Gaëlle FOUCAULT	Postdoctoral fellow, Université de Montréal
Phoebe FRIESEN	Associate Professor, Department of Equity, Ethics and Policy and Department of Social Studies of Medicine, McGill University
Manuel GALINDO MORENO	Project Officer, Research, Governance and Diplomacy Section, UNESCO
Marga GUAL SOLER	Executive Director, Capacity and Leadership, GESDA
Marie-Josée HÉBERT	Full Professor, Faculty of Medicine, Université de Montréal
David HIK	Chief Scientist and Vice-President, Research. Polar Knowledge Canada, Government of Canada
Martina HIRAYAMA	State Secretary, State Secretariat for Education Research and Innovation, Swiss Confederation
Inez JABALPURWALA	President & CEO Public Policy Forum
Anna JAHN	Executive Director, Centre for Media, Technology and Democracy, McGill University
Daniel JUTRAS	Rector, Université de Montréal
Olaf KJELSEN	Ambassador of Switzerland in Canada
Martin LAFOREST	Managing Partner, Quantacet
David LAMETTI	Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations, Government of Canada
Vincent LARIVIÈRE	Full Professor, School of Library and Information Science, Université de Montréal.
Renée LAROCQUE	Program Leader - Animal Health Team, International Development Research Centre
Megan LEE	Managing Director Quantum City, University of Calgary
Catherine LEFEBVRE	Senior Advisor for the Open Quantum Institute, GESDA
Jean LEMIRE	Envoy for Climate Change, Northern and Arctic Affairs, Government of Québec
Guillaume LHERMIE	Professor, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Calgary
Sasha LUCCIONI	Artificial Intelligence and Climate Researcher , The Sustainable AI Group
Pooneh MAGHOUL	Full Professor, Civil, Geological and Mining Engineering Department, Polytechnique Montréal
Braden MANNS	Associate Vice President, Health Research, University of Calgary

Speakers

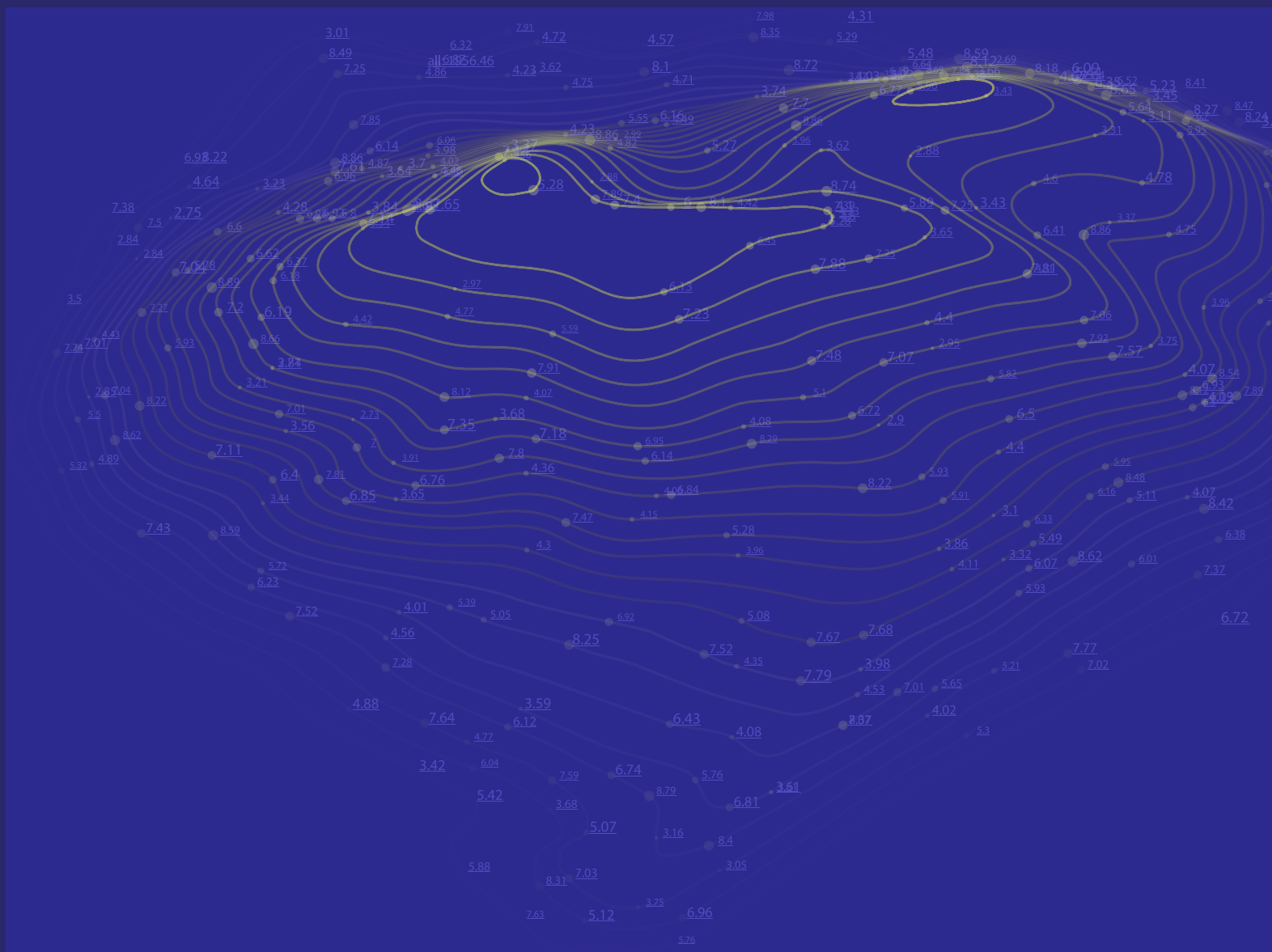
(in alphabetical order)

Shawn McGUIRK	Director for Research Security, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council
Ebenezer MIEZAH KWOFIE	Assistant Professor, Department of Bioresource Engineering, McGill University
Vincent MOOSER	Professor, Department of Human Genetics, McGill University
Jane PARMLEY	Associate Professor, Department of Population Medicine, University of Guelph
Valérie PISANO	Chief Executive Officer, MILA
Angela QUALIZZA	Student, University of Calgary
Amélie QUESNEL-VALLÉE	Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Equity, Ethics and Policy, McGill University
Rémi QUIRION	Chief Scientist of Québec
Catherine RÉGIS	Full Professor, Faculty of Law, Université de Montréal
Madison RILLING	General Manager, Optonique
Mario RIVERO-HUGUET	Head of Science and Technology, British Consulate General in Montréal
Deep SAINI	President and Vice-Chancellor of McGill University
David SAINT-JACQUES	Astronaut, Canadian Space Agency
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