



Affiliate Annual Report for Calendar Year 2025

(Complete Attachment B to be considered for one or more 2026 Affiliate Awards.)

To maintain compliance with IAFP Constitution and Bylaws, Affiliates must return this completed report. Please send by email to Susan Smith at: ssmith@foodprotection.org.

Please return the following items **electronically** by **Tuesday, March 3, 2026** (late reports will not be considered for awards):

REQUIRED:

- This completed form (*in English*).
- Your Association's list of current term officers (complete Attachment A).

OPTIONAL:

- Attachment B: Completion required **only** if your Association requests to be considered for one or more Affiliate Awards.
- IAFP accepts **all** Affiliate Annual Reports electronically, including those vying for one or more of the Affiliate Awards. *Affiliates seeking to present the highest quality visual presentation are encouraged to present their Annual Report in the highest quality possible for review by the Selection Committee. To avoid errors and omissions, please limit your submission to ONE email with all attachments.*
- Digital photos (with names and descriptions) to appear in the *Affiliate View* quarterly newsletter.

Ontario Food Protection Association

1. Your Official Delegate to IAFP Affiliate Council and Contact

Enter in the fields below the information requested for your Association's official Delegate to the IAFP Affiliate Council and your official Contact for IAFP correspondence. **Delegate must be an IAFP Member.**

Official Delegate to IAFP Affiliate Council

Director at Large

Ellen Gravi

ellengravi@gravifoodsafety.com

IAFP Member? Y ☒ N ☐

Official Contact for IAFP Correspondence (indicate “same” if person also serves as Delegate)

Same

2. Membership List

- a. Indicate the current total number of members in your Association: 144 (Feb 1, 2026)
- b. How many NEW members joined your Association in 2025: 67

3. Meetings: Annual Meeting/Conference, Educational, Workshops, Webinars, etc.

- a. On what date(s) was your most recent general membership or major meeting (i.e., Annual Meeting/Conference) during the past year? Please list number of attendees.

September 30 and October 1, 2025, approximately 175 attendees

- b. Please provide the date(s) and location of your next scheduled major meeting (i.e., Annual Meeting/Conference):

Annual Conference and General Meeting: September 29-30, 2026. Millenium Gardens, 10 Polonia Avenue, Brampton, ON.

- c. List all other general membership meetings held in 2025 (excluding board meetings). Include title, dates and attendance numbers.

N/A

4. Awards and Scholarships

a. List members honored with an award from your Association and/or IAFP during 2025. Include name of award and qualification for award.

Gwynne Sitsker	OFPA Food Safety Professional of the Year, nominated by OFPA member and BOD vote. Eligibility criteria: The Food Safety Professional of the Year Award may be presented to a food safety professional or company deemed to have contributed outstanding service to the Food Industry in Ontario, e.g., demonstrated expertise on sanitation procedures, improved food safety culture at a company, conducted research that made an applied contribution to food safety, provided excellent educational or training activities to food companies. The candidate does not need to be a OFPA member to be nominated. The candidate can only win this category once.
Darshan Gautre	OFPA Young Food Safety Professional of the Year, nominated by OFPA member and BOD vote. Eligibility Criteria: The young food safety professional of the year award may be presented to a food safety professional, that finished their education (college/bachelor degree) within the last 5 years. They are deemed to have contributed outstanding service to the Food Industry in Ontario, e.g., demonstrated expertise on sanitation procedures, improved food safety culture at a company, conducted research that made an applied contribution to food safety, provided excellent educational or training activities to food companies. The candidate does not need to be a OFPA member to be nominated. The candidate can only win this category once.
OFPA	Affiliate Communication Materials Award, IAFP.
Farah Al Qudsi – University of Guelph	1 st Place – Clive Kingsbury 3MT 3-minute thesis presentation during the annual meeting and voted by the attendees of the meeting.
Shreya Patel - Lambton College	2 nd Place – Clive Kingsbury 3MT 3-minute thesis presentation during the annual meeting and voted by the attendees of the meeting.
Anxin Zhao - University of Guelph	3 rd Place – Clive Kingsbury 3MT 3-minute thesis presentation during the annual meeting and voted by the attendees of the meeting.

b. List scholarships awarded during 2025; include recipient and qualification for scholarship.

OFPA Prize in the Ontario Agricultural College at University of Guelph.	Bertina Do, academic merit and extracurricular involvement.
OFPA Excellence in Food Safety and Quality Assurance Scholarship - Conestoga College	TBD
Scholarship Name/Amount	Recipient Name and how did recipient qualify?
Scholarship Name/Amount	Recipient Name and how did recipient qualify?
Scholarship Name/Amount	Recipient Name and how did recipient qualify?
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Scholarship Name/Amount	Recipient Name and how did recipient qualify?

5. Web Communication

Please be sure to keep the IAFP office on your mailing list for newsletters, email, and other communications to your general membership.

Please provide your existing Affiliate's Web site address AND date last updated:

[Home - OFPA - Ontario Food Protection Association](#)

Website is updated several times a month.

Did you launch a new Affiliate Web site in 2025? Y ☐ N ☒

Attachment A (completion required)

Association Officers List

Provide the contact information requested below for all current officers of your Association. **Please indicate if each officer is an IAFP Member (reminder: Your President and Delegate are required to be IAFP Members).** The information you provide here is published on our website and in select membership materials. The information may be typed in the fields below or may be sent to our office by email, fax or regular mail.

Indicate the term dates (e.g., 2025–2026) for your current Executive Board:

January 1st – December 31st

President

Kajam Kunarajasingam
2-121 Jevlan Dr.
Woodbridge, ON, L4L8C2
416-414-7665
kajam@qualitycheese.com

IAFP Member? Y ☒ N ☐

Director at Large

Stephen Vijayakumar
Hamilton, ON, L8R 2Y2
Stephen.vijayakumar@gmail.com
647-622-1360

IAFP Member? Y ☐ N ☒

Director at Large

Ellen Gravi
ellengravi@gravifoodsafety.com

IAFP Member? Y ☒ N ☐

Director at Large

Hanna sharafi
North York, ON
647-871-0228
Sharafi.hanna@gmail.com

IAFP Member? Y ☐ N ☒

Director at Large

Wendy Dillon
Mississauga, ON
Wendydillon30@gmail.com
905-484-9501

Vice President

Tanya Waraich
Tanya.waraich@compass-canada.com
289-339-8045

IAFP Member? Y ☐ N ☒

Past President

Marin Pavlic
204 Goodwin Drive
Guelph, ON, N1L 0C8
647-238-4079
mpavlic@sofinafoods.com

IAFP Member? Y ☒ N ☐

Student Director at Large

Dharamdeo Singh
Guelph, ON
dharamde@uoguelph.ca
519-994-8400

IAFP Member? Y ☐ N ☒

Director at Large

Darshan Gautre
647-870-6510
dgautre@gmail.com

IAFP Member? Y ☐ N ☒

IAFP Member? Y ☐ N ☒

Director at Large
Jinky Austria
jinkyaustralia001@gmail.com
647-885-8682

IAFP Member? Y ☒ N ☐

Director at Large
Nicole Tucker
Kitchener, ON
226-752-8766

IAFP Member? Y ☐ N ☒

Director at Large
Samuel Davidson
Markham, ON, L3P 2P1
davidsons@compassminerals.com
519-440-7583

IAFP Member? Y ☐ N ☒

Before continuing, please check one of the boxes below:

☒ **CHECK HERE and return electronically by 3/3/26 IF YOUR AFFILIATE REQUESTS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ONE OR MORE 2026 AFFILIATE AWARDS. (You are required to complete Attachment B.)**

☐ **CHECK HERE IF YOUR AFFILIATE DOES NOT WANT TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A 2026 AWARD. (You are done! It is not necessary to complete Attachment B.)**

Attachment B (optional)

Affiliate Award Considerations

*To be considered for one or more of the five Affiliate Awards to be presented at IAFP 2026, Affiliates are **required** to check the box next to the award(s) for which you wish to be considered and provide the related criteria (in English). (REMINDER: Please confirm IAFP Membership of your Affiliate President and Delegate **before** completing Attachment B to avoid award disqualification.)*

☒ **Affiliate Membership Achievement Award**

How did your Affiliate grow **AND** retain members during the past year? Please provide details on:

- how new members were recruited throughout the year;
- the number of new members joining the Affiliate;
- the percent of increase in membership from 2025 to 2026;
- specific efforts on how you retained existing members; and
- other methods related to helping grow and maintain your membership.

