CAMA
Canadian Automatic Merchandising Association

ACAD
l'Association canadienne d'auto-distribution

COFFEE - MARKETS - VENDING

1 - March 13, 2026

NEWSLETTER



View the online version at **www.vending-cama.com/newsletter**

Issue 31 - March, 2026 *- Jim Jackson, President*

President's Message CAMA Show

Welcome to our CAMA 2026 Trade Show. There is a great showcase here of products and technology from our supplier members, and we know that our operator members will discover new opportunities that will have a positive impact on your business.

In partnership with the Convenience U CARWACS Show, this is the largest event for our industry in Canada. I can't stress enough the importance of attending in person; to build relationships with your peers, network and gain insight into other members' success stories and best practices. The value of in-person conversation will never be replaced by online chat. I am glad to see so many of you here today.

We also welcome the not yet – but hopefully soon-to-be – members in the room. For those who are not familiar, CAMA has been around since 1953, and its longevity comes from the benefit of staying connected with each other.

I would like to acknowledge and thank CAMA staff for the time and effort put into making this show a reality. A lot of work goes into staging an event like this. I would also like to acknowledge and thank our board of directors for their contribution to the association: Thomas Gwizdala, Amanda Marie Spilchen, Dennis Park, Gershon Hurwen, Jonathan DeGuise, Karine Gadoury, Nick McLaren, Nicholas Pugliese, Petros Kondos, and Tommy Chan.

Many of our board members have been serving on the Board for consecutive terms. I want to extend an invitation to all our CAMA members to give some serious thought to participating on the Board in upcoming terms.

Our industry is changing at a fast pace; we have some veterans in the room who can remember when our association was all about vending and not much else. Although vending is the core business for many operators, new business prospects within our industry are coming with the introduction of smart cooler and AI technology. This business has always attracted entrepreneurs, and many newcomers today are focused on the opportunities that are being created with smart cooler technology. (You will see plenty of examples out in the tradeshow hall.)

Whether you are an operator that is focused on vending or smart cooler technology, or both, every location has something in common and that is the need for coffee services. This is an opportunity that is an open door for all operators, and we have some very knowledgeable people in the coffee industry being showcased on the show floor today.

Take some time to get to know them and their insights on the industry.

No matter what segment of our industry you are in, it all needs to be supported by payment systems, operational management systems and general business support systems. These categories are represented on the show floor as well.

To sum it up, our industry represents Vending, Coffee, Micromarts including Smart Coolers, and Technology. Our association supports everyone involved. And on behalf of everyone at CAMA, thank you for being here, and thank you for your continued support.

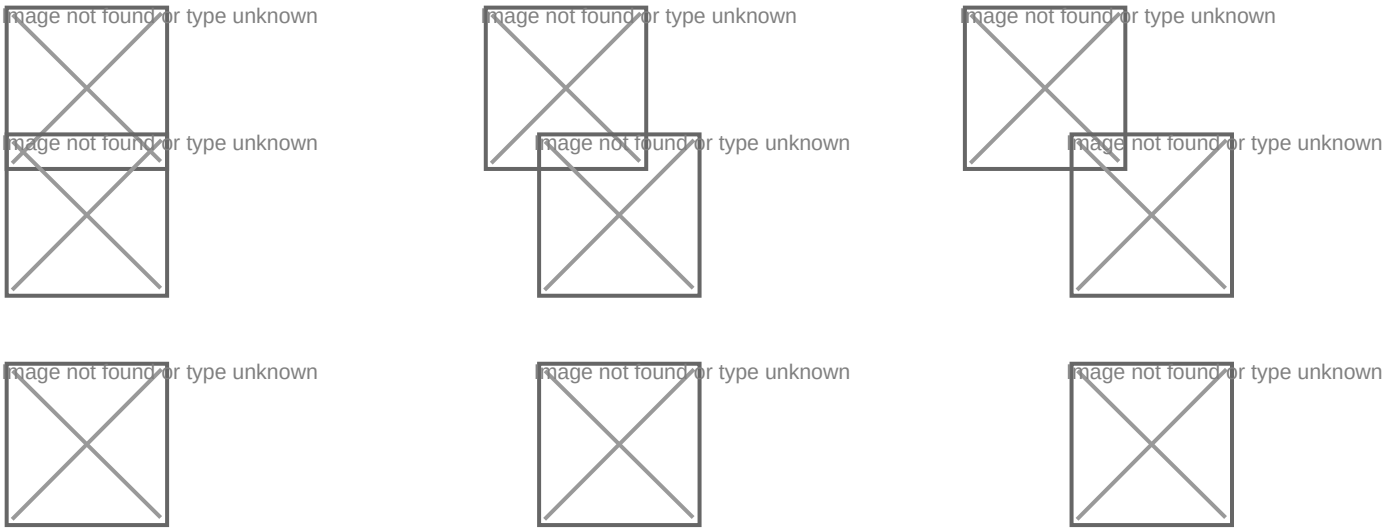
CAMA Show 2026 Thank You!

