



COME TOGETHER 2026

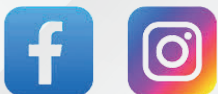
CANAAF National Conference

Friday July 17th to Sunday July 19th , 2026

Courtyard by Marriott Downtown Toronto



Event Program



#CANAAF2026

Follow @CANAAF throughout the weekend!



COME TOGETHER 2026

CANAAF National Conference

Friday July 17th to Sunday July 19th, 2026

Courtyard by Marriott Downtown Toronto

CANAAF COME TOGETHER Conference – Itinerary/Program at a Glance

Registration and CANAAF Information

Friday July 17th – 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday July 18th – 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Check-in at the CANAAF Desk located in the Spadina Foyer on the Main Level of the hotel upon arrival

Pre Registration is required via our Eventbrite Registration Page

Conference Highlights

- Exciting and Informative Guest Speakers
- An Expert Panel of Medical Professionals Including:
Dr Carlo Gavino
Dr Perla Lansang
Dr Eric McMullen
Dr Julio Jasso-Olivares
Nicole Smith
- Exhibitor Displays
- Children's Conference Camp for all children 3 to 11 years old provided by Network Child Care Services including Face Painting & Balloon Twisting
- Specialized Teen Activities for 12 to 17 year olds including Quiz Room & Arcadia Earth
- Friday Evening Group Event – Toronto Tall Ship Sunset Boat Cruise
- Saturday Night Dessert Dance Party for all ages including DJ & Photo Booth
- Sunday Morning Group Breakfast

TTC Bus Passes available with registration

Friday July 17th, 2026

1:00 to 5:00 p.m.	Registration
4:00 to 6:00 p.m.	"All Aboard!" - CANAAF Welcome Reception
6:00 to 11:00 p.m.	Toronto Tall Ship Sunset Boat Cruise (discounted tickets available with registration only)

Saturday July 18th, 2026

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Registration
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Vendor Exhibit Displays Open
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Kids' Camp (snacks provided, lunch with parents)
9:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.	Welcome Address
9:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Toronto Teen Experience
9:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Medical Advisory Panel
10:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	Break (refreshments, coffee and tea available)
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	Guest Speakers & Vendor Presentations including Jennifer Krahn of Freedom Wigs, Sara Teskey of the International Alopecia Areata Alliance and a sneak peek of "Ashlyn's Story" an Alopecia Areata Patient Story Video
12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.	CANAAF Lunch (included with registration)
1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	Keynote Speaker Alan Shane Lewis, co-host of The Great Canadian Baking Show
2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	CANAAF Breakout Support Sessions for Parents and Adults
4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Guest Speaker - Cynthia Aguiar, Wellness Expert
5:00 to 7:00 p.m.	Dinner (on your own)
7:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.	"Dress Your Best" Themed Family Dessert Dance Party with DJ & Photo Booth

Sunday July 19th, 2026

8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	CANAAF Board of Directors' Annual General Meeting
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	Vendor Exhibit Displays Open
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.	CANAAF Group Breakfast
10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Kids' Camp
10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Teen Connect including a presentation by Rylee McCue
10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	Guest Speakers & Vendor Presentations including Michael Suba of Continental Hair, Tope Akindele & Funke Olokude on "Beautifully Bald – An Exhibition to Raise Awareness" and Crash Rhythm Junk Band
12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Goodbye Gathering

****Activities and Times Subject to Change****

Together, we make a difference

At Pfizer Canada, we are committed to advancing the health and well-being of Canadians through innovation, science, and compassion. We believe that meaningful progress in patient care is only possible through strong partnerships.

That's why we are proud to support CANAAF and the vital work they do to empower, educate, and advocate for the alopecia community. By standing with CANAAF and those affected by alopecia, we help foster a more inclusive and healthier future for all.



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COME TOGETHER 2026

CANAAF National Conference

Friday July, 17th - Sunday July, 19th, 2026

Courtyard by Marriott Downtown Toronto

Detailed Program Information

Friday July 17th, 2026

Registration

1:00p.m. to 5:00p.m.

All attendees must register.

Check in at the CANAAF Desk located in the Spadina Foyer on the Main Level of the hotel upon arrival.

Name tags are required to attend all sessions.

Parents of all Kids' Camp attendees must have the Network Child Care Services Special Event Child Care Registration Form and CANAAF Waiver completed and signed. Forms provided at Registration.

Location

Spadina Foyer

Welcome Reception

4:00p.m. to 6:00p.m.

ALL ABOARD!

