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FEB. 09-13 FÉV. 2026



The Annual Meeting of Canadian Mills
Le rendez-vous annuel des usines canadiennes

PaperWeek Detailed Program

***Please refer to program online for latest updates**

We reserve the right to modify the timing if need be.

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2026

08:00 - 10:30

BIOFOR / Energy Joint Session

Session Chairs: Victor Padilla, FPInnovations & Luciana Savulescu, NRCan – CanmetENERGY

Enhancing Pulp & Paper Industry Competitiveness through Energy Efficiency

This session explores emerging approaches to energy integration and low-carbon solutions to strengthen pulp and paper industry competitiveness. The speakers bring diverse expert perspectives, offering insights into innovation-driven pathways that boost energy efficiency, enable clean technology solutions, leading to increase market competitiveness and maximize the use of existing assets and resources.



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08:00-09:00 Keynote: "Future Opportunities in Improving Energy Efficiency and Flexibility", **Jussi Manninen**, *VTT*

09:00 – 10:30 BIOFOR & Energy joint presentations

Panelists:

"Energy Efficiency and Decarbonization in Pulp and Paper Plants: How to Connect Ambition with Reality", **Hooman Rezaei**, *Domtar*

"Resource and Pathways Analysis for Decarbonizing the Pulp and Paper Sector in Quebec"
Marie-Hélène Talbot, *Hydro-Quebec's Research Center*

"Decarbonization of Kraft Mills: Role of Water-Energy Reduction", **Enrique Mateos-Espejel**, *FPInnovations*

"Aligning Decarbonization and Competitiveness of Kraft Mills: Exploring Green Ammonia Energy Integration", **Hakim Ghezzaz**, *Natural Resources Canada/CanmetENERGY*

11:00 - 12:30

PAPERMAKING - Innovation in Papermaking Chemistry

Session Chair : Przem Pruszynski, Pruszynski Paper Chemistry Consulting

11:00 "Methodological approaches for the development of new contaminant control agents for felt and Wire Passivation Applications", **Nina Shivyari & David Sharoyan**, *Solenis*

11:25 "Improving dry strength properties utilizing chemistry", **Bruce Barker**, *Nalco*

11:50 "New Strength Additive for Towel", **Jia-Yu Wang**, *Nalco*

12:15 "Future of Paper Sustainability", **Rasmus Pinomaa**, *Kemira*



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12:30 - 14:00

Mills for Mills - Understand It, See It, Trust It

Session Chair : Jean Fahmy & Sean Terriah, Kruger

AI in manufacturing is everywhere—but in mill conditions, value only shows up when we stay practical. This session will give the audience a clear, credible way to talk about AI without hype, then show what “good” looks like in real operations, and present a practical risk-and-controls approach tailored to mill realities (safety, reliability, security, and adoption), showing how to deploy AI responsibly with clear decision rights, human-in-the-loop guardrails, and auditability.

14:00 - 15:30

TISSUE / ENERGY - Electrification, Water Reduction & Decarbonization of Tissue Production

Session Chair : Michel Houde, Kruger Products

14:00 “Electrification, Reduction & Decarbonization of Tissue Production”, **Ulf Johnson**, *Valmet*

14:30 “Powering the Future of Tissue – the technology behind the first fully electric tissue machine”, **Stefano Pecchia**, *Toscotec*

15:00 “Harnessing Digital Waste Heat to Transform Energy Efficiency and Grid Resilience”, **Pascal Perreault**, *First Block*



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15:00 - 17:00

PAPERMAKING - Barrier Coating I - Driving Quality and Performance

Session Chair : Shaune Hanley, Domtar

15:00 "Creating oil and grease resistance barriers using size press application", **Didier Delnoye**, *AVEBE*

15:30 "Flexographic Applied Coating Study: advancing Sustainable Packaging Through Strategic Partnerships", **Scott Peplinski**, *Solenis*

16:00 "Roll-to-roll Laboratory Coating for Barrier Grade Development", **Lyne Cormier**, *FPIInnovations*

16:30 "Beyond Anti-Slip: How Technical Paper Coatings are Redefining Performance & Sustainability", **Marc-Antoine Auger**, *CGP Expal*

15:30 - 17:00

ENERGY - Improving Energy Efficiency through Operation Excellence

Session Chairs : Luciana Savulescu & Milad Aghabararnejad, Natural Resources Canada/Canmet ENERGY

15:30 "Recovery Boiler Energy Efficiency Optimization: Automation Technologies", **Travis Conner**, *Valmet*

16:15 "Mechanical Insulation Energy Assessments", **Joshua Sherrard**, *International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers*

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WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2026

