

26th Metropolis Canada conference

Our Immigration System: The Way Forward



Hotel Bonaventure, Montréal, Québec, 13-15 March 2024

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR SESSIONS

War, violence, human rights abuses, climate change, and unstable economies continue to displace large numbers of people worldwide.

Despite our many challenges, Canada remains one of the planet's most desirable destinations for migrants seeking a new home. The country is increasing immigration numbers to meet domestic economic and demographic objectives as well as respond to humanitarian crises.

Higher immigration levels will require the appropriate structures and resources to ensure effective newcomer integration and settlement. There must be effective collaboration between policymakers, settlement service providers and researchers on migration planning and processes. Equally critical is identifying and addressing the gaps in the immigration ecosystem and working towards its modernization with a view to improving settlement outcomes.

There is no one-size-fits-all approach as economic immigrants, refugees, temporary foreign workers, and international students encounter distinct obstacles as they make Canada their home. Equity and inclusion are central to all migration processes and to ensure fairness across the system it is critical to involve newcomers in decision-making. December 10th, 2023 marked 75 years since the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the rights of migrants around the globe demands our attention.

Deadline to submit: November 22nd, 2023

Suggested session themes and topics :

Refugees

- Refugee entry and resettlement
- Refugee sponsorship in Canada
- Complementary pathways for refugees
- Migrant Rights
- Canada and the Global Compact on Refugees
- Climate refugees and environmental migration
- Borders and Migration

The Process of Immigration

- Understanding Immigrant Selection
- Better Coordinating Pre-arrival
- International Students
- Temporary Workers
- Families, children and youth
- Two-step migration
- Recognizing Credentials
- Addressing the backlog on immigrant processing
- Acquiring Citizenship
- AI Machine Learning, and Automation in Immigration Selection
- Digital transformation in the settlement sector
- AI and Language Training for newcomers
- Immigration and Official Languages

Migration Governance and the Ecosystem

- The role of governments and the sector in settlement and integration
- Sustainable strategies for non-profit governance
- Program evaluation and monitoring for Settlement Services
- Capacity building tools for the settlement sector
- Effective engagement of new partners in the settlement and integration process
- The role of local communities in the migration process
- Best practices in networking across the sector

Immigration, Labour and the Evolving Workplace

- Labour market integration in uncertain economic times
- Effectively Engaging Employers
- Employment Support and upskilling
- Immigration and the Changing Workplace
- Immigrant integration in the 'hybrid' workplace
- Employment Equity and Employer Practices
- Economic integration of newcomers
- Self Employment
- Immigration and Entrepreneurship

Health and Housing

- Properly assessing the housing situation
- Addressing the housing situation
- Immigration, resettlement and housing
- Migration and Mental Health
- Migration and the Social Determinants of Health
- Newcomer Access to Health Care

Migration and Identities

- Immigrants contribution to Canada
- Combatting discrimination and Racism
- Public Opinion and Immigration
- Public Messaging on Immigration
- Immigration Advocacy
- Media and Immigration
- Immigration Narratives and Stories
- Integration and Inclusion

Immigration and international cooperation

- Migration and transnationalism
- Canada, the Americas and Immigration
- Immigration and the International Francophonie
- Immigration and International Aid and Development
- Immigration and international conflict
- The Role of Diasporas in Migration

SESSION FORMATS

Workshop/Panel presentations (75 minutes)

Workshops generally consist of a minimum of three and a maximum of five presentations of around 15 minutes each, followed by a discussion of at least 20 minutes. Workshop rooms will be equipped with a laptop, screen and projector. The workshop organizers will chair the session or designate another person to do so.

Roundtables (75 minutes)

The round table format is suitable for more informal discussions on emerging issues or controversies. Round tables are designed to facilitate discussion to a greater extent than time allows in workshop/panel-type sessions. It's a highly effective format for exchanging information and experiences between all session participants.

Poster presentations

Poster sessions provide an alternative format for conference participants to share research that has not otherwise been presented. Posters should present conclusive results, even if preliminary. Poster presenters must provide their own poster material, up to 4 feet high and 3.5 feet wide. They run during the entirety of the conference.

In order to open as many opportunities as possible for the most participants, we ask that:

- Organizers promote the participation of as many different presenters as possible;
- Participants may organize more than one workshop (**please limit to 3 proposals per organization**) but on different topics;
- An organizer can choose to participate in additional workshops as a chair, participant or discussant;
- If you are listed as a presenter in more than one workshop, we may ask you to choose the workshop that you would prefer to participate in;

- **If you are interested in presenting a paper, we strongly encourage you to solicit colleagues from your area of expertise and from different sectors to submit a workshop proposal.** If you do not have the ability to put together a workshop proposal with other colleagues but you are still interested in presenting a paper, a research project or another presentation, please consider selecting a "poster presentation option" format when prompted.
 - **If you submit an individual paper presentation your paper will be grouped in a session with two other paper presentations** on the same general theme and you will each have approx. 15-20 minutes to present in the session.
 - **An Adjudication Committee will meet to review the workshop proposals after the submission deadline.** The Adjudication Committee will consider proposals that include a clear title, abstract and summary as well as a list of at least three confirmed presenters.
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The Adjudication Committee will place priority on:

- Workshops that have confirmed and combined presenters from the three sectors: academic, non-governmental and government policy
- Workshops that involve graduate students.
- Workshops that bring perspectives of those with lived experience and that include diverse representation.
- Workshops that include participants across various regions of Canada or the world.

The information you provide us will be included in the conference program. Please verify the spelling of your presenters' names and the titles of their presentations.

Please note that all presenters are required to register and pay the conference registration fee as posted on the conference website.

If you are organizing a session with both English and French presentations, we ask that you provide us with the translation of the title and 50-100 word abstract for the program.