Start off **CANAAF COME TOGETHER 2026** by joining us for our Pirate Themed Welcome Reception.

Join us in the Spadina Room located on the Main Level of the Courtyard by Marriott Downtown Toronto Hotel.

This is a great opportunity to mix and mingle with other conference attendees while enjoying some refreshments and snacks before heading off to the Tall Ship Cruise. Enjoy Complimentary Appetizers.

Drinks available for purchase. Payment by cash, debit or credit card accepted.

Location

Spadina A & B

Toronto Tall Ship Cruise

6:00p.m to 11:00p.m.

Set Sail On The Kajama Tall Ship!

Enjoy a Sunset Cruise on Lake Ontario aboard a traditional 165 foot three masted Schooner.

Tickets will be distributed prior to boarding to attendees who purchased tickets with their original registration only.

Everyone must have a valid ticket to board.

Join us after the Welcome Reception as we head to the Toronto Harbourfront as a group from the hotel.

If you plan on meeting us there, please arrive by 7:15 p.m. to pick up your tickets.

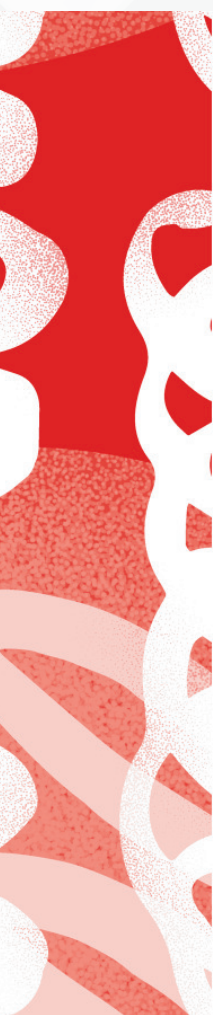
Further instructions regarding ticket distribution available at the CANAAF Registration Desk.

CANAAF COME TOGETHER 2026 BRONZE SPONSOR:

LOCZZ ON THE GO



CANAAF is Grateful for the Support of:



A message from Lilly Canada

On behalf of all of us at Lilly Canada, it's truly an honour to support CANAAF's 14th annual "Come Together" Conference.

Over the past few years, we've had the privilege of collaborating with CANAAF on meaningful initiatives—from the "Navigate with Confidence" mental health event to the "Attack from Within" awareness video series, and of course, this very conference.

When we come together with shared purpose, we amplify awareness, foster connection, and create space for real change. Our hope is that by the end of this weekend, you leave feeling seen, supported, and empowered—with new tools and insights to help navigate life with alopecia areata.

Thank you for being here. And thank you to CANAAF for putting together an incredible program and for your tireless work in supporting individuals and families across Canada who are living with alopecia areata.



Lilly



COME TOGETHER 2026

CANAAF National Conference

Friday July, 17th - Sunday July, 19th, 2026

Courtyard by Marriott Downtown Toronto

Saturday July 18th, 2026

Registration Continues

Location
Spadina Foyer

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

All attendees must register.

Check in at the CANAAF Desk located in the Spadina Foyer on the Main Level of the hotel upon arrival.

Name tags are required to attend all sessions.

Parents of all Kids' Camp attendees must have the Network Child Care Services Special Event Child Care Registration Form and CANAAF Waiver completed and signed. Forms provided at Registration.

Vendor Exhibits Open

Location
Courtyard Foyer

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

A variety of exhibitors and vendors related to alopecia areata for you to peruse at your leisure.

Kids' Camp

Location
Alexander C

8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

All Children, age 3 to 11, are automatically registered for our Conference Camp provided by Network Child Care Services who provide group childcare programs for all types of conferences and events. Their programs are designed to engage, educate, and entertain. Their experienced staff deliver a unique and developmentally appropriate program that all participating children will enjoy. Have fun with balloon twisting and face painting!

Snacks will be provided.

Please pick up your children at 12:30p.m. to join you for lunch.

Parents must complete the Network Child Care Services Registration Form and the CANAAF Waiver in advance.

Welcome Address

Location
Courtyard A & B

9:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.

Welcome from CANAAF's President, Carolynne Harrison.

Teen Activity

Location
Alexander A

9:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Calling all Teens!

The CANAAF Teens Club will venture out into the city for an exciting, fun, team-building experience.

CANAAF's Toronto Teen Experience will begin with a brief introductory get together at the hotel then head off to the Quiz Room, Canada's first immersive trivia style game room where anyone can win. Gather your team, sharpen your wits, and get ready to take trivia fun to a whole new level!