You may cut and paste copy in the space below or use a separate page if necessary; please limit your explanation to 500 words or less in 12-point type.

☒ Affiliate Communication Award

How did your Affiliate communicate information to your Members during the past year? Please provide a description of the types of communication sent to your general membership and include samples with your Annual Report. Samples can be printed copies/screen shots of blast emails, website (include frequency of updating), electronic/print newsletters, brochures, etc., along with respective dates sent. If available, provide how effective specific communication was toward meeting your goals. You may cut and paste copy in the space below or use a separate page if necessary; please limit your explanation to 500 words or less in 12-point type.

☒ **Affiliate Education Award**

What types of food safety education program(s) did your Affiliate provide to its members during the past year? Provide the following details on all technical meetings, educational conferences, webinars, workshops, classes, and other methods pertinent to the interests of the membership:

- Background;
- Objectives;
- Agenda;
- Target audience;
- Dates held; and
- Numbers of attendees.

Describe any awards provided to students or young professionals. You may cut and paste copy in the space below or use a separate page if necessary; please limit your explanation to 500 words or less in 12-point type. *(Do not submit copies of speaker Power Point slide presentations.)*

☒ Best Overall Affiliate Meeting Award

Did your Affiliate hold an outstanding food protection meeting (not sponsored/co-sponsored by IAFP*) which you consider 'over and above' those normally held? If so, provide the following details, if applicable, on what led to a highly successful meeting:

- Type of meeting and the value it brought to Affiliate Members/attendees (does not need to be your Annual Meeting);
- Objective for the meeting (if relevant);
- Activities/Topics (e.g., poster competition, vendor tech talks; a printed copy of the agenda may be included with your award application);
- Numbers of attendees:
 - Number of and overall percentage of Affiliate Members (for example, 100 total attendees with 75 of them being Affiliate Members = 75%)
 - Number of Guests (non-dues-paying Affiliate Members) and their relationship to the Affiliate Chapter and/or meeting's topic(s);
- Audience participation (through roundtable discussions, exercises, etc.);
- Student involvement;
- Partners (e.g., other associations or affiliates);
- Speakers and their affiliations (if available);
- Sponsors;
- Engagement of attendees with exhibitors;
- Diversity of meeting participants (range of sectors represented, e.g., students, academia, extension, government, NGO, industry representatives, etc.), which can be broken down into services (e.g., retail, education, research, manufacturing, etc., if available); and
- Other information (e.g., whether the meeting included a celebration of a milestone Affiliate anniversary and related activities).

You may cut and paste copy in the space below or use a separate page if necessary; please limit your explanation to 500 words or less in 12-point type. *(Do not submit copies of speaker Power Point slide presentations.)*

**Does not include funds provided under the IAFP Executive Board Speaker/Expanded Speaker Program*

☒ **C.B. Shogren Memorial Award**

NOTE: Applying for the Shogren Memorial Award does not automatically include your application for any of the other Affiliate awards. If applying for this award, you must apply separately for one or more of the other Affiliate awards which may have contributed toward meeting the criteria of the Shogren Award. (Note: Your Affiliate is not required to win one of the other Affiliate awards.)

How did your Affiliate demonstrate exceptional overall achievement during the past year in promoting the mission of IAFP (*"To provide food safety professionals worldwide with a forum to exchange information on protecting the food supply"*)? The judges will also consider how the Affiliate has demonstrated its commitment to food safety over the years. "Overall achievement" should encompass at least several of the following activities/accomplishments of your Affiliate:

- Exceptional achievement in membership;
- Types and effectiveness of communication and education;
- Awards and scholarships presented;
- Attendance numbers at meetings;
- Collaboration with other professional organizations;
- Whether the Affiliate has been considered for and/or won other Affiliate awards in the past;
- Involvement in the IAFP Affiliate Council Meeting (e.g., participation at the Affiliate Council Meeting held during the IAFP Annual Meeting and in online Affiliate Council meetings throughout the year; submissions to the *Affiliate View* newsletter, sharing Affiliate Council information with Affiliate members); and
- Other pertinent information.

While not a requirement, strong consideration will be given to an Affiliate whose officers (beyond the requirement for the President and Delegate) are also IAFP Members. Provide a description and include any supporting documents. You may cut and paste copy in the space below or use separate pages if necessary; please limit your explanation to 1,000 words or less in 12-point type.



Affiliate Membership Achievement Award Application

How New Members Were Recruited

Throughout 2025, the Ontario Food Protection Association (OFPA) implemented a multi-channel recruitment strategy to expand awareness and attract new members across the food safety community.

Members of the OFPA Board of Directors attended the IAFP 2025 Annual Meeting, where promotional materials were distributed directly to potential members, including a dedicated discount code to encourage immediate enrollment.

Recruitment efforts were further strengthened through targeted promotion at our Fall Food Safety Conference, where attendees received membership discount codes and direct engagement with current members and board representatives.

Our website continues to serve as a key recruitment tool, with membership prominently featured on the homepage and a streamlined join page (<https://ofpa.on.ca/join/>).

Social media outreach, particularly on LinkedIn, was used strategically to target professionals in the food safety sector. All OFPA events were advertised on social platforms, with regular posts dedicated specifically to the benefits of joining the association.

OFPA also leveraged its monthly webinar program to attract non-members. While members attend free of charge, non-members are invited to participate for a small donation and are actively encouraged to join during each session.

In addition, monthly membership promotions were launched throughout the year to maintain consistent visibility and momentum.

Monthly Membership Promotions

Month	Date	Messaging	Discount	Code
April	April 22: Earth Day	Strengthen your company's food safety commitment with OFPA and contribute to a more sustainable food system	15% off SCMs	OFPA SCMEARTH15 Active: Apr 22-29
May	Month of May	Refer a friend and receive 50% off your next annual renewal	50% off Professional memberships	Existing member emails OFPA once friend has joined. Once membership is approved, Marin will issue a single discount code that can be used for up to a month after member's membership lapses. All codes to be logged in a spreadsheet.
June	June 7: World Food Safety Day	Honoring industry professionals who helped shape food safety standards	20% off retired memberships	WFS DRETIRE D20 Active only on June 7
July	Month of July: National Food Safety Month	Honoring professionals that keep our food supply safe and raise awareness about food safety best practices	10% off Professional and SCM memberships	OFPA NFSM10 Active during the month of July
August	August 9-16	Beat the heat with cool savings from OFPA	15% off all membership types	BEATHEATALL15 Active Aug 9-16
September	Sept. 2-5: Back to school	Start the school year off right with an OFPA membership	20% student memberships	OFPA BACKTOSCHOOL20 Active Sep 2-5
October	Oct. 16: World Food Day	Emphasizing food safety from farm to table. Join OFPA and stay informed on the latest in food safety innovation	15% off Professional and SCM memberships	OFPA WFD15 Active Oct 16
November	November 28: Black Friday	Take advantage of black Fridays deals	20% off all memberships	OFPA BFALL20 Active Nov 28
December	December 20-27	Happy Holidays – a gift from OFPA	25% off all memberships	OFPA HOLIDAYSALL25 Active Dec 20-27

Example:



Ontario Food Protection Association

8,492 followers

3w • 🌐

Celebrate the season with OFPA! 🎄

Enjoy 25% off all OFPA memberships for a limited time and start the new year connected, informed, and supported by Canada's food safety community.



