



NAPPO 2025

ANNUAL MEETING | RÉUNION ANNUELLE | REUNIÓN ANUAL
21-23 OCTOBER | 21-23 OCTOBRE | 21-23 DE OCTUBRE

OTTAWA › ONTARIO › CANADA

Tuesday, October 21

Christine Moran

Chris Moran was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister / Vice-President of the International Affairs Branch in August 2025.

Chris was previously the Assistant Deputy Minister of Public Safety Canada's Indigenous Affairs Branch. Over the course of her career, Chris has led teams within the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), contributing to agricultural trade policy, program delivery, and strategic agricultural policy.

Chris's previous roles—as Director General of the Trade Strategy and Portfolio Coordination Bureau at Global Affairs Canada, as a trade commissioner, and as Executive Director of the Grain Growers of Canada—position her to advance the Government of Canada's agriculture and agri-food priorities in international market access and diversification.

Chris holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from St. Francis Xavier University.

<p>Heath MacDonald</p>	<p>The Honourable Heath MacDonald was elected as the Member of Parliament for Malpeque in September 2021. He served as a member of the Standing Committee on Finance, the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food, and the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security. Following his re-election in April 2025, he was named to the Cabinet as Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food in May 2025.</p> <p>Prior to serving at the federal level, Minister MacDonald was first elected to the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island in May 2015, representing District 16, Cornwall – Meadowbank. Minister MacDonald has over 20 years of experience in the private sector, with a focus on the tourism industry, and was the President and co-founder of an IT company.</p>
<p>Steve Côté</p>	<p>Steve joined the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) in 2002 in the Plant Protection Division, working on domestic, import, and export phytosanitary issues. He also has experience working with the CFIA and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada on various market access issues. Since 2018, Steve has been the national manager of the International Phytosanitary Standards Section of the Plant Export Division. In this role, Steve is responsible for overseeing CFIA's engagement in the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO). Steve previously served on the NAPPO Advisory and Management Committee (AMC) and was involved in developing and revising various NAPPO Regional Standards for Phytosanitary Measures.</p> <p>He is currently a member of the IPPC Standards Committee, which is responsible for overseeing the IPPC standard-setting process, managing the development of international standards for phytosanitary measures (ISPMs), and providing guidance and oversight to the work of technical panels and expert working groups.</p> <p>In June 2023, Steve was named Canada's representative on the NAPPO Executive Committee.</p>

Hannah Fraser	<p>Hannah Fraser is the entomologist for horticultural crops with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, a role she has held since 2000. With over 30 years of experience in crop protection, her work has focused on risk management, planning, and responding to emerging pests. She is actively involved in national and international working groups addressing both invasive and endemic species. Today, she will speak on the importance of agricultural plant health in sustaining resilient and productive agro-ecosystems in Ontario.</p>
Javier Trujillo	<p>Javier started his professional career in phytosanitary regulation programs at the Mexican NPPO, where he worked for 30 years. During this period, he served as the National Plant Protection Officer for 15 years and represented his country as a member of the NAPPO Executive Committee.</p> <p>Regarding the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) activities, he represented Latin America as a member of the Bureau for three terms and served as Chair of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) from 2018 to 2021.</p> <p>In 1987, he earned his PhD from the University of California, Berkeley. While a graduate student at UC Berkeley, he had the chance to work on sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) programs, where he gained an understanding and mastered the operation of phytosanitary regulatory programs from a different operational perspective than those in Mexico.</p> <p>After finishing his regulatory career and building strong relationships with industry stakeholders in the three NAPPO member countries, he decided to apply for the NAPPO position. He is eager to continue his professional journey by using his extensive experience to benefit plant health in the NAPPO region.</p>
Anthony Anyia	<p>Dr. Anthony Anyia is the Senior Director of the Plant Protection Division in the Policy and Programs Branch at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). Dr. Anyia has over 20 years of experience in agriculture (plant sciences), research and innovation in Canada.</p>

