

Beyond All Borders: FDFA announces 2019 Convention theme

The Frontier Duty Free Association (FDFA) has announced the name of its annual Convention: Beyond All Borders.

The 2019 Beyond All Borders convention will take place from November 11 to 14, 2019, in Toronto, Ontario.

In addition, the FDFA has announced the Partnering for Growth convention theme, set to inspire current and prospective members to work together to promote the duty free industry in Canada and beyond.

“Partnering for Growth is a call-to-action directed at our partners and convention attendees as a way to inspire like-minded industry professionals to work together to position Canada as a global leader in the duty free sector,” said FDFA Executive Director Barbara Barrett.

The four-day convention format has been re-worked to begin on Monday, kicking things off with an Airport Day. The Airport Day gives FDFA suppliers the opportunity to coordinate meetings with some of their largest customers (airports). Through a collaborative lens, the Airport Day aims to build on the Partnering for Growth theme.

“We are returning to the Omni King Edward Hotel this year as its private spaces were conducive to our meeting and networking needs,” said Barrett. “We will continue to offer buyer group presentations, and are excited that the new Central Hub will include convention registration, breakfast, lunches, coffee bar, happy hour bar and a few exhibit stations.”

The Imperial Awards Gala has also been moved, now taking place on the third night, Wednesday, November 13, said Barrett. “We wanted to create a forum where partners and guests can come together to grow their businesses; share ideas to create a network of innovative solutions, only concentrating time and energy on the most productive concepts that grow our members’ businesses,” she explained.

In addition, after a review of the Gold Standards Awards program, the FDFA is launching a refreshed program. The changes include: expanded eligibility, streamlined voting, and the addition of two awards: Star of Show for the convention and Outstanding Contributor Award. Finalists will be announced October 30, winners recognized at the Imperial Gala & Awards Evening, November 13 in Toronto.

Early-bird registration for the Partnering for Growth, Beyond All Borders Convention ends August 31.

The Frontier Duty Free Association (FDFA) is the industry association representing the interests of Canada’s duty free shops. Active membership includes 27 Canadian land border duty free shops, and Associate Members consist of Canadian airport and US land border duty free shops. Additionally, there are trade supplier members and others interested in the duty free industry.