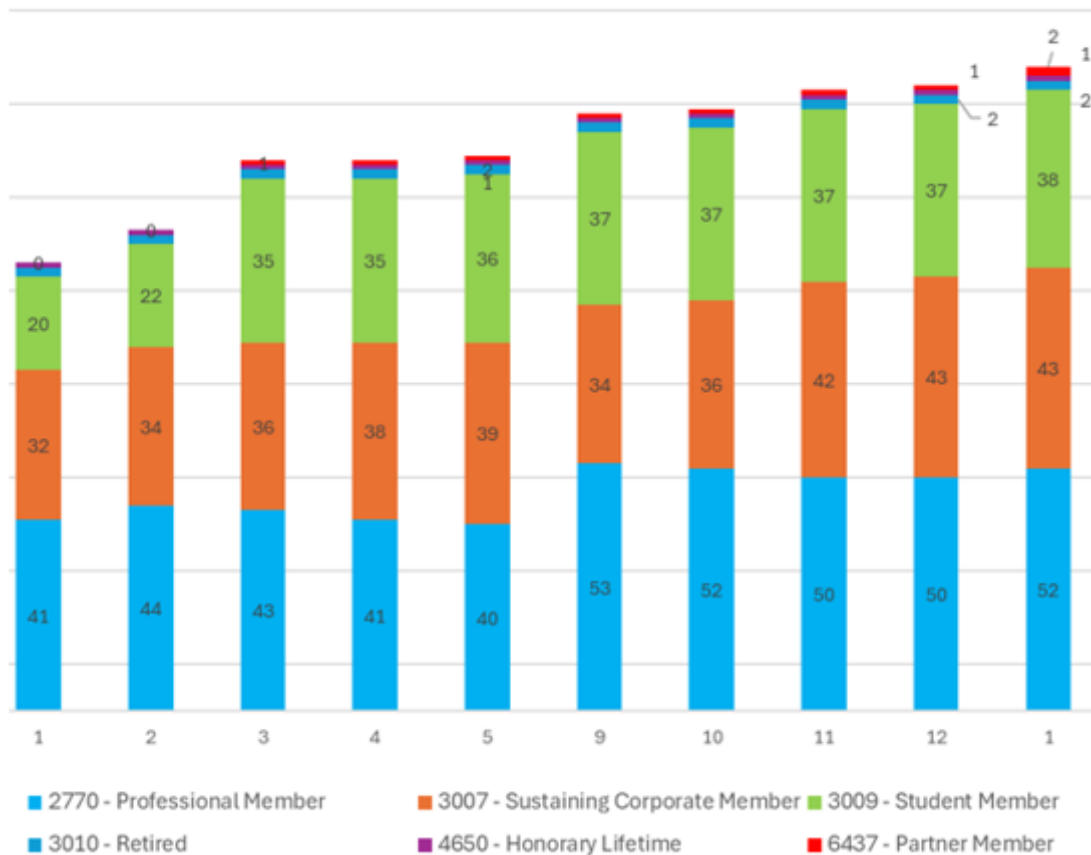


with You and 7 others



As a result of these combined efforts, OFPA experienced a **44% increase in membership since January 2025 (+42 members)**, with growth seen across all major membership categories.

OFPA Membership Summary (Jan 2025 – Jan 2026)



Retention of Existing Members

Member retention remains a core priority for OFPA, and significant effort is placed on delivering ongoing value and engagement. Members receive discounted registration for all OFPA events, as well as access to exclusive partner discounts through organizations such as NSF Training, Lumar Food Safety, and BRCGS.

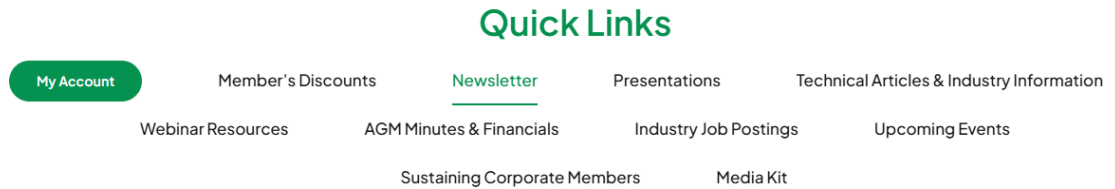
OFPA hosts an Annual Fall Food Safety Conference (members receive a discounted rate) that provides valuable professional development and networking opportunities, strengthening connections among members.

Regular social media activity helps maintain engagement and highlight member achievements, while monthly promotions offer current members incentives toward membership renewal.

Educational webinars are offered free to members and serve as an ongoing professional resource. Members also have opportunities to contribute more deeply through board participation,

allowing them to collaborate with like-minded food safety professionals and shape the association's future.

The OFPA Member Portal provides exclusive access to resources including a job board and technical resources, ensuring members stay informed on industry news and opportunities.



Member achievements are recognized through OFPA awards and promoted broadly to both members and non-members.

Finally, monthly e-blasts and an annual newsletter are distributed to our full mailing list, reinforcing member value while continuing to promote membership to non-member subscribers (insert links to newsletter and e-blast).

Together, these strategic recruitment and retention efforts demonstrate OFPA's strong commitment to growing, engaging, and sustaining a vibrant food safety community while delivering meaningful value to both new and existing members.



AFFILIATE EDUCATION AWARD



MONTHLY WEBINARS

Our mission at the Ontario Food Protection Association is to represent industry, government and academia by bringing professionals together in a forum to promote, educate and communicate innovation in food safety.



With our objectives being:

- To assist in improving the professional status of those involved with food safety.
- To collect and distribute to its members and interested parties, information pertaining to sanitation and food safety.
- To encourage improvements in food safety practices.
- To provide a forum to discuss current concerns in food protection and other topics of mutual interest.
- To communicate with various regulatory agencies on issues of sanitation and food protection.
- To cooperate with other professional groups in development and advancement of public health, food safety practices and general and environmental sanitation.

In 2025 the OFPA had our monthly webinar series. Each month we host a speaker that is a subject matter expert on the current relevant topic related to the industry to present. Webinars are free to OFPA members and available to non-OFPA members by a nominal donation to the OFPA. We have received excellent feedback and engagement with our members on a variety of topics, below are the topics presented in 2025.

MONTHLY WEBINARS-2025



LIVE

WEBINAR

Paper to Digital: Streamlining Food Safety Management

THURSDAY
February 20, 2025

START AT
2:00PM EST

This webinar is designed to empower food safety professionals to embrace digital transformation and overcome the inefficiencies of traditional paper-based systems.

REGISTER NOW



Moderator
Marin Pavlic
PRESIDENT, OFPA



Speaker:
Tanguy Etoga
FOUNDER & CEO AT
NORMEX INC.

For more details check out our website
[HTTPS://OFPA.ON.CA/](https://ofpa.on.ca/)

29 Registrants



LIVE

WEBINAR

ALLERGEN MANAGEMENT

THURSDAY
March 20, 2025

START AT
11:00AM EST

Join us for an informative webinar focused on allergen management in the food industry. This session will cover essential topics for understanding and mitigating food allergen risks, with a specific focus on Canada's regulatory landscape and practical solutions for food safety.

Key topics include:

- What is a food allergen?
- Food allergens in Canada
- Regulations
- Allergen recall history
- Allergen Control Plans (ACPs)
- Allergen Testing
- Resources available

Register Now



Moderator
Arlene Larson



Speaker
Brandon Wong
Solutions Specialist at
Neogen

For more details check out our website
[HTTPS://OFPA.ON.CA/](https://ofpa.on.ca/)

49 Registrants



LIVE

WEBINAR

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING IN THE FOOD INDUSTRY: ADVANCING HYGIENE WITH INNOVATIVE ATP TESTING

THURSDAY
April 17, 2025

START AT
11:00AM EST

This session explores environmental monitoring in the food industry, emphasizing advanced sanitation. Attendees will learn about ATP testing for hygiene verification, the science behind monitoring, and innovative technologies that enhance sanitation practices, ensuring compliance with food safety standards and improving overall hygiene in food production environments.