	<p>He graduated from the Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany, in 2001, with a PhD in Crop Sciences, specializing in plant stress physiology.</p>
<p>Matt Rhoads</p>	<p>Acting Deputy Administrator, United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine</p> <p>As the head of the NPPO for the United States, Matt leads and directs a nationally dispersed staff that safeguards U.S. agriculture and natural resources against the entry, establishment, and spread of economically and environmentally significant pests and diseases and facilitates the safe global trade of agricultural products.</p>
<p>Jessica Mahalingappa</p>	<p>Jessica Mahalingappa was appointed PPQ's Associate Deputy Administrator of International Phytosanitary Management and Standards Programs in July 2024. In this position, Jessica provides executive-level management to harmonize international rules of trade to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive pests and diseases; facilitate safe trade; and to establish fair, science-based plant health requirements for imported and exported plant commodities.</p> <p>Jessica began her APHIS career working for Policy and Program Development in 1999. She also worked in the International Services program as Chief of Staff, and as the International Technical and Regulatory Capacity Building Center's Assistant Director. From 2013 to 2018, she was appointed APHIS' Assistant Deputy Administrator for Trade and Capacity building, and eventually became Associate Deputy Administrator for Trade.</p> <p>In addition to her APHIS experience, Jessica served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Turkmenistan. She holds a B.A. in International Relations from Bucknell University and an M.A. in International Relations from Johns Hopkins University. Jessica had previously been serving as the Associate Deputy Administrator in APHIS' Biotechnology Regulatory Services since 2021.</p>

<p>Francisco Ramírez y Ramírez</p>	<p>He graduated in 1982 from the Autonomous University of Chapingo as an agronomist specializing in Agricultural Parasitology.</p> <p>He was a pioneer of the National Phytosanitary Epidemiological Surveillance System at Senasica, which involved various academic and research institutions from the Autonomous University of San Luis Potosí.</p> <p>In 2017, he received the National Plant Health Award for Phytosanitary Merit. In 2022, he obtained a master's degree in Biotechnology from the Autonomous University of Chiapas. He also received the Entomological Merit Award from the Mexican Academy of Applied Entomology.</p> <p>Since 2019, he has served as Director General of Plant Health at Senasica.</p>
<p>Andrew Morse</p>	<p>Andrew completed an M.Sc. in Environmental Biology from the University of Guelph in 2009. Andrew's thesis work focused on pollination of greenhouse crops, and the impact of floral volatiles on pollinator foraging decisions.</p> <p>Andrew began working with Flowers Canada Growers in 2011 through two projects related to management of phytosanitary risks – one focusing on Chrysanthemum White Rust and the other focusing on soil contamination in international shipments of flower bulbs. In 2015 Andrew was named one of Greenhouse Canada Magazine's "top ten under forty", and was promoted to Executive Director of both Flowers Canada Growers and Flowers Canada (Ontario). Andrew has worked to represent Canadian flower growers through partnering with regulators on a wide array of issues aimed at improving both regulatory compliance and business success.</p> <p>Andrew has contributed to numerous regulatory consultations, participated in collaborative development of industry training and certification programs, and continues to engage with both industry stakeholders and government partners in Canada and abroad.</p>

