



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **IT'S A WRAP: GSF 2026 BUILDS ON ITS LEGACY AS THE WEST COAST'S LEADING GROCERY SHOW**

**April 22, 2026, VANCOUVER, B.C.**— The final day began with a busy conference schedule. A panel discussion, “GROCERS AT YOUR SERVICE: The Customer Experience Imperative” with **Lauren Redman** of Rudy’s Markets; **Ron Avery** of Calgary Co-op; **Brad Fletcher**, The Village Grocer and moderated by **Emily Crowe**, Progressive Grocer, sharing how grocers differentiate through service, local relevance and technology to create shopping experiences.

**Dan Chuparkoff**, technology executive, AI expert, former technology leader at Google, McKinsey broke down the mystery shrouding AI.

Following the coffee break, attendees chose between concurrent workshops, including: 1) “HOW DOES YOUR BUSINESS STACK UP” with **FMS Solutions** presented by **Joe Sawaged** and 2) “2026 GROCERYIQ STUDY: THE SHOPPER POV” with **Andie Wright**, Sr. Research Manager for EnsembleIQ, parent company of Canadian Grocer. Next, attendees could choose from another two concurrent workshops: 1) “CRACKING THE CODE!” presented by **Brian Bradley**, Stong’s Markets, and **Giancarlo Trimarchi**, Vince’s Market along with moderator **Gary Sands**, CFG and 2) “HOW TO ATTRACT TOP TALENT” hosted by **Eric Termuende**.

**The trade show floor** showcased a wide array of products and innovations, with pavilions further highlighting exhibitors that demonstrate the diversity of this trade show. Also featured during trade show hours was the **Insights & Innovations Stage** sessions. **Eric Termuende** offered practical ways to improve staff retention and how to

keep your diverse staff engaged. This was followed by a session on innovative independents in merchandising, marketing, and customer service and more, presented by **Emily Crowe**, Progressive Grocer.

**SAVE THE DATES!**

**Grocery Innovations Canada**, Canadian Grocery's LARGEST Meetings, Exhibition and Conference returns **October 27 & 28, 2026** at the Toronto Congress Centre, North Building! [www.GroceryInnovations.com](http://www.GroceryInnovations.com) — MARK YOUR CALENDARS for a World of Opportunities! To reserve a booth, contact **showsales@cfig.ca**.

**Grocery & Specialty Food West** will return to **Vancouver on April 20 & 21, 2027** at the **Vancouver Convention Centre, East Building**. [www.GSFShow.com](http://www.GSFShow.com)

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