REGISTER NOW



Speaker
Peter Beers
Market Manager, F&B
LuminUltra Technologies Ltd.

For more details check out our website
[HTTPS://OFPA.ON.CA/](https://ofpa.on.ca/)

24 Registrants



LIVE

WEBINAR

Smart Compliance for Food Companies: Lean Data Management & Proportional Quality Systems

THURSDAY
May 29, 2025

START FROM
11:00AM EST

Join Isolocity for a focused seminar on how lean data management and proportionality can streamline food quality systems without compromising compliance. Designed for quality, regulatory, and operational leaders, the session covers reducing manual effort, scaling controls by risk, building audit-ready QMS frameworks, and automating compliance tasks—helping you prepare for audits, expand markets, and improve efficiency.

Register Now



Moderator
Kiam Kurniasih



Speaker
Chris Budd
Subject Matter Expert

For more details check out our website
[HTTPS://OFPA.ON.CA/](https://ofpa.on.ca/)

55 Registrants

LIVE

WEBINAR

Building the Foundation: Achieving Traceability & Transparency in the Food Supply Chain

WEDNESDAY

June 18, 2025

START FROM

2:00PM EST

The FDA's extension of the FSMA 204 compliance deadline offers safety professionals a strategic window to enhance traceability systems. Rather than a pause, it's a chance to build strong, standards-based data foundations. Improved visibility enables faster responses to contamination, efficient recalls, and greater consumer trust. Cross-functional collaboration ensures transparency, data integrity, and seamless traceability across the entire supply chain.



Lucelena Angarita
 Director of Supply Chain Visibility, CSI US



Rishi Banerjee
 Senior Director, Smart Label, Consumer Brands Association



16 Registrants

LIVE

WEBINAR

Gemba 101 – From Boots to Brilliance: Leading Food Safety on the Factory Floor

THURSDAY

October 30, 2025

START FROM

1:00PM EST

This webinar focuses on the importance of Gemba walks in food processing, where effective leadership extends beyond the office to the factory floor. By applying this Lean Management practice, leaders can build trust, engage employees, and improve food safety. Real-world examples highlight how Gemba walks offer firsthand insights into operations, enhance leadership presence, and drive continuous improvement. Attendees will gain a practical framework for conducting impactful Gemba walks to elevate team performance.



Dr. Heidi Gough
 Core Team Member, Cultivate SA



Lone Jespersen, Ph.D.
 Principal and Founder, Cultivate SA





42 Registrants

LIVE

WEBINAR

Procurement as the First Line of Defence Against Food Fraud

THURSDAY

Nov 20, 2025

TIME

11:00 AM-12:00 PM

Food fraud often begins at the sourcing stage, where procurement decisions can introduce risk. This session highlights how Procurement and Quality Assurance can collaborate to integrate science-based authenticity testing early, preventing fraud proactively. It offers practical strategies for retailers and manufacturers to protect margins, ensure ingredient integrity, and build consumer trust through smarter, aligned procurement practices.



Moderator
 Marin Pavlic
 OFPA BOD



Deleo de Leonardis
 Chief Executive Officer, Purity-IO

22 Registrants

LIVE

WEBINAR

Leveraging AI Agents for Accuracy and Automation in Food Quality, Safety, and Compliance

WEDNESDAY

Dec 10, 2025

TIME

1:00 PM-2:00 PM

The food manufacturing industry is shifting to a proactive, data-driven approach with Visual AI, enhancing quality, safety, and cost management. Visual AI offers real-time preventative controls, continuous compliance auditing, and predictive maintenance to improve product consistency and prevent failures. Specialized AI agents also strengthen food safety programs. This webinar explores how Visual AI revolutionizes quality assurance, with visual examples of foreign object detection, packaging inspection, and real-time quality checks.



Moderator
 Dharamdeo Singh



Jeff Hetherington
 Head of Project Development

53 Registrants

Monthly Eblasts and OFPA Guardian Newsletter

OFPA members are provided with monthly e-blasts and in 2025 a newsletter.

- . Exclusive access to webinars and events with registration links and reminders.
- . Regulatory and industry news to keep members up to date on key food safety developments.
- . Curated articles and research reports relevant to current industry challenges.
- . Sponsorship opportunities to connect industry leaders with food safety professionals.

These targeted emails ensure that our members stay ahead of **emerging trends, compliance changes, and educational opportunities** in food safety.



LINK: [OFPA OnPoint: December Recap](#)

Eblast Month	Links to Eblast Edition
February	OFPA OnPoint: February Recap
March	OFPA OnPoint: March Recap
April	OFPA OnPoint: April Recap
May	OFPA OnPoint: May Recap
June	OFPA OnPoint: June Recap
July	OFPA OnPoint: July Recap
August	OFPA OnPoint: August Recap
September	OFPA OnPoint: September Recap
October	OFPA OnPoint: October Recap
November	OFPA OnPoint: November Recap
December	OFPA OnPoint: December Recap

The [OFPA 2025 Annual Newsletter](#), published annually, provides a comprehensive review of the year's most significant food safety discussions, events, and industry updates. Key features include:

- . Recap of events and conferences, including key takeaways from expert-led sessions.
- . In-depth articles on emerging food safety trends, technologies, and regulatory changes.
- . Member spotlights, showcasing contributions from industry professionals, students, and sponsors.
- . Recognition of award winners and scholarship recipients, celebrating excellence in food safety.

This year-end publication serves as both a reflection on past achievements and a preview of future initiatives, reinforcing OFPA's commitment to advancing food safety education.



DECEMBER 2025:

LINK:

[OFPA 2025 Annual Newsletter](#)

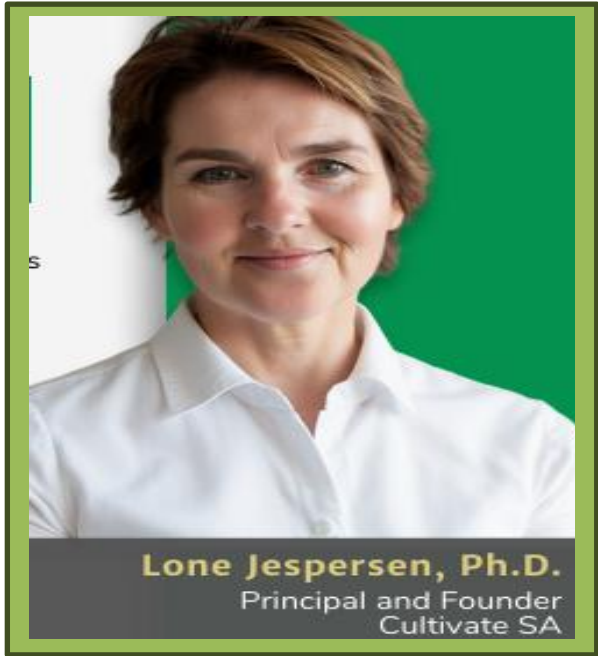
TECHNICAL MEETINGS

2025 Fall Food Safety Symposium and 68th Annual General Meeting

162 ATTENDEES

With the feedback of our members the OFPA hosts a fall technical meeting which includes presentations and panel discussions about industry professionals, academia and government on a variety of relevant food safety topics. Below is the agenda for our 2025 fall meetings. Click the link to view the agenda for the event.