<p>Brad Gething</p>	<p>Brad became a member of the National Wooden Pallet and Container Association (NWPCA) staff in July 2013 and serves as Vice President of Science and Technology. Brad's role includes participation in various standards and regulatory bodies, direction and promotion of research and development, and support on other technical issues related to the wood packaging industry.</p> <p>In addition to serving on various NAPPO Forestry Expert Groups, Gething is also a member of the International Forestry Quarantine Research Group (IFQRG) and has participated in expert working groups for the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Brad also serves as the Executive Director of the Pallet Foundation, a non-profit organization focused on education, research, and marketing for the wood pallet and packaging industry.</p> <p>Before joining the NWPCA team, Brad worked as a postdoctoral scholar at Penn State University, researching issues related to the phytosanitation of wood packaging and ISPM 15. Brad earned an MS and a PhD degree in Materials from Penn State University and a BS degree in chemical engineering from Bucknell University.</p>
<p>Mario Puente</p>	<p>Mario has 20 years of experience in phytosanitary policies, standards, and regulations for the international trade of agricultural commodities. He held several positions within Mexico's NPPO (Senasica). He also worked for the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), coordinating plant health projects.</p> <p>He presently holds the following positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Director for the Mexican Seeds Association (AMSAC) • Vice-chair for the National Agricultural Council (CAN), Agri-Food Health and Safety • Mexican industry advisory group representative for the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO). • Chair for the National Phytosanitary Advisory Council (Conacofi) • Secretary of the Executive Committee for the Mexican Accreditation Entity (EMA)

Wednesday, October 22

<p>Stephanie Dubon</p>	<p>PPQ NAPPO Technical Director, United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine, International Phytosanitary Management & Standards Programs</p> <p>Stephanie coordinates and oversees the APHIS participation in the IPPC and NAPPO standard-setting programs and helps advance U.S. harmonization priorities at the IPPC and NAPPO. Stephanie is the U.S. representative to the IPPC Standards Committee and the NAPPO Advisory and Management Committee.</p>
<p>Dominique Pelletier</p>	<p>Dominique Pelletier, is the National Manager of the Forestry Section at CFIA with over 20 years in plant health. He has worked on many international initiatives through IPPC and NAPPO and has been the North American representative on the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee, which he is currently chairing, for the past 8 years.</p>
<p>Barb Peterson</p>	<p>Barbara Peterson is a plant health specialist with over 20 years of experience at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. As Horticulture Market Access Leader, she has advanced market access for Canadian horticultural products and contributed to the development of domestic plant health programs. Barbara spent the last six years working with the IPPC Secretariat, where she spearheaded the creation of the IPPC Plant Health Campus and developed several IPPC guides and e-learning courses to support implementation of international standards for phytosanitary measures (ISPMs). Her work bridges science and policy, fostering resilient agricultural ecosystems and enabling safe trade through practical, collaborative approaches and global phytosanitary capacity building.</p>
<p>Alonso Suazo</p>	<p>Alonso Suazo is the Technical Director at the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO), where he leads and coordinates collaborative projects with NAPPO expert groups to protect plant health and promote safe trade across North America. He previously worked</p>

	<p>as a State Regulatory Entomologist in North Carolina and has held roles at several research and agricultural institutions, including NC State University, the University of Florida, CSIRO, USDA-ARS, and FDACS. Alonso earned a Ph.D. in Entomology and Nematology from the University of Florida and an undergraduate degree from the Panamerican School of Agriculture.</p>
Jamie Aalbers	<p>Jamie is the Growers and Research Specialist for the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association, responsible for managing a wide array of national nursery grower issues, which include plant health and trade, research, and new plant development. Jamie graduated from the University of Guelph with a B.Sc. (Agr) in Horticultural Science and Business and has since been involved in the ornamental horticulture sector in many capacities, including greenhouse grower, mini-rose breeder, research director, trials manager, and consultant.</p>
Alexander Blain	<p>Alexandre Blain joined the CFIA in 2009 as a botanist at the Ottawa Plant Laboratory. From 2018 to 2020, he managed phytosanitary risks associated with horticultural commodities. Since 2020, he has been working in the Plant Health Risk Assessment unit, evaluating and predicting the distribution of potentially harmful plant species to safeguard Canada's economy and environment. He has been a member of the Phytosanitary Alert System expert group since 2021.</p>
Bob Baca	<p>Dr. Bob Baca works for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is the chair of the Expert Group on Alternatives to Methyl Bromide. He is also the USDA's representative to the Montreal Protocol, where he maintains access to the fumigant for quarantine use and international trade.</p>
Alexandra Graham	<p>Alex began her career with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) in 2011 as a Plant Protection inspector. She progressed to the role of Inspection Advisor and is currently on assignment with the National Operational Guidance and Expertise division, specializing in horticulture, potatoes and forestry. Over the years, Alex has held various roles, including supervising staff responsible for issuing phytosanitary certifications and conducting plant</p>