Thank you for being part of this year's CAMA Show, co-located at the Convenience U CARWACS Show. Your participation helped create a dynamic and engaging exhibit floor that connected industry professionals, sparked conversations, and showcased innovation across t sector.

And a special thank you to our upcoming presenters, Yang Yu from Micromart with his session Introduction to AI Smart Stores and how to make them successful in Canada; Followed by our Ask the Experts! Panel session, moderated by Kayin Kelly & Shayne Christie of the Vendtelligence podcast, with expert panelists Jeff Schiller, Heritage Coffee; Amanda-Marie Spilchen, The Pelican Group and Yang Yu, Micromart.

Tradeshow Floor Success

Attendees loved the tradeshow floor! From the variety of products to the wide range of technology, feedback has been fantastic. Thank you to all the CAMA Exhibitors that made this Show a success!



Save the Date 2027

Returning to the Toronto Congress Centre, March 9 & 10, 2027.

Looking to exhibit? Sign up here to be notified as soon as exhibit space opens for 2027!

Engagement with Education

CAMA's interactive and business-focused educational sessions brought both CAMA Members and brand-new operators through the doors. Offering valuable expertise is vital for growing bo the Show and our Association, and the reviews have been excellent!

Issue 31 - March, 2026 *- Workplace Safety & Prevention Services*

Introduction to AI Smart Stores and how to make them successful in Canada presented by Yang Yu, Micromart

Ask the Experts: Practical Strategies for Operators: moderated by the hosts of Vendtelligence

Until March 31: Select e-Courses Completely Free with WSPS

Whether you're looking to meet OHSA requirements, refresh your team's knowledge, or upskill before the busy season, now's the perfect time to take advantage of this limited-time offer. As an employer, supervisor, worker, or safety professional in Ontario, workplace safety is everyone's responsibility. From now until March 31, 2026, WSPS is offering **select e-Courses completely free** to help you build a safer, more compliant work environment – without added costs.

Thank you to our incredible lineup of speakers: Amanda-Marie Spilchen from The Pelican Gro Jeff Schiller from Heritage Coffee, and Yang Yu from Micromart for sharing valuable insights w our audience, and thank you to the hosts of Vendtelligence: Kayin Kelly and Shayne Christie.

Free Safety Training for Ontario Workplaces | WSPS

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Until March 31, inspectors from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD) will be visiting workplaces to assess compliance with Regulation 833: Control of Biological or Chemical Agents and Regulation 860: Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) regarding worker training based on the amended Hazardous Products Regulations.

Get in touch with Denise by email Denise.Lam@wsps.ca and one of our experts will tour your workplace, identify potential gaps in your program, and make recommendations for improvement. We will provide you with a helpful report of the findings and link you with free resources. All at no charge.

- **WHMIS Awareness eCourse**A 30-minute introductory e-course on WHMIS basics, designed to raise awareness for all roles. Also available in French, Mandarin and Spanish.WHMIS Awareness eCourse | Online Workplace Hazard Training | WSPS
- **WHMIS Online Training** Standards-compliant WHMIS e-course covering hazard classes, labels, SDSs, and worker duties.Online WHMIS Certification Training | 1.5 Hours | WSPS

As frontline leaders, supervisors shape daily safety practices, so WSPS is improving their access to practical, actionable resources.

Free assessments are available to all Ontario workplaces in the **Manufacturing & Services sector** https://www.wsps.ca/how-we-help/workplace-assessments

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