LINK:[OFPA 68th Annual Food Safety Conference - OFPA - Ontario Food Protection Association](#)



From Insight to Impact: What a Decade of Culture Change Has Taught Us About Safer Food

Lone Jespersen, Ph.D., Principal and Founder of Cultivate SA



Strengthening Food Safety Through Strategic Oversight: Regulatory Insights and Emerging Priorities

Kevin Urbanic, Director General, Ontario Canadian Food Inspection Agency



This panel explores strategies for preventing and detecting foreign material

Panelists:

Moderator: Jessica Burke, OFPA Past President

JP Perrault, Head of Mettler Toledo Recovery

Gwynne Sitsker, Director of Food Safety&Quality at Embassy Ingredients



Consumer Demand: Greater Clarity and Standardization in Food Labelling

Michelle Anstey, Regulatory Affairs Manager



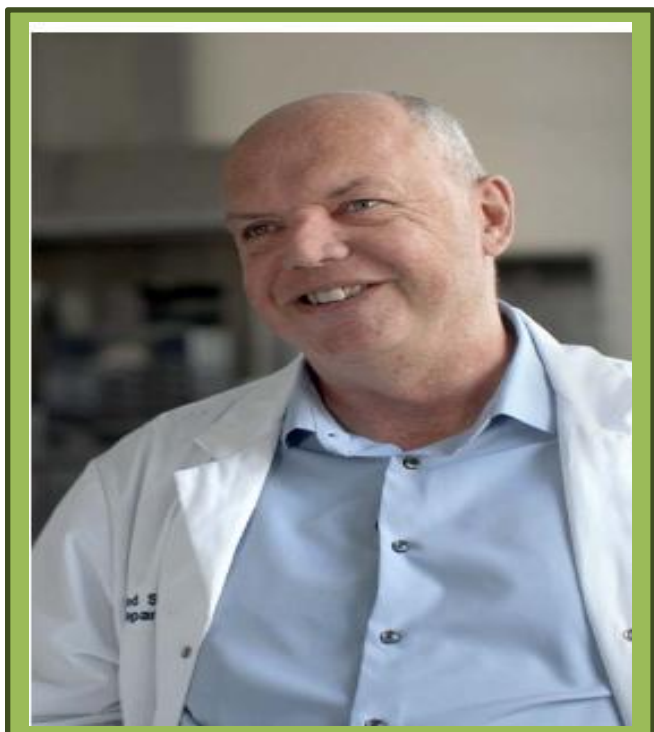
Food Safety Analytics: Doing More with Less Panel Discussion
Panelists:

Moderator: **Marin Pavlic**, OFPA President

Rebecca Marshall, Director of Food Safety & Quality
Maple Leaf Foods

Bianca Calimlim, Senior Business Analyst
Compass Group Canada

Stephen Vijayakumar, Food Safety Manager, Sobeys



Life in the Dry: Food Safety and Risk Management
Options Associated with Low Moisture Foods

Dr. Keith Warriner, University of Guelph



Practical Approach to HACCP

Sam Davidson, Director of Food Safety,
The Acheson Group



Transitioning from School to Workplace- Practical Advice for Students and Recent Graduates
Veronica Hislop, FoodGrads



Cultivating Food Safety Culture in Your Sanitation Team
John Boyce, Core Team Member, Cultivate SA



Data Analytics Workshop - Learn PowerQuery and PowerBI

Adriano Gaspari, Senior Manager, FSQMS & Analytics, Maple Leaf Foods



Creating Engaging Training for Operations

Nicole Tucker, Senior central quality manager Skjodt



Internal Audits and External Audits - The Goal of Always Being Audit-Ready

Craig Stewart, Food safety System specialist, Sofina Foods



Rethinking Risk - How Misinterpreting Data Threatens Food Safety

Mark Carter, IAFP President

Conclusion

OFPA takes great pride in **advancing food safety education through conferences, webinars, student initiatives, newsletters, and digital outreach.** We have successfully created a platform for professionals to **learn, connect, and innovate** in food protection.

We sincerely appreciate IAFP's consideration of this application and look forward to continuing our mission of **enhancing food safety education.**

Affiliate Communication Award



Mission

At the core of the Ontario Food Protection Association lies our commitment to unite industry leaders, government authorities, and academic experts in fostering dialogue centered on advancing innovations and bolstering food safety standards. In our mission, we employ diverse communication avenues that engage actively with our membership base. Exploring the multifaceted approaches implemented in 2024, we utilized webinars, e-blasts, newsletters, social media campaigns and conference presentations to broadened audience reach in 2025 to raise awareness, share knowledge and fostering collaboration on current food safety matters. By capitalizing on versatile communication modalities, OFPA strives relentlessly to create positive change, as our organization remains dedicated to advocating for advancements in food safety research and practices.



Bringing together industry, government, and academia to promote, educate and communicate innovation in food safety.



Monthly E-blasts



Via regular E-blast, OFPA extends registrations for webinars, event reminders and links to pertinent news pieces complemented by bi-monthly newsletter access. Post-event evaluations garner input from members, fueling continual improvement. Spanning over 50 messages in 2025, e-blast inclusions highlighted OFPA/IAFP endeavours, keeping stakeholders abreast of the latest success stories in food safety.

News Releases



Delay in Sampling of Non-RTE Breaded Stuffed Chicken for *Salmonella*



Update to CFIA Inspections of Manufactured Foods



New Requirement: Pre-chill Microbiological Monitoring for Poultry



CFIA Cuts Red Tape to Support Canada's Agri-Food Sector

LIVE WEBINAR

Gemba 101 – From Boots to Brilliance: Leading Food Safety on the Factory Floor

THURSDAY Oct 30, 2025 **TIME** 1:30PM - 2:30PM EST

This webinar focuses on the importance of Gemba walks in food processing, where effective leadership extends beyond the office to the factory floor. By applying this Lean Management practice, leaders can build trust, engage employees, and improve food safety. Real-world examples highlight how Gemba walks offer firsthand insight into operations, enhance leadership presence, and drive continuous improvement. Attendees will gain a practical framework for conducting impactful Gemba walks to elevate team performance.

Speakers:

- Dr. Heidi Gough**, PhD, Senior Manager, Food Safety, CFIA
- Lara Jorgensen, Ph.D.**, President & Founder, LARA CONSULTING
- John Boyce**, Chief, Food Safety & Quality, CFIA
- Kajen Kuvshinovskiy**, Manager, Food Safety, CFIA

For more details check out our website <https://ofpa.on.ca/>

LIVE WEBINAR

HACCP: BROKEN, MISUSED, OR MISUNDERSTOOD?

THURSDAY Jan 16, 2026 **TIME** 11:00 AM-12:00 PM

Speakers:

- ALEX HANLEY**, Founder & CEO, Hanley Food Safety Solutions
- JESSICA MORRISON**, QA Manager, Maple Leaf Foods
- TESS BURBANK**, Consultant, BRICS
- MODERATOR: Ellen Drost**, CFIA

For more details check out our website <https://ofpa.on.ca/>

LIVE WEBINAR

Procurement as the First Line of Defence Against Food Fraud

THURSDAY Nov 20, 2025 **TIME** 11:00 AM-12:00 PM

Food fraud often begins at the sourcing stage, where procurement decisions can introduce risk. This session highlights how Procurement and Quality Assurance can collaborate to integrate science-based authenticity testing early, preventing fraud proactively. It offers practical strategies for retailers and manufacturers to protect margins, ensure ingredient integrity, and build consumer trust through smarter, aligned procurement practices.

Speakers:

- Deleó de Leonardis**, Chief Executive Officer, Purity IQ
- MODERATOR: Mike Farrow**, CFIA

For more details check out our website <https://ofpa.on.ca/>

LIVE WEBINAR

Leveraging AI Agents for Accuracy and Automation in Food Quality, Safety, and Compliance

WEDNESDAY Dec 10, 2025 **TIME** 1:00 PM-2:00 PM

Speaker:

- Jeff Hetherington**, Head of Project Development, Monero
- MODERATOR: Chamek Singh**, CFIA

For more details check out our website <https://ofpa.on.ca/>

Registration for Webinars

Upcoming Events



Events from Partners



Webinars

The OFPA leverages multiple social media platforms to disseminate information about our events, awards, food safety recalls, organization sponsors, and OFPA updates/meetings. By the close of 2025, our primary social media platform, LinkedIn, had garnered a following of 6,952 individuals.