After a delicious lunch, the teens will head to Arcadia Earth. Arcadia Earth is a multi-sensory journey that combines creative art installations and exciting technology to inspire visitors to take action towards a more sustainable future. This immersive experience showcases the beauty of our planet and the impact of human actions on the environment. The goal is to inspire visitors to be part of the solution for creating a better world.

Admission & Lunch are included.

TTC Passes will be provided to all participants.

Keynote Speaker - Alan Shane Lewis

Saturday, July 18th - 1:30 - 2:30 P.M

Comedian, actor, writer and co-host of The Great Canadian Baking Show, Alan Shane Lewis brings his signature high-energy humour to the CANAAF Conference. Living with alopecia areata, Alan offers a unique and personal perspective alongside his celebrated career in comedy and entertainment.

A four-time Canadian Screen Award nominee for Best Host, Alan has performed at major festivals including JFL42 and the Winnipeg Comedy Festival, and has appeared on Roast Battle Canada, CBC's Because News, and This Hour Has 22 Minutes (CSA-winning writing team, 2025).

Don't miss this dynamic and inspiring keynote from one of Canada's most engaging voices in comedy.



CANAAF COME TOGETHER 2026 GOLD SPONSOR:



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Scan the QR
code to upload
your photos

Share your fun photo moments and see
them in the slideshow!

CANAAF COME TOGETHER 2026 GOLD SPONSOR:



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Image Evolution is pleased to be the Freedom Wig representative for Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Atlantic provinces.

The Freedom Wig is the most natural looking, comfortable vacuum wig prosthesis available for people suffering from medical hairloss.

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Courtyard by Marriott Downtown Toronto

Saturday July 18th, 2026

Medical Advisory Panel

9:15 to 10:15 a.m. Join us for presentations from our esteemed panel of medical professionals who will then answer your medical questions. All questions will be pre-screened. Question sheets will be provided.

Location

Courtyard A & B

Dr. Carlo Gavino, MD, FAAD

What is alopecia areata? An explanation of the pathogenesis and expected disease course.

Dr. Perla Lansang, MD, FRCPC

Information specific to pediatric patients with AA (emerging treatment options, commonly asked questions by families with children who have AA), as well as how pediatric clinical trials work.

Dr. Eric McMullen, MD

Dr. McMullen will address commonly asked questions after an AA diagnosis.

Break

10:15 to 10:30 a.m. Enjoy coffee, tea and assorted pastries provided.

Medical Advisory Panel

continues

10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Dr. Julio Jasso, MD, FRCPC

Approved treatments for AA: what patients should expect, timelines for response, common side effects as well as an overview of how clinical trials for adult patients with AA work.

Nicole Smith, MACP, RP

"Living a Meaningful Life with Alopecia Areata"

The psychosocial impact of alopecia, mental health, and coping with alopecia areata.

Guest Speakers &

Vendor Presentations

11:30a.m. to 12:30p.m.

"Ashlyn's Story"

A sneak preview of an alopecia areata patient story video sponsored by AbbVie Corporation

"The International Alopecia Areata Alliance (IAAA)"

An introduction to the IAAA presented by Sara Teskey

"Freedom to Be You"

Presented by Jennifer Krahn, Image Evolution by Freedom Wigs

Location

Courtyard A & B

CANAAF Buffet Lunch

12:30 to 1:30p.m.

Join us for a Buffet Lunch including Soup, Salad, Sandwiches and Dessert. Please pick up your children from the Kids Club before lunch.

Location

Courtyard Foyer

Guest Speaker

1:30p.m. to 2:30p.m.

Keynote Speaker: Alan Shane Lewis

Co-host of The Great Canadian Baking Show. Living with alopecia areata, Alan offers a unique and personal perspective alongside his celebrated career in comedy and entertainment.

Location

Courtyard A & B

CANAAF is Grateful for the Support of:



STRIDES OF SUPPORT
CANAAF's 2nd Annual Support & Awareness Walk for Alopecia Areata
Sunday September 27th, 2026





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Saturday July 18th, 2026

Breakout Support Sessions

Location

2:30p.m.to 4:00 p.m.

Parents of Children (12 & under) with Alopecia Areata.

An informative exchange of ideas to assist the parents or supporters of children affected by alopecia areata

Facilitated by Nicole Smith

Alexander A

Alexander B

Parents of Teens (13 & over) with Alopecia Areata.