10:30 - 12:30

PAPERMAKING Roundtable - Taking the Mystery out of AI

Session Chairs : Przem Pruszynski, Pruszynski Paper Chemistry Consulting & Javad-Reza Saberian, Kruger

10:30 KEYNOTE: "Solvent Design and Lignin Valorization", **Dr Ahmed Ragab**, *Lead Scientist in Artificial Intelligence (AI) at Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), Adjunct Professor in the Department of Mathematics and Industrial Engineering at Polytechnique Montréal, and Member of MILA – Quebec AI Institute.*

Presentation summary: Lignin valorization is critical for industrial decarbonization but faces challenges due to lignin's variability and complex solvent interactions. This presentation showcases a novel approach combining machine learning (ML) and generative AI to optimize solvent selection and design new molecules. An ensemble ML model predicts Hansen solubility parameters (HSP) from SMILES codes for precise solvent efficiency estimation, while a generative AI framework creates novel molecules using advanced algorithms and a physics-informed loss function. This approach provides reliable solvent selection and new molecule generation, contributing to more efficient lignin processing and supporting the growing lignin bioeconomy with cutting-edge computational techniques in solvent and material design.

11:00 "Balancing Fibre Mix Properties with Starch and Dry Strength Additives Usage: An AI-Driven Approach to Cost Effective Papermaking", **Anthony Giampapa**, *HABER*

11:30 "NGAdvancing Paper Mill Water Treatment through Predictive Optimization", **Jerome Ricard & Chad Runtz**, *Kemira*

12:00 "AI in Market Intelligence: Use cases to see market developments earlier, decide better and act faster", **Sanna Sosa**, *AFRY*



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12:30 - 14:00

Mills for Mills - Safety Better Practices

Session Chair : Eric Ashby, Kruger

A focused exchange where pulp and paper industry leaders share practical safety successes from their facilities. Participants highlight the practices, innovations, and cultural approaches that have made a real difference, helping inspire stronger safety performance across the sector.

Une discussion ciblée où les dirigeants de l'industrie des pâtes et papiers partagent les pratiques et innovations qui ont réellement amélioré la sécurité dans leurs installations. Les participants mettent en valeur leurs réussites afin d'inspirer une performance accrue dans tout le secteur.

14:00 - 15:30

MANAGEMENT

Session Chair :

14:00 "The Odds of Meeting your Goal", **Martin Carignan**, *Différence GCS* & **Guillaume Bouvier**, *Kruger*
14:30 "From Reactive to Predictive: Leveraging Data-Driven Safety Systems Across the Modern Pulp & Paper Mill", **John Feola**, *3FB Consulting*



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15:00 - 17:00

ENERGY - Advancing Energy Efficiency Projects: From Opportunities to Fundings

Session Chairs : Luciana Savulescu & Hakim Ghezzaz, Natural Resources Canada/Canmet ENERGY

15:00 "High Performance Heat Pump Cycles for Pulp and Paper Industry", **Charles Rand**, *Natural Resources Canada/ CanmetENERGY*

15:30 "Integrating Heat Pump and MVR with Existing Heat Recovery Systems", **Antoine Hofer**, *Thermal Energy*

16:00 "Driving Bold Reductions in Energy Costs and GHG Emissions Without Using Your CAPEX: SOFIAC's Approach", **Chantal Goyette**, *SOFIAC*

15:30 - 17:00

BLEACHING

Session Chair : Mona Henderson, Valmet

15:30 "Ozone, the Most Local and Green Bleaching Chemical", **Alexis Métais**, *Xylem*

16:00 "Cooking and fiberline operation: Lignin and Hexenuronic acid (HexA) Removal, Strength and Yield optimization", **Troy Willis**, *Valmet*

16:30 "Pulp Brightness Transitions / Program to Minimize Variation", **Jacob Wall**, *Irving & Grace Du, BTG*



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THURSDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2026

10:30 - 12:30

PAPERMAKING - Advances in Papermaking Technology - I

Session Chair : Frédéric Parent, FPIInnovations

10:30 "Advancing OCC Line Performance: Technologies for High-quality Recycled Fibre and Energy-efficient Board Production", **Mika Körkkö**, *Valmet Technologies*

10:55 "DynamicNip Loading", **Jake Zwart**, *Spectrum Technologies*

11:20 "More Sheet Breaks per Week Could be Very Good News", **Vincent Béchar**, *Différence GCS*

11:45 "Valmet Performance Centre Supporting Performance & Reliability", **Ville Pätäri**, *Valmet Technologies*

12:10 "Paper Making Optimization through Innovations in Refining and Refiner Plate Designs", **Al Zumpano & Alex Harvey**, *Andritz*

12:30 - 14:00

Mills for Mills - Reality Check, Industrialize, Leave With a Plan

Session Chair : Jean Fahmy & Sean Terriah, Kruger

The difference between AI demos and durable production value: why pilots drift, why models underdeliver, and why adoption stalls when workflows, ownership, and data context are not engineered from day one. How to define scope, success measures, and operational decision flows; how to manage exceptions; and how to avoid common traps that slow delivery. This session will give a



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practical path from idea to production—plus a repeatable method to scale AI and automation across mills and corporate processes.