	<p>health surveys, audits, and inspections. She has also contributed to the development and delivery of national training programs for inspectors certifying material for export. Most recently, Alex was involved with revising the CFIA's Quality Systems manual, identifying the necessary qualifications required to become an Authorized Certification Official(ACO) and digitizing the ACO training and authorization exam.</p>
Julie Paillat	<p>Julie Paillat is the National Coordinator for the greenhouse fruit and vegetable sector at the Fruit and Vegetable Growers of Canada (FVGC) in Ottawa, Canada. Since 2016, she has managed policy development, government relations, and leadership on national initiatives that promote excellence, research and innovation, sustainability, competitiveness and growth of the sector. She brings her professionalism and entrepreneurial experience to her approach in strategic planning, consensus-building, and delivering results with and for key stakeholders.</p>
Tyrone Jones	<p>Tyrone began his career with APHIS in 1996. Since then, he has been a technician, officer, field supervisor, export specialist, and, for the past 18 years, trade director for forest products. During that time, he has worked on various projects for NAPPO and the IPPC. His favorite use of wood is as a pier, on which he can laze away a few hours with a fishing pole in his hands.</p>
Jon Daniels	<p>Dr. Jon Daniels currently serves as Assistant Director with the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) - Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ). A leader in safeguarding America's agriculture, Jon oversees multiple national programs aimed at striking the perfect balance between facilitating safe international trade and protecting the nation's farms, forests, and food supply from invasive plant pests and diseases. His responsibilities include managing vital programs for imported commercial cargo, wood packaging material, and other trade-related initiatives. Additionally, Jon plays a pivotal role in resolving cargo-related issues as the headquarters liaison between APHIS and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection.</p>

	<p>Before joining PPQ, Jon honorably served in the U.S. Marine Corps infantry, demonstrating a steadfast dedication to his country. Following his military service, he pursued his passion for science and agriculture, earning a master's degree in Entomology and Plant Pathology and later a doctorate in Microbial Forensics and Agriculture Biosecurity.</p>
Bruno Gallant	<p><i>Senior Legislative Officer, Canadian Food Inspection Agency's Invasive Alien Species and Domestic Programs</i></p> <p>Bruno is a Senior Legislative Officer with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's Invasive Alien Species and Domestic Programs section. Since joining the CFIA in 2006, he has been involved in designing, developing, and implementing plant health programs, as well as engaging in national, regional, and international initiatives related to CFIA's plant protection mandate.</p>
Christian Dellis	<p>USDA-APHIS-PPQ, International Phytosanitary Management and Standards Programs, Director of Export Services. As Director, Christian oversees the export certification policy for U.S. exports of plants and plant products. Christian is the current chairperson of the IPPC Steering Group and NAPPO expert group regarding electronic phytosanitary certificates.</p>
Hugo Arredondo	<p>Hugo is a biologist who graduated from the Autonomous University of Nuevo León with a master's degree in Agricultural Sciences from the School of Graduate Studies. He has more than 35 years of experience in biological pest control, especially in technology generation and transfer, and the implementation of biological control programs. He has published extensively and has held prominent positions, such as chair of the Mexican Society for Biological Control and the NAPPO biological control panel. He was deputy director of Biological Control at the National Phytosanitary Reference Center for Biological Control-Senasica and is currently a Continuous Improvement advisor at Biobest Mexico.</p>