An informative exchange of ideas to assist the parents or supporters of teens affected by alopecia areata

Facilitated by Naomi Levine

Courtyard A & B

Adults Affected by Alopecia Areata,

An informative exchange of ideas to assist adults, and/or their supporters affected by alopecia areata

Facilitated by Sharlene Friedman

Courtyard C

Adultes Atteints d'Alopécie Areata-Session francophone

Un échange d'idées informatifs pour aider les adultes touchés par l'Alopécie Areata, et/ou leurs proches.

Facilité par Marianne Tardif, Geneviève Brault, Audrey Roy-Dorval

Guest Speaker

4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Cynthia Aguiar, Wellness Expert

"The Art of Reinvention. A Body-Based Approach to Becoming More You"

Cynthia Aguiar is a speaker, educator, trauma-informed coach, and facilitator who is passionate about helping people reconnect with their confidence, embrace their uniqueness, and navigate life's transitions with resilience and self-trust.

Location

Courtyard A & B

CANAAF

Dessert/Dance Party

Location

Courtyard A & B

7:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Dress your Best and join us in celebration of our 14th annual event.

Whether it's glamorous, classic, or uniquely you, dress your best and join us for a night to remember!!

This fun family evening will feature a DJ Dance Party, Cupcake Decorating, Photo Booth & Cash Bar!

Enjoy the open-air photo booth provided by Smart Booth Images, allowing everyone to watch and participate in all the fun as the photos are taken. Two attendants will be on hand to help with a large selection of props and posing. Unlimited prints, with the CANAAF logo on each photo, will be provided so that every person receives a picture from every sitting.

A special way to remember your weekend at **Come Together 2026!**



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Sunday July 19th, 2026

CANAAF Board of Directors' AGM

Location

Courtyard A & B

8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Join the CANAAF Board of Directors for our Annual General Meeting. All CANAAF attendees are welcome to attend.

Vendor Exhibits Open

Location

Courtyard Foyer

8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

A variety of exhibitors and vendors related to Alopecia Areata for you to peruse at your leisure.

CANAAF Group Breakfast

Location

Courtyard A & B

9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Start the day with a Hot Breakfast Buffet including all the usual favourites!

Kids' Camp

Location

Alexander C

10:00a.m. to 11:30a.m.

Kids' Conference Camp - provided by Network Child Care Services - continues for all children 3 to 11 years old.

Teen Connect

Location

Alexander A

10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Join your fellow teens in a friendly, safe space for open discussion on all things alopecia!
A special presentation by **Rylee McCue** - "Authenticity Is the Real Crown"

CANAAF COME TOGETHER 2026 SILVER SPONSOR:

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Sunday July 19th, 2026

Guest Speakers & Sponsor Presentation

10:00 a.m. to 12:30p.m.

Michael Suba of Continental Hair

"Changing The Conversation: Innovation, Marketing, and the Future of Hair Replacement"

Location

Courtyard A & B

Tope Akindele & Funke Olokude on "Beautifully Bald - An Exhibition to Raise Awareness"

An exhibition to raise awareness for Alopecia The Beautifully Bald Exhibition is a powerful visual storytelling initiative that celebrates the resilience, beauty, and diverse experiences of people living with alopecia. Through striking portrait photography and personal narratives, the exhibition challenges stereotypes, raises public awareness, and fosters meaningful conversations about identity, mental well-being, and inclusion. This presentation will showcase highlights from the exhibition, sharing the stories behind the portraits, the vision that inspired the project, and its impact on participants and communities. Attendees will explore how art and storytelling can serve as catalysts for advocacy, reduce stigma, and promote greater understanding, representation, and belonging for individuals living with alopecia.

Crash Rhythm Junk Band Interactive Ensemble

CRASH represents an alternative, dynamic and engaging approach to music education and exploration. CRASH uses bucket drumming to tie together teamwork, creativity and fun while also learning the basics of music, composition, rhythm and drumming.

Kids' Camp Ends

11:30 a.m.

The Kid's Camp attendees will be brought to the join their parents in the meeting room for the performance by Crash Rhythm and the Goodbye Gathering.

Goodbye Gathering

12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Join us for closing remarks and enjoy the CANAAF COME TOGETHER 2026 photo slideshow capturing some of your favourite memories from the weekend.

Location

Courtyard A & B

Have photos to share? Upload them using the QR code included in the program and we'll show them in the slideshow.

CANAAF COME TOGETHER 2026 SILVER SPONSOR:



Superhairpieces

Introducing our Special Guests for 2026

Medical Advisory Panel – Dr. Carlo Gavino, MD, FAAD



Dr. Carlo Gavino is a board-certified dermatologist and dermatopathologist with a special passion for hair and scalp disorders. He earned his medical degree from the University of the Philippines College of Medicine in Manila before moving to the United States for advanced medical training.

