



Innovation Cluster Launches IC Talks: Unfiltered

Big Ideas. Unexpected Stories. Peterborough's Future.

Public invited to kick off Small Business Month with an evening of bold ideas, local innovators, and surprising stories.

PETERBOROUGH, ON. Canada, July 23, 2026 – The most innovative ideas in Peterborough aren't always the most visible.

Behind hospital walls, inside research labs, on construction sites, in family businesses, and around boardroom tables, people across our region are solving complex problems, embracing emerging technologies, and building the future. Many of these stories happen quietly, without headlines, yet they're transforming our economy and community every day.

On **Thursday, October 1**, the Innovation Cluster invites the public to discover what's happening in their own backyard at **IC Talks: Unfiltered**, an exciting new event to launch **Small Business Month 2026**.

Featuring dynamic 10 to 12-minute talks from local innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers, healthcare leaders, educators, and business owners, the evening offers an insider's look at the ideas, technologies, and collaborations shaping the future of Peterborough.

Attendees will hear how artificial intelligence is changing patient care, why skilled trades and technology are converging, what angel investors really look for, how developers are helping shape communities, and why heritage craftsmanship continues to drive sustainable business success.

More than a speaker event, **IC Talks: Unfiltered** is designed to spark curiosity, inspire new thinking, and create unexpected connections across industries. It challenges the notion that innovation only happens in large urban centres and showcases why Peterborough is becoming one of Ontario's emerging regional innovation hubs.

Confirmed speakers include:



- **Evan Lyons**, Executive Vice President, Digital Services, Strategy and Transformation and Chief Information Officer, Peterborough Regional Health Centre, presenting **How Emerging Technologies Are Reshaping Diagnostics, Patient Flow and Frontline Care**
- **Paul Bennett**, Owner, Ashburnham Realty, presenting on **Developers as City Builders**
- **Frank Auddino**, and **Angelo Del Duca**, Angel Investors and Mentors, of Angel Investors Durham (AID), presenting on **The Reality of Angel Investment**
- **Robert Cahill**, Cahill's & Further®, presenting **Heritage, Craft and Sustainable Enterprise in Peterborough**
- **Dr. Fereydoon Diba**, Lead Research Scientist, CAMIIT, and **Dr. Theresa Knott**, Interim President, Fleming College, presenting **Trades and Tech Convergence**

The evening will explore themes critical to the region's future, including:

- Health & Community Systems
- Talent & Workforce
- Energy & Infrastructure
- Sustainability & Leadership
- Innovation & Capital

"Peterborough has no shortage of remarkable innovators. What we're missing is enough opportunities to bring those stories together in one room," said Nicole Stephenson, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Innovation Cluster. "IC Talks: Unfiltered is about celebrating local innovation, challenging assumptions, and creating new conversations that lead to stronger partnerships and fresh ideas."

Whether you're an entrepreneur, business owner, student, investor, community leader, or simply curious about where Peterborough is headed, you'll leave with a new appreciation for the innovation already happening here and the opportunities still to come.



IC Talks: Unfiltered is presented by a growing coalition of organizations that believe Peterborough's next chapter will be written through innovation, collaboration, and entrepreneurship. Their support helps make this event accessible to the community while showcasing the remarkable innovation ecosystem taking shape across our region.

Local businesses and organizations are invited to become event sponsors. Sponsorship is an opportunity to raise your profile, demonstrate your commitment to the region's innovation economy, and connect with entrepreneurs, business leaders, researchers, investors, skilled professionals, and community decision-makers. Together, we can amplify the stories, ideas, and partnerships shaping Peterborough's future.

For sponsorship opportunities, contact **Amanda Hawthorne** at ahawthorne@innovationcluster.ca.

Event Details

IC Talks: Unfiltered

Date: Thursday, October 1, 2026

Time: Doors Open: 4:30 p.m. | Program Begins: 5:30pm

Location: Market Hall Performing Arts Centre, Peterborough, ON

Admission: Open to the public. Registration is free and required.

Seats are limited. Register today at innovationcluster.ca/ictalks

About the Innovation Cluster

The Innovation Cluster supports small and medium-sized enterprises in Clean Tech, Health & Medical Tech, the Nuclear Ecosystem, and Digital Tech. As a non-profit, we are dedicated to fueling regional innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic development in Peterborough and the Kawartha Lakes. Learn more at innovationcluster.ca.

Media Contact:



Kristina Svana, Marketing Manager

Ksvana@innovationcluster.ca

Christine Crandell, Vice Chair, Board of Directors

board@innovationcluster.ca