Thursday, October 23

Noureddine Meraihi	Noureddine Meraihi is Manager of the AI-Laboratory at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, where he leads applied AI projects supporting public-sector innovation. He lectures on actuarial mathematics and data science at the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) and holds advanced degrees in actuarial mathematics and applied computing, combining technical expertise with academic and leadership experience. He is currently pursuing a PhD at the University of Guelph, conducting research on responsible AI in the public sector and regulatory contexts.
Thomas Anneberg	Thomas Anneberg is a quantitative analyst with USDA-APHIS-PPQ, generating analyses of pest pathways through international ports in the United States and compiling automated data flows relating to international agricultural trade. He holds a Ph.D. in Biology from Syracuse University, leveraging his background to help PPQ's mission to safeguard American agriculture.
Jessica May	Jessica is the Director of Research and Innovation at the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF). She has been with DAFF since February 2019 and has experience at the executive level in both the Australian Public Service and private enterprise, with a focus on delivering innovative projects.
Etienne Lepage	Étienne holds a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and has led key initiatives at AAFC to strengthen scientific capacity and strategy, including the development of AAFC's Strategic Plan for Science. He is now Associate Director of the Science Partnership Division, advancing national and international collaborations that support agricultural innovation and impact.
Jonathan Macdonald	Jonathan is the Director of the Responsible Data and AI team at the Office of the Chief Information Officer at Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat (TBS) leading the GC policy and strategy files for AI. Recently, he led the development and launch of the AI Strategy for the Canadian Federal Public Service. Prior to this work his public service career has been focused on the privacy and data ethics space.

Kellyn Babbitt	<p>Kellyn Babbitt is the Assistant Director for the Phytosanitary Advanced Analytics Team in USDA-APHIS-PPQ. Her team develops decision support tools to deliver data-driven insights that inform pest exclusion activities across the safeguarding continuum. She holds a PhD in Geospatial Analytics from NC State University.</p>
María Galindo	<p>Dr. María Guadalupe Galindo Mendoza is a geographer from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), where she earned her Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctorate degrees in Geography. Since 2003, she has served as a full-time professor and researcher at the Autonomous University of San Luis Potosí (UASLP) and is a Level III member of the National Researchers System (CONAHCYT).</p> <p>She is the founder and Technical Coordinator of the National Laboratory for Geoprocessing of Phytosanitary Information (LaNGIF), established in 2009 within the Coordination for Innovation and Application of Science and Technology, and since 2018, it has been part of the Senasica–SADER Scientific Center. In addition, she has been a member of the Mexican Academy of Sciences since 2016.</p> <p>Currently, she serves as the National Technical Secretary of the Phytosanitary Advisory Council (CONACOFI) and represents plant health in the Intersecretarial Commission on Biosafety of Genetically Modified Organisms (CIBIOGEM).</p>
Ángel Ramírez	<p>Ángel is an agronomist specializing in parasitology, with a master's degree in plant pathology and a doctorate from the University of Nebraska, US. He has been a member of the National Researchers System of Conacyt. He served as Technical Coordinator of the National Phytosanitary Reference Center of the Plant Health General Directorate, SADER. He was a member of the Technical Advisory Group on nematodes in the grapevines and potatoes panel, and the Seeds Expert Group of the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO). He participated as a Conacyt Professor, assigned to the National Metrology Center in the project Development of reference materials for microorganisms and viruses of importance in agriculture and agri-food safety. He has published several articles and phytopathological reports in journals such as Plant Disease, Nematology, Revista Mexicana de Fitopatología, etc. He was Director of Integration and Analysis of</p>

