

Top 10 Crowd-Sourced Takeaways from the 16th Canadian EdTech Leadership AI Summit

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Empowering Human-Centered, Sustainable Learning in an AI-Inspired World

Mississauga, ON, November 2025, The **16th Canadian EdTech Leadership AI Summit**, hosted at the University of Toronto Mississauga, brought together over 300 national and international education leaders, policymakers, innovators, and students to chart the future of AI-enhanced learning. The energy was electric as delegates co-created insights, explored hands-on innovations, and helped shape a bold vision for a more equitable, human-centered digital future.

Today, I'm thrilled to share the **Top 10 Crowd-Sourced Takeaways**, captured directly from our delegates and partners who contributed to this milestone event.

1. Human-Centered AI is the Future

Our delegates affirmed that AI must *empower*, not replace, educators. Human connection, empathy, and purpose remain the cornerstone of meaningful learning. Technology amplifies impact, but people lead the transformation.

2. Equity, Access & Inclusion Must Lead the Way

Speakers emphasized that sustainable AI adoption must *intentionally close gaps*. Every learner, regardless of background or circumstance, deserves to benefit from the rapid digital transformation reshaping Canadian education.

3. Policy Must Keep Pace with Innovation

Education leaders called for agile, forward-thinking AI policies that evolve with technological change. These frameworks must be collaborative and informed by the voices of educators, students, and communities.

4. Pedagogy Before Technology

A resounding message emerged: learning goals, not tools, must drive decision-making. The “why” and “how” of teaching remain far more important than the “what” of AI solutions.

5. Professional Learning Builds Confidence

Educators left inspired yet clear-eyed about their needs: continuous, hands-on professional development is essential to navigate AI with confidence, curiosity, and creativity.

6. AI Literacy for All

Understanding how AI works, its strengths, its limits, and its ethical considerations, is now a foundational skill for learners and leaders alike. AI literacy is the new digital literacy.

7. Ethics & Responsible Design Are Non-Negotiable

Transparency, data privacy, and fairness must guide every AI initiative. Delegates called for ethical frameworks to be integrated at every level of EdTech development and implementation.

8. Collaboration & Networking Spark Innovation

Innovation thrives in community. Delegates praised the interactive networking zones, discovery sessions, and cross-sector connections spanning K–12, post-secondary, government, and industry.

9. Hands-On Learning Delivers High Impact

Live demos, from AI storytelling to powerful design tools like Canva AI, were among the most celebrated Summit experiences, blending creativity with real-world application and inspiring educators to experiment boldly.

10. Curiosity Over Certainty

Perhaps the most powerful insight: we don’t need all the answers yet. What matters most is maintaining a growth mindset, being curious, adaptable, and open, as AI continues to reshape education.

A National Moment of Momentum

This year's Summit marks a defining moment for Canada's EdTech ecosystem. From dynamic fireside chats to discovery zones and student innovations, the focus was clear: ensuring AI strengthens human-centered learning for generations to come.

We are deeply grateful to our incredible partners, sponsors, speakers, and volunteers who helped make this our most impactful Summit yet.

Looking Ahead

MindShare Learning remains committed to fostering collaborative innovation nationwide. Stay tuned as we prepare for:

- **The next Regional EdTech Summit in New Brunswick (April 2026)**
- **Special leadership roundtables on AI policy, ethics & educator readiness**
- **New research, podcasts, and community resources to support Canada's EdTech ecosystem**

Together, we are charting the future of AI-powered education, one that is ethical, equitable, and deeply human.

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