LIVE WEBINAR

Smart Compliance for Food Companies: Lean Data Management & Proportional Quality Systems

THURSDAY May 29, 2025 **START FROM 11:00AM EST**

Join Isolocity for a focused seminar on how lean data management and proportionality can streamline food quality systems without compromising compliance. Designed for quality, regulatory, and operational leaders, the session covers reducing manual effort, scaling controls by risk, building audit-ready QMS frameworks, and automating compliance tasks—helping you prepare for audits, expand markets, and improve efficiency.

ISOLOCITY

Speaker
Chris Budd
Subject Matter Expert

Register Now

For more details check out our website [HTTPS://OFPA.ON.CA/](https://ofpa.on.ca/)

Moderator
Kajam Kumarajasingam

LIVE WEBINAR

ALLERGEN MANAGEMENT

THURSDAY March 20, 2025 **START AT 11:00AM EST**

Join us for an informative webinar focused on allergen management in the food industry. This session will cover essential topics for understanding and mitigating food allergen risks, with a specific focus on Canada's regulatory landscape and practical solutions for food safety.

Key topics include:

- What is a food allergen?
- Food allergens in Canada
- Regulations
- Allergen recall history
- Allergen Control Plans (ACPs)
- Allergen Testing
- Resources available

Speaker
Brandon Wong
Solutions Specialist at Neogen

Register Now

For more details check out our website [HTTPS://OFPA.ON.CA/](https://ofpa.on.ca/)

Moderator
Arlene Larson

LIVE WEBINAR

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING IN THE FOOD INDUSTRY: ADVANCING HYGIENE WITH INNOVATIVE ATP TESTING

THURSDAY April 17, 2025 **START AT 11:00AM EST**

This session explores environmental monitoring in the food industry, emphasizing advanced sanitation. Attendees will learn about ATP testing for hygiene verification, the science behind monitoring, and innovative technologies that enhance sanitation practices, ensuring compliance with food safety standards and improving overall hygiene in food production environments.

REGISTER NOW

Peter Beers
Market Manager, F&B
LuminUltra Technologies Ltd.

For more details check out our website [HTTPS://OFPA.ON.CA/](https://ofpa.on.ca/)

LIVE WEBINAR

Paper to Digital: Streamlining Food Safety Management

THURSDAY February 20, 2025 **START AT 2:00PM EST**

This webinar is designed to empower food safety professionals to embrace digital transformation and overcome the inefficiencies of traditional paper-based systems.

REGISTER NOW

Moderator
Marin Pavlic
PRESIDENT, OFPA

Speaker:
Tanguy Etoga
FOUNDER & CEO AT NORMEX INC.

For more details check out our website [HTTPS://OFPA.ON.CA/](https://ofpa.on.ca/)



Social Media

The OFPA leverages multiple social media platforms to disseminate information about our events, awards, food safety recalls, organization sponsors, and OFPA updates/meetings. By the close of 2025, our primary social media platform, LinkedIn, had garnered a following of 6,952 individuals.



Website



Newsletter

OFPA Guardian Newsletter

The newsletter provides locally relevant and timely food safety information to our members. Published monthly, “The Guardian” provides a recap of recent events, updates on Government-to-Business meetings and upcoming dates for OFPA events, among many other topics. The newsletter also features IFPA/OFPA initiatives each month. OFPA also does annual newsletter that recaps Food Safety highlights for the entire year.

Wrapping up the year OFPA Guardian publishes an annual edition that aggregates food safety highlights, ensuring members remain current on vital industry developments and regulatory adjustments. OFPA members are informed with up-to-date food safety information, Government-to-Business meetings, and forthcoming food safety events. OFPA also reflects on past their yearly events and thanks to our corporate members for their continued support.

Annual Newsletter 2025: [OFPA Annual Newsletter- 2025 Final.pdf](#)





Events

The OFPA built upon the success of past events and raised the bar by hosting memorable events in 2025. Alongside the established Fall Symposium and Annual General Meeting, our Social Networking Mixer and 3MT Clive Kingsbury Video Competition emerged triumphantly. Catch glimpses of our vibrant moments at each remarkable event below.



Best Overall Affiliate Meeting Award

Mission

The Ontario Food Protection Association (OFPA) brings together food safety professionals from industry, academia, and government to advance knowledge, strengthen practice, and foster collaboration. In support of this mission, the 2025 Annual General Meeting delivered a dynamic two-day, in-person conference featuring respected speakers, interactive sessions, and timely discussions addressing today's key food safety challenges.



A Fully Engaged, In-Person Gathering of Food Safety Leaders

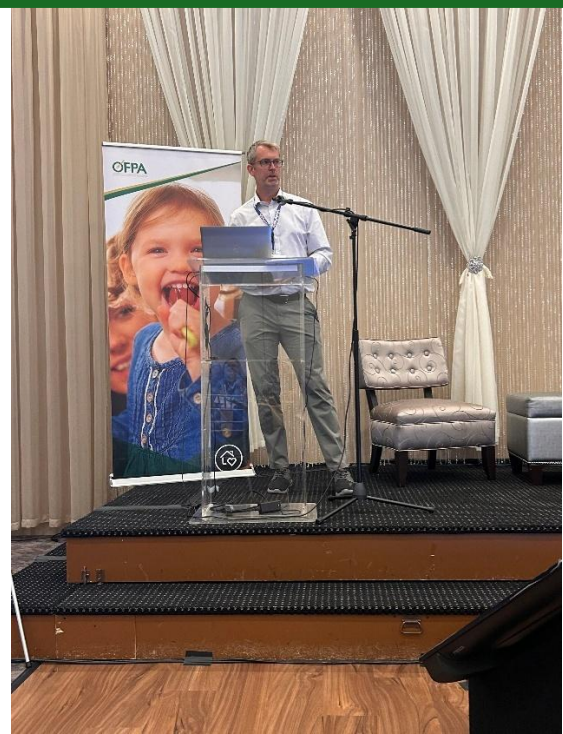
+150 Registrants

The 68th Annual General Meeting welcomed 162 registrants and maintained strong engagement throughout, reinforcing the value of OFPA's annual conference for food safety professionals across sectors. The full agenda is available [HERE](#).

The program balanced strategy with practical insight. Day 1 opened with a keynote from Lone Jespersen, Ph.D., on food safety culture and leadership, followed by CFIA experts sharing inspection trends, recall data, and emerging regulatory priorities grounded in current industry realities.



