



## **CAPP-CANADA CONFERENCE FOR SENIOR CATHOLIC CANADIAN LEADERS**

In partnership with the Apostolic Nunciature, and His Excellency, *The Most Reverend Ivan Jurkovič*, and co-hosted by the Cardus Ottawa Office

Ottawa – Autumn 2026

### *Overview*

CAPP-Canada is the Canadian chapter of the Vatican's *Centesimus Annus - Pro Pontifice* Foundation (CAPP), founded by Pope Saint John Paul II with the goal of promoting study and diffusion of Catholic Social Teaching for the transformation of society. CAPP-Canada is committed to developing and promulgating Catholic Social Teaching across all pillars of civil society in Canada. This involves forming, engaging and including Canadian Lay Catholic Leaders—encouraging their ongoing conversion, their public profession, and their unique and essential apostolate, especially through a deeper study and application of Catholic Social Teaching through their lay vocations.

When Pope St. John Paul II founded CAPP, he did so by inviting and convening Italian and European Catholic Business leaders to co-found and help endow the Foundation. As the Canadian Chapter of CAPP, we have been developing a strategic plan for carrying out the Foundation's mission in the Canadian context. We have developed several pilot projects, including a Lumen Gentium Forum program for emerging Canadian Catholic leaders.

We envision this conference as a key component of our strategic plan: to develop a signature program for senior Catholic Canadian leaders, especially Business leaders, that will foster, among and with them, the adoption of Catholic Social Teaching, and the direction of talent and resources towards the succour of Canada in its present spiritual and temporal difficulties. We want to invite these leaders to help pilot and refine this program. We also want to invite them to help us complete and advance our broader strategic plan, and the mission of CAPP as whole within the universal Church: as the Nuncio has said, "the visibility of Canada in Rome was always very, very big."

We have drafted a plan, outlined below, but before proceeding further, we want to identify and confirm a Cabinet of (5 to 7) Leaders, including two Co-Chairs. We have confirmed Tim Egan as one of these Co-Chairs, and we are actively seeking to identify and confirm other members for the Cabinet of Leaders. We want leaders who can represent Canada as a whole, who have a



high enough profile to draw others in, and the vision to help make this a success. They should be ideal candidates for CAPP membership.

Our conference is modeled on the signature program of the CAPP Foundation: the annual conference in Rome, which includes an audience with the Holy Father, and focuses on a topic chosen in consultation with the Holy Father, or selected at his request. It also includes a solidarity dinner and a musical interlude.

In inviting the Nuncio to co-host this initiative, we wanted to emphasize CAPP's close connection to the Holy Father while also supporting the Nuncio's mission and work by facilitating his contact with Canadian Catholic lay leaders.

Simultaneously, while this event is primarily for Catholic Leaders, we aim to invite a number of non-Catholic Christians to participate, in the same spirit that CAPP invites non-Catholics to participate in its mission as "Friends of the Foundation." For this reason, and with a view to fostering further ecumenical relations, we have made arrangements with Cardus, Canada's leading ecumenical thinktank, to co-host the event at their Ottawa office.

### *Goals*

- Fortify the rapport between the Canadian Business community, other Lay Catholic Leaders, the Canadian Church as a whole, and the Holy Father through his Apostolic Nuncio.
- Create a galvanized cohort of Catholic Executives, with a strong sense of their distinctive, urgent mission to assist with the New Evangelization in Canada.
- Create an experience of community-building and formation in Catholic Social Teaching for senior Canadian Catholic leaders
- Enhance the impact and influence of senior Catholic leaders in Canadian society by helping them understand and implement the core principles of Catholic Social Teaching, to contribute to the positive transformation of Canadian society towards Gospel values
- Begin the task of building and nurturing a community of senior Catholic leaders across Canada who can collaborate in apostolic works and support the Church in Canada through various means, especially their lay vocations
- To do this in a way that fosters collaboration and cooperation with non-Catholic Christians.

### *Target audience*

- 30-40 practicing, faithful Catholics who are senior leaders of various industries and sectors, with a focus on business leaders
- 5-8 non-Catholic Christian leaders of similar caliber, who have an interest and affinity for Catholic Social Teaching



## CAPP-CANADA

### *Content and Format of the conference*

- Content and format must insure high value impact for participants, in terms of:
  - who they meet and form/strengthen relationships with;
  - depth of intellectual and spiritual insights they receive – both timely and timeless;
  - the practicality of the take-aways and next steps they receive or discern.
- Essentially, we propose a Canadian CAPP conference, which would mirror CAPP's annual international conference in Rome
- This would be a 24 hr (Thursday to Friday afternoon) in-person, Canadian conference in early 2026 (date to be confirmed with the leadership team, once formed), which could include:
  - Select readings from the Magisterium (encyclicals, *Catechism*, etc) in the lead-up to the conference and related to the conference theme
  - A conference theme on a Catholic Social Teaching principle and its relation to a major issue facing Canadian society
  - Fellowship-building experiences: dinner and/or receptions
  - An experience of beauty, like a concert
  - Talks and small-group discussions with experts on the theme or core topic
- Attendees at the Canadian conference would then be invited to attend the CAPP conference in Rome.

