

ASIA PACIFIC  
FOUNDATION  
OF CANADA

FONDATION  
ASIE PACIFIQUE  
DU CANADA

**A** SIA BUSINESS LEADERS  
DVISORY COUNCIL

**C**ONSEIL CONSULTATIF DES  
HEFS D'ENTREPRISE SUR L'ASIE

2026



February 9, 2026 | Singapore

# ABLAC 2026 SUMMARY

*External*

# MISSION

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ASIA BUSINESS LEADERS  
ADVISORY COUNCIL  
CONSEIL CONSULTATIF DES  
CHEFS D'ENTREPRISE SUR L'ASIE  
2024  
SEK



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A high-level group of Asian and Canadian business leaders convened annually by APF Canada to **identify and articulate opportunities** for improved Canada-Asia business engagement

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Council membership is **represented across Canada and more than 10 Asia Pacific economies**, and annual meetings are held in cities in Canada and Asia

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Launched in 2016, ABLAC has emerged into a **critical forum to catalyze dialogue and action**

# MEETING

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2026





## MEETING

- Convened in conjunction with APF Canada's Canada-in-Asia Conference in Singapore
- 70 participants from both sides of the Pacific; ABLAC members and specially invited guests
- Leaders from business, government, research

# THREE SUBSTANTIVE SESSIONS



1

New Geoeconomic and Geopolitical Playbooks for Business



2

Pursuing Canada's Business Priorities in Asia: Best Practices



3

Getting to Final Investment Decisions Amid Structural Uncertainty

# RECOMMENDATIONS

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## INVESTMENT ATTRACTION

- **Regulatory uncertainty** was identified as a key roadblock to investment in major projects in Canada. Ensuring clear, predictable, and consistent regulatory policy will improve foreign investors' perceptions of Canada as a desirable investment destination
  - The Government of Canada's announcement of fast-tracking certain projects through the newly created Major Projects Office (MPO) is a good start
- **Increased clarity of the Investment Canada Act** would help promote much-needed foreign investment into major projects in Canada
- Asia-based investors' willingness to become involved in major projects in Canada could be bolstered by **increased knowledge about Canada** and specific projects
- Investment in oil & gas (and other natural resource) projects in Canada by the Maple 8 can **catalyze Asian investment** into major projects in Canada
- **Investment conversations similar in style to the ABLAC meeting** could be beneficial for informing Canada-Asia engagement and **investor pipeline development**

- Re-orientating government programs that support internationalization:
  - Be **laser-focused on results and outcomes**
  - The **‘Own-the-Podium’ program** as a model that could be adapted to catalyze the development of Canadian champion companies in sectors of major competitive advantage
- Canadian companies would benefit from **tailoring products and services to demand in Asia** rather than seeking Asia-based customers for existing products and services. Learning about specific demand and preferences from Asia-based counterparts will be important

- Now is the time to **re-invest in a Brand Canada** that:
  - Is national in scope
  - Emphasizes trust, safety, and dependability
  - Is founded on high quality products, services, and the reputation of Canadian industry
  - Includes narratives that tell the story of Canadian values and strengths
  - Is accessible to and useful for entrepreneurs and their needs

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

With the U.S. pulling back its support for science and technology research there is **an opportunity for Canada to fill a gap** in an area that is both a crucial contributor to economic dynamism and one in which select economies in Asia are making serious advances

### Priorities:

- Building **sovereign capabilities in AI**
- Leading on **data standards** and **good governance**



# ABLAC CONTACTS

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With generous support from  
Avec le soutien généreux de





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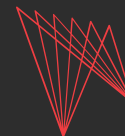
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