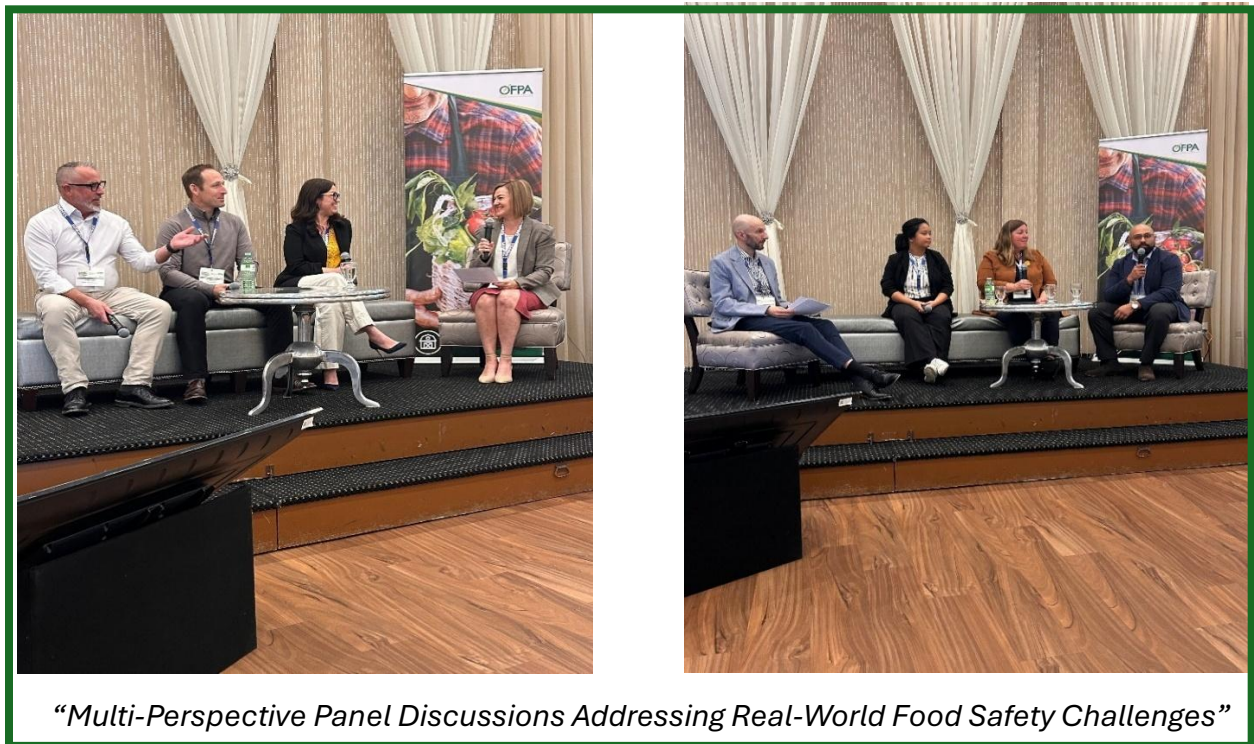
*Keynote Speaker: Lone Jespersen Ph.D.
[Principal and Founder, Cultivate SA]*



*Kevin Urbanic M.Sc.
[Director General-ON, CFIA]*

“Setting the Tone with Influential Voices in Food Safety Leadership and Regulation”

A key strength of the meeting was its broad, relevant topics, food safety culture, foreign material detection, labelling, low-moisture risks, and data analytics, appealing to professionals across industry, regulatory, retail, food service, manufacturing, and academic sectors.



“Multi-Perspective Panel Discussions Addressing Real-World Food Safety Challenges”

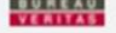
Technology and data-driven decision-making were key themes, with practical sessions on analytics, digital transformation, and doing more with less. The tools and strategies shared were accessible to small and mid-sized organizations and praised for their real-world value.



“Hands-On Workshops Translating Insight into Action”

Networking and community-building were intentionally woven throughout the agenda, with structured breaks, exhibitor sessions, and an evening mixer. Sponsors and exhibitors were actively engaged, creating valuable opportunities for knowledge exchange and connection

Thank You to Our Sponsors!

Elite	Platinum	Diamond	Gold	Silver
	 	 	  	       

Thank You to Our Exhibitors!














Thank You to Our Clive Kingsbury Competition Sponsors




Thank You



“Strong Exhibitor Participation Supporting Knowledge Exchange and Networking”



“Meaningful Connections and Peer-to-Peer Engagement Throughout the Meeting”

Day 2 reinforced member engagement and transparency through board updates, financial review, and governance activities. Parallel tracks broadened the program's appeal, offering both technical depth and workforce development content, including sessions tailored to young and early-career food safety professionals.



"Dedicated OFPA Board Leadership Driving Program Excellence"



"Fostering the Next Generation Through Student Recognition and Engagement"

The meeting also showcased OFPA's commitment to recognizing excellence and supporting future leaders. Annual awards honoured both an established professional and an emerging leader, reinforcing the conference as not only a learning forum, but a celebration of leadership and community in food safety.



FOOD SAFETY PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD



Congratulation
OFPA
GWYNNE SITSKER
 Director of Food Safety & Quality at
 Embassy Ingredients

YOUNG FOOD SAFETY PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD



Congratulation
OFPA
DARSHAN GAUTRE
 Auditor at
 FGF Brands

“Honouring Excellence and Leadership in Food Safety”

Attendee Feedback & Engagement Highlights



What worked exceptionally well:	What attendees said:	LinkedIn Post Performance
• Practical, relevant content across both days • High-impact sessions on food safety culture, CFIA updates, foreign material detection, and data analytics • Strong value from peer discussion and interactive formats	• <i>“Great content with industry leading professionals.”</i> • <i>“The food safety culture sessions were especially impactful.”</i> • <i>“This was my first OFPA event and I made many new connections.”</i>	• OFPA’s opening keynote post generated strong organic engagement on LinkedIn • 2,700+ impressions 460+ engagements 340+ clicks



C.B. Shogren Memorial Award

Deadline Date: Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Ontario Food Protection Association
166 Baptist Church Road, Caledonia, ON
4164147665
(e)info@ofpa.on.ca
www.ofpa.on.ca

Ontario Food Protection Association

1. Your Official Delegate to IAFP Affiliate Council and Contact

Enter in the fields below the information requested for your Association's official Delegate to the IAFP Affiliate Council and your official Contact for IAFP correspondence. **Delegate must be an IAFP Member.**

Official Delegate to IAFP Affiliate Council

Ellen Gravi

514-834-4043

egravi@ofpa.on.ca

IAFP Member? Y ☒ N ☐

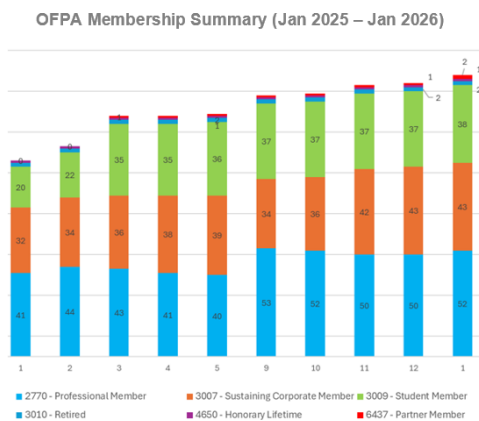
Official Contact for IAFP Correspondence (indicate "same" if person also serves as Delegate)

Same as above

IAFP Member? Y ☒ N ☐

2. Membership List

a. current total number of members in the association: 142



Professional Member

\$80
Per Year & Includes HST

[Get Started](#)

For food safety professionals in the food production chain from farm to fork.

What's Included

- ✓ Discounted rates at some OFPA events
- ✓ Eligible for OFPA Awards
- ✓ Exclusive Access to our Members Only Portal
- ✓ Networking Opportunities
- ✓ One Vote Privileges
- ✓ Opportunity to join the OFPA Board of Directors
- ✓ Contribution to the Mission and Objectives of the Association

[Get Started](#)

Sustaining Corporate Member

\$250
Per Year & Includes HST

[Get Started](#)

For commercial companies, corporations, other organizations or associations.

What's Included

All the benefits of Professional +

- ✓ Certificate
- ✓ Your Logo + Link Posted on the OFPA website homepage
- ✓ Register up to 4 additional members (from your company, suppliers, or customers)
- ✓ Organisation Exposure at All OFPA Events
- ✓ FREE Company Job Posting in Member's Only Portal
- ✓ One 8.5" x 11" Ad in The OFPA Guardian

[Get Started](#)

Student Membership

\$20
Per Year & Includes HST

[Get Started](#)

For students enrolled in full or part-time course in the fields of food safety, public health, environmental management or similar sciences.