	Health Intelligence, the area responsible for facilitating Mexican vegetable exports at Senasica. He is currently the Director of the National Phytosanitary Reference Center of the General Directorate of Plant Health.
Angela Murray Cheryl Corbett	Angela Murray and Cheryl Corbett are managers in the CFIA's Plant Science Advice Division. Together, they have more than 40 years of experience providing scientific advice into regulatory decision making, encompassing pest risk intelligence and assessment, advanced data analytics and predictive modelling, and laboratory diagnostic coordination.
Ruojing Wang	Dr. Ruojing Wang is a Research Scientist and the Head of the Seed Science and Technology Section at the Centre for Seed Science and Technology at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) Saskatoon Laboratory .
Logan Calkins	Logan Calkins has been working with the CFIA for over 10 years and is currently an Analyst for the Plant Health and Biosecurity Directorate, focused on leading projects that aim to modernize the way in which the Agency runs plant health programs.
Muhammad Ishtiaq Rao	Muhammad Ishtiaq Rao is the Founder and CEO of Crop Defenders Ltd., a Canadian leader in biological pest management and sustainable agriculture. A scientist-entrepreneur, he integrates AI, biological control, and systems thinking to help greenhouse growers achieve <i>pest-outbreak-free crops</i> through beneficial insects, fungi, and data-driven IPM systems. Combining Theory of Constraints with a self-managed, empowered team management system, he advances innovation that benefits growers, the environment, and ecological balance. Dr. Rao's mission— <i>"Transforming sustainable horticulture into pest-outbreak-free growing systems, ecologically and profitably"</i> —drives his outreach to unite science, sustainability, and AI for global food security.
Martin Agenor Rosales Mondragón	Martin Agenor Rosales Mondragón is an agronomist from the National Agrarian University of Nicaragua, specializing in Plant Science. He holds a master's degree in Plant Science from the Federal University of Viçosa, Minas Gerais, Brazil, and three graduate degrees: one in Quality Management Systems from the National University of Engineering, and two from

	<p>the National Agrarian University of Nicaragua in Plant Health and Agroecology, and in Quality Management. He has more than 25 years of experience in the field of plant health and sanitary and phytosanitary measures; he was for more than 20 years the head of the Department of Phytosanitary Surveillance and Campaigns at the Institute of Agricultural Protection and Health of Nicaragua. He currently serves as head of the Regional Unit for Health Intelligence and Risk Analysis at the International Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health (OIRSA), based in El Salvador.</p>
<p>Sergio Antonio Márquez Flores</p>	<p>Sergio Antonio Márquez Flores is an agronomist with more than ten years of experience in technical and administrative management in the field of agricultural quarantine. He currently serves as manager of OIRSA's Agricultural Protection Service, leading areas such as the Canine Unit and the Phytosanitary Diagnostic Laboratories. He has coordinated multidisciplinary teams, optimized operational processes, and promoted technological and institutional modernization. His career is notable for his responsibility, transparency, and results-oriented approach, contributing to the strengthening of agricultural health and phytosanitary protection in the region.</p>
<p>Lisa Winthrop</p>	<p>Lisa Winthrop is Director of Biosecurity Import and Import Standards in the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries. She is responsible for the system that manages biosecurity risks from all products and craft destined for New Zealand and for facilitating plant and plant product exports to ensure they meet trading partner and export requirements.</p>
<p>Patricio La Rosa</p>	<p>Patricio La Rosa is a Bayer Science Fellow with over 20 years of experience advancing artificial intelligence and decision science in the life sciences. At Bayer Crop Science, he has pioneered the integration of advanced analytics—including AI, machine learning, and operations research—into precision agriculture, transforming end-to-end seed production systems to improve reliability and sustainability. He currently leads Decision Science within Seed Production Innovation, focusing on strengthening data and AI foundations for process optimization and leveraging narrative intelligence to accelerate the adoption of digital solutions.</p>

	<p>In parallel, Dr. La Rosa serves as faculty in the Electrical and Systems Engineering Department at Washington University in St. Louis, where he teaches graduate-level courses on AI and the optimal design of analytic workflows for decision-making. His work bridges agriculture, analytics, and systems engineering, contributing to the transformation of modern farming through scalable, ethical, and interdisciplinary innovation.</p>
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