

# READY 2026

## CONFERENCE



### Agenda

January 28 and 29, 2026 | Lord Elgin Hotel, Ottawa

**Location:** January 29, Lord Elgin Hotel, 100 Elgin Street, Ottawa  
**Breakfast:** 7:30 am - 8:30 am  
**Conference:** 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

8:30 – 8:45 AM	<b>Opening remarks</b> Kenza El Bied, Director General, Policy and Programs, Public Safety Canada
8:45 – 9:45 AM	<b>Forecasting Canadian Weather Hazards</b> Chris Scott, Chief Meteorologist, Pelmorex/ Weather Network
9:45 – 10:15	<b>Catastrophic Bonds for Emergencies</b> Case Study on Jamaica and Hurricane Melissa, Florian Steiger, CEO of ICOSA Investments
10:15 – 10:30	<b>Networking break</b>
10:30 – 12:00	<b>Break out round tables and working group sessions (topline)</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ready for Intelligence: Harnessing AI for Canada’s Emergency Response, hosted by Mila</li> <li>2. Reimagining Northern Readiness: Safe Space and Shelter in Place Solutions for Northern &amp; Indigenous Community Responses</li> <li>3. Emergency Volunteers: Building our collective capacity to respond to crisis through the National Volunteer Action Strategy, hosted by Volunteer Canada</li> <li>4. Recovery and Resilience by Design: Co-Creating Meaningful Metrics</li> </ol>
12:00 – 1:00	<b>Networking lunch</b>
1:00 – 2:45	<b>Increasing collaboration of humanitarian actors in response</b>
2:45 – 3:00	<b>Break</b>
3:00 – 4:00	<b>Leading for Agility: Unleashing Innovation, Collaboration, and Performance in Dynamic Environments</b> Marissa Shandell, Organizational Behavior PhD Candidate at The Wharton School  In the face of relentless disruption, rapid technological advancements, and unpredictable market dynamics, creativity and collaboration are more important than ever. In this keynote, Marissa Shandell, an expert in workplace engagement and the future of work, explores critical strategies that enable leaders to cultivate learning cultures and foster psychological safety, ultimately paving the way for increased innovation, optimal decision-making, and enhanced creativity in their teams and organizations.
4:00 – 4:30	<b>Close and next steps</b>