What's Included

All the benefits of Professional

[Get Started](#)

Retired Member

\$35
Per Year & Includes HST

[Get Started](#)

For retirees who have been an OFPA member for at least 10 years

What's Included

All the benefits of Professional

[Get Started](#)

Sustaining Corporate Members

3. Annual Meeting/Conference, Workshops.

- a. On what date(s) was your most recent general membership or major meeting (i.e., Annual Meeting/Conference) during the past year? Please list the number of attendees.

Our most current meeting was on September 20, 2025. 162 in attendance.

- b. Please provide the date(s) and location of your next scheduled major meeting (i.e., Annual Meeting/Conference):

OFPA 69th Annual Food Safety Conference on September 29 & 30, 2026 at Millennium Gardens (20 Polonia Avenue, Unit 100, Brampton, ON L6Y 0K9).

- c. List all other general membership meetings held in 2025 (excluding board meetings). Include title, dates, and attendance numbers.

2025 Fall Food Safety Symposium & 68th Annual General Meeting	Sep 30, 2025 162 in attendance
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The OFPA built upon the successes of past events, while incorporating member feedback, resulting in our best events to date. Here is a breakdown of our 2025 2-day event.

- **2025 Fall Food Safety Symposium & 68th Annual General Meeting**
<https://ofpa.on.ca/events/ofpa-68th-annual-food-safety-conference/>

4. Awards (Received & Given; Scholarships).

Given:

<https://ofpa.on.ca/ofpa-awards/ofpa-awards-recipients/>

Food Safety Professional/Company of The Year Award

<https://ofpa.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/OFPA-Award-Winners-2025-400x400.png>

Young Food Safety Professional of The Year Award

<https://ofpa.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/OFPA-Award-Winners-20251-400x400.png>

Clive Kinsbury 3MT competition prize winners:

1st (\$1250): Farah Al Qudsi

2nd (\$1000): Shreya Patel

3rd (\$750): Anxin Zhao

OFPA Prize in the Ontario Agricultural College at University of Guelph. (\$1000):

Bertina Do

Received:

2025 Affiliate Communication Materials Awards



Affiliate Communications Materials

Ontario Food Protection Association

6. Web Communication

<https://ofpa.on.ca/>

Did you launch a new Affiliate Web site in 2025? Y ☒ N ☐

Last updated in 2025.

7. Social Media

<https://www.facebook.com/OntarioFoodProtectionAssociation/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtt7otcU6vlo8YjRp9y6zHw>

<https://ca.linkedin.com/company/ontario-food-protection-association>

https://www.instagram.com/ofpa_food/

<https://x.com/ofpamedia>

8. Association Officers List

IAFP Members from the board are Marin, Ellen & Kajam (KJ)

Executive Board:
Jan 2025-Dec 2025



Our own Ellen Gravi & Jessica Burke attended the IAFP Affiliate Council Meeting (held July 27, 2025). All above mentioned officers are IAFP members.

9. OFPA Guardian Newsletter

The newsletter provides locally relevant and timely food safety information to our members. "The Guardian" provides a recap of recent events, updates on Government-to-Business meetings and upcoming dates for OFPA events, among many other topics. The newsletter was re-formatted this year to make for a more easily read publication, while also marketing other OFPA initiatives.

December 2025 (Edition 12): [Annual Newsletter](#)

10. Communication: Eblast

We also have monthly **Eblast OnPoint** sent out every last Thursday of the month. Members are provided with registration access to webinars, reminders for upcoming events, links to relevant news articles and access to our newsletter. It is through this mechanism that we also gather valuable feedback from our members through post-event surveys



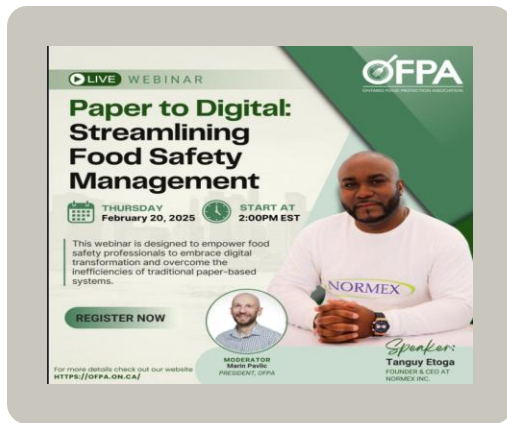
Event Promotions:

January	Annual Newsletter
February	OFPA OnPoint: Feb Recap
March	OFPA OnPoint: March Recap
April	OFPA OnPoint: April Recap
May	OFPA OnPoint: May Recap
June	OFPA OnPoint: June Recap
July	OFPA OnPoint: July Recap
August	OFPA OnPoint: August Recap
September	OFPA OnPoint: September Recap
October	OFPA OnPoint: October Recap
November	OFPA OnPoint: November Recap
December	OFPA OnPoint: December Recap

11. Educational Webinars

In 2025 the OFPA had our monthly webinar (except Jan, July & Aug) series moderated by our BOD's. Here are the topics: and link : <https://ofpa.on.ca/home-page-2/past-events>





February: Paper to Digital: Streamlining Food Safety Management

- Presenter: Tanguy Etoga
- Content: This webinar is designed to empower food safety professionals to embrace digital transformation and overcome the inefficiencies of traditional paper-based systems.



March: Allergen Management

- Presenter: Brandon Wong
- Content: Informative webinar focused on allergen management in the food industry. This session will cover essential topics for understanding and mitigating food allergen risks, with a specific focus on Canada's regulatory landscape and practical solutions for food safety.



April: Environmental Monitoring in the Food Industry: Advancing Hygiene with Innovative ATP Testing

- Presenters: Peter Beers
- Content: Explore the importance of environmental monitoring programs in the food industry, with a particular focus on advanced sanitation methods. Attendees will gain insights into the science of environmental monitoring, the role of ATP testing in hygiene verification, and how new technologies can enhance sanitation practices to meet food safety demands.



May: Smart Compliance for Food Companies: Lean Data Management & Proportional Quality Systems

- Presenter: Chris Budd
- Content: Food Manufacturing, maintaining compliance isn't just a requirement—it's a responsibility. But as regulations grow more complex, so does the risk of bloated systems, data overload, and inefficient processes. Join Isolocity for a focused seminar on how lean data management and proportionality can help food companies streamline their quality systems without compromising compliance.



June: Building the Foundation: Achieving Traceability and Transparency in the Food Supply Chain

- Presenters: Lucelena Angarita, Rishi Banerjee
- Content: As expectations for transparency and precision in food delivery increase, food safety teams must collaborate closely with IT, operations, and procurement to ensure data integrity and seamless traceability from source to shelf.



October: Webinar: Gemba 101 – From Boots to Brilliance: Leading Food Safety on the Factory Floor

- Presenters: Dr. Heidi Gough, Dr. Lone Jespersen & John Boyce
- Content: This webinar, presented by three members of the Cultivate Core Team, explores how Gemba walks can reinforce leadership credibility, foster employee engagement, and drive continuous improvement in food manufacturing settings.



November: Procurement as the First Line of Defense Against Food Fraud

- Presenter: Deleo de Leonardis, Co-Founder & CEO, Purity-IQ
- Content: Food fraud isn't just a regulatory or quality concern — it often begins at the sourcing stage. Procurement teams make critical decisions around cost, suppliers, and raw materials, creating touchpoints where adulteration or misrepresentation can silently enter the supply chain.



December: Leveraging AI Agents for Accuracy and Automation in Food Quality, Safety, and Compliance

- Presenter: Jeff Hetherington
- Content: How Visual AI solutions and specialized AI Agents are revolutionizing Quality Assurance and compliance. This technology provides objective, consistent, and continuous verification for Food Quality, Safety, and Security.

12. Meetings

The OFPA board of directors meets every 2nd Wednesday of every month except June, July and August for their monthly BOD meeting, from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm for a total of 9 meetings.

In addition, there were weekly planning committee meetings for the annual event we had for our members listed previously, for a total of approx. 15 meetings.