14:00 - 15:45

TISSUE - Tissue Production and Savings

Session Chair : Jessica Carette, Cascades Tissue

14:00 "Reduce Energy and CO2 Emissions Using available Waste Heat to Improve Pressing Performance and Boost Production", **Alfredo Sarli, Valmet**

14:25 "How Advanced Process Control Including Digital Twin Technology Can Improve Tissue Stock Preparation", **Richard Van Fleet, Andritz Pulp and Paper – Automation and Digitization**

14:50 "Thermocompressors for Tissue Machines and How They Can Save Energy", **Mike Soucy, Kadant**

15:15 "From Online Measurements to Predictive Maintenance and Process Control", **John Feola, 3FB Consulting**

15:30 - 17:00

BLEACHING

Session Chair : Mona Henderson, Valmet

15:30 "Lower Environmental Impact During and ECF Bleaching Sequence", **Auphélia Burnet, Centre Technique du Papier, Grenoble, France**

16:00 "Control Loop Management", **John O'Donnell, Domtar & Nathaniel Normandeau, BTG**

16:30 "Bleach plant survey Update", **Phil Sekerak, ERCO**

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15:30 - 17:00

PAPERMAKING - Barrier Coating II - Innovation & Market Positioning

Session Chairs : Louis Morimanno, LRM Enviro-Solutions & Shaune Hanley, Domtar

15:30 "Outlook for Fibre-based Packaging with Advanced Properties", **Soile Kilpi**, *AFRY*

16:00 "Hard Nip Sizing with curtain application ", **Antti Räisänen & Henri Vaittinen**, *Valmet*

16:30 "Influence of Base Sheet Properties on Barrier Coating Performance", **Dustin Burton, Alan Piwowar, & Greg Welsch**, *Trinseo LLC*

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FRIDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2026

12:30 - 14:00

JOINT Workshop PaperWeek/BIOFOR

Session Chair : Paul Stuart, EnVertis / Ecole Polytechnique

Workshop: From Concept to Decision: Using I-BIOREF (Decision Support Tool to Assess Biorefinery Pathways)

Presented by:

Marzouk Benali, *Natural Resources Canada, CanmetENERGY* & **Georgiana Bele**, *Natural Resources Canada, CanmetENERGY*

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THE SOFTWARE BROCHURE](#)

Decision Support Systems (DSS) and scenario analysis are powerful approaches for guiding investment and policy choices in emerging biorefinery value chains. I-BIOREF is a DSS developed by Natural Resources Canada to evaluate biorefinery projects under diverse feedstock, technology, and market conditions. The tool integrates techno-economic, environmental, policy, circularity, sustainability, and risk indicators, while explicitly addressing uncertainty through ex-ante scenario analysis. This workshop will introduce the I-BIOREF structured framework and demonstrate its practical application for comparing biorefinery pathways, supporting decarbonization strategies, and informing decision-making by industry, policymakers, and researchers



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Mills for Mills - Safety Leadership: Courage to Intervene — Human Error or Violation?

Session Chair : Eric Ashby, Kruger

This talk explores the essential role of courage in workplace safety, focusing on how individuals and organizations can confidently intervene when they see something unsafe. It highlights the importance of distinguishing between human error—unintentional, often system driven mistakes—and violations, which involve conscious departures from expected procedures. By understanding this difference, leaders can respond more fairly and effectively. The session also emphasizes the principles of a just culture, where accountability, learning, and psychological safety coexist, enabling employees to speak up, report concerns, and contribute to continuous improvement without fear of blame.

Cette présentation met en lumière le rôle essentiel du courage dans la sécurité au travail, en soulignant comment les individus et les organisations peuvent intervenir avec assurance lorsqu'ils observent une situation à risque. Elle explique l'importance de distinguer l'erreur humaine — involontaire et souvent liée au système — de la violation, qui représente un écart intentionnel aux procédures établies. Cette distinction permet aux dirigeants de réagir de manière plus juste et efficace. La séance met également l'accent sur les principes d'une culture juste, où responsabilité, apprentissage et sécurité psychologique coexistent, afin d'encourager les employés à s'exprimer, à signaler les préoccupations et à contribuer à l'amélioration continue sans crainte d'être blâmés.

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