### *Venues*

- Apostolic Nunciatura, 724 Manor Ave, Rockcliffe Park, Ottawa
- Cardus Ottawa Office, 45 Rideau St., Ottawa

These are beautiful venues, and Nunciature in particular reflects both the beauty of the ideals we wish to build towards, and the deep connection of this enterprise to the Holy Father and to the papal tradition of Catholic Social Teaching, as per the mission of CAPP.



## *Draft Schedule*

### **Thursday PM @ Cardus office**

- 2:00 arrivals begin & registration - coffee and treats
- 3:00 opening remarks by co-chairs, co-coordinators - welcome by Cardus rep
- Why are we gathered here - what is the objective?
  - What is CAPP and why is it doing the gathering?
    - bringing people together who don't otherwise meet; mission of CAPP; impact for Canada;
- 3:30 Keynote/panel
- Individual speaker or panel of three moderated by Miles
  - need to hear from someone new and something they don't get to hear
  - content has to be very well coordinated whether one or three speakers
  - speakers have to have a certain stature and be capable of communicating a very powerful point
  - Include Q&A
- 4:30 Transition to Nunciature (via chartered bus or taxis)

### **Thursday PM @ Apostolic Nunciature**

- 5:30 Welcome, Blessing, and Appetizers
- Welcome by Fr. Jim
  - Blessing of food by His Excellency, the Apostolic Nuncio
  - Drinks and appetizers served (caterer)
- 6:15 Address by Apostolic Nuncio
- Content: the significance of Pope Leo's choice of name and what it means for the mission of the church in our time and in Canada
- 6:30 Buffet dinner
- 7:30 Presentation of CAPP's history and mission
- More in depth than brief intro in afternoon
  - Emphasis on what is unique about CAPP and its Mission
  - Q & A



## CAPP-CANADA

- 8:30 Musical concert
- 30 minutes (possible signers: Muggeridge family, CL choir ...)

9:00 Finish and return to hotel(s) – Chateau Laurier, Lord Elgin

### **Friday AM @ Apostolic Nunciature**

- 7:30 Rides arranged to Nunciature
- Depart from Hotel (Chateau Laurier)

8:00 Mass at Nunciature

8:40 Return to Cardus for morning sessions

### **Friday AM to PM @ Cardus Office**

- 9:00 Program to be determined
- Content to be determined, but could include:
    - Outline of strategic plan highlights for Canadian Chapter
    - Presentation of Lumen Gentium program & its impact
  - Principles:
    - Ensure content presented and questions asked are highly relevant
    - Minimize length of presentations and maximize depth
    - Give time for feedback and input from participants
    - Foster exchange on key questions, proposals, ideas
    - Aim for practical next steps and opportunities for engagement
    - Ensure opportunities for relationship-building
- 12:00 Lunch
- Use this time to foster further informal conversations on content from morning
- 1:00 Final Roundtable, Conclusions and Calls to Action
- 2:00 Close



*The CAPP-Canada project team*

- Drs. Cecil Chabot and Danielle Morin, Coordinators, CAPP-Canada
- Canadian CAPP Foundation members: Miles Smit, Brendan Steven, Robin D'Souza, Marc St. Martin, Matthew Marquardt, Jeff Lockert, Suzanne Frigault

*Nunciature:*

- Father Jim Zettel, Apostolic Nunciature

*Cardus:*

- Brendan Stevens, Renze Nauta, Monica, et al.

*Cabinet of Leaders (5-7) including two Co-Chairs*

- Confirmed:
  - Tim Egan (confirmed as Co-Chair)
- Conversation initiated
  - Graydon Nicholas (in discussion)
  - Jason Kenney
  - Brett Powell (Jeff) – could connect us with founding chair of Vancouver Legatus
  - Robert Dutton
  - Tim Kennedy
  - Brother of Nicole Scheidl
  - Bill / Chris Kowalchuk
- Possibilities identified:
  - Wade Miller Bluebombers CEO (Jeff)
  - Charles Muggeridge
  - Vic Dodig
  - Shannon Joseph

*Dates:*

September 18-19, 25-26; Oct 1-2 (8-9, 15-16), 22-23, 29-30