His postgraduate training includes an internship in Internal Medicine at the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio, a research fellowship in Immuno-Dermatology at UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, residency training in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology at UT Southwestern, a dermatopathology fellowship at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and a dermatology residency at Dell Medical School at The University of Texas at Austin.

Medical Advisory Panel – Perla Lansang MD, FRCPC



Dr. Perla Lansang is a full-time staff dermatologist and associate professor in the Division of Dermatology, University of Toronto. She is based at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre where she served as Division Director for 3 years. Prior to that, she was the Director of Undergraduate Education for the Division of Dermatology for over 10 years. She is cross-appointed at the Section of Paediatric Dermatology at the Hospital for Sick Children.

Dr. Lansang completed her medical school and dermatology residency at the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital. Having done fellowships in pediatric dermatology at The Hospital for Sick Children and in advanced medical dermatology at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, Dr. Lansang's practice is a mixture of pediatric, adolescent, and adult dermatology, with a special focus on psoriasis, atopic dermatitis, pregnancy dermatoses, autoimmune bullous diseases, and general medical dermatology. She has a special interest in immune-mediated skin diseases and has extensive clinical and research experience in many areas of immunodermatology.

Medical Advisory Panel – Eric McMullen, MD



Dr. Eric McMullen is a third-year dermatology resident at the University of Toronto. He completed medical school at McMaster University and is actively involved in clinical research. He has published over 100 peer-reviewed journal articles, including many on alopecia areata.

Introducing our Special Guests for 2026

Medical Advisory Panel – Dr. Julio Jasso-Olivares, MD, FRCPC



Dr Julio Jasso-Olivares is a dermatologist in Quebec, recognized for his expertise in hair and nail disorders. He has been practicing within the public healthcare system for nearly ten years and serves as Vice-President of the Montreal Dermatological Society.

Following his dermatology residency, he completed advanced training in hair and nail disorders at the University of Miami and the University of Bologna under the supervision of Dr. Antonella Tosti. He also holds a Master's degree in Trichology from the University of Alcalá.

Dr. Jasso-Olivares is a Clinical Lecturer affiliated with Université Laval and Université de Montréal. An invited speaker in Canada and internationally, he actively contributes to education, research, and the advancement of care in trichology and nail disease.

Medical Advisory Panel – Nicole Smith, MACP, RP



Nicole Smith is a psychotherapist, specializing in trauma therapy. Though she struggled with alopecia areata (bald patches) for most of her young life, at age 23, amidst panic attacks, generalized anxiety, and depression, she lost all of her hair (alopecia totalis).

As a 35 year old mother of two young daughters. Nicole wishes to be a role model for strength, resilience, and self-love. Her personal experiences have shaped her empathetic approach to therapy, where she hopes to empower others, particularly those struggling with alopecia, to find their own path to healing and self-compassion.

Guest Speaker - Cynthia Aguiar

The Art of being Unique. (A nervous-system Approach to Becoming More You)

Cynthia Aguiar is a speaker, educator, trauma-informed coach, and facilitator who is passionate about helping people reconnect with their confidence, embrace their uniqueness, and navigate life's transitions with resilience and self-trust.

Cynthia teaches nervous system regulation and Emotional Freedom Techniques (EFT Tapping), sharing practical, body-based approaches that help people move beyond self-doubt, reconnect with who they truly are, and show up more fully in their lives.

Through her speaking, workshops, and coaching, Cynthia inspires others to recognize that our greatest strength often lies not in becoming someone different, but in fully embracing who we are. Her work is a reminder that when we learn to listen to our bodies, honour our experiences, and trust ourselves, we create space not only to heal, but to thrive.



CANAAF Photo Policy

By registering for CANAAF COME Together 2026, all guests, patrons, employees and volunteers agree that photographs and videos taken may not be used for commercial profit or publicity.

During CANAAF COME Together 2026, you may be filmed, videotaped or photographed by or on behalf of CANAAF.

Your registration with CANAAF COME Together 2026 serves as permission for use of your image by CANAAF.

Please email CANAAF at info@canaaf.org if you do not consent to your photograph or video being used by CANAAF.

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COME TOGETHER 2026

We Value Your Feedback



Thank you for joining us. Your feedback will help us improve future events, ensuring they continue to provide meaningful information, connection, and value to our community.



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