

The 28th annual National Metropolis Canada Conference

CHANGING COURSE? ESTABLISHING CONSENSUS ON CANADA'S IMMIGRATION FUTURE

March 11-13, 2026
Halifax Convention Center
Halifax, Nova Scotia

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR SESSIONS

Deadline to submit: November 26, 2025

In October 2024 Canada unveiled a new Immigration Multi-Year Levels Plan that considerably reduced the targets for both permanent and temporary migrants. It constituted a dramatic modification from rising immigration numbers that characterized the previous decade. The move represents a departure from a vision for the country which saw immigration as critical to growth. The cuts have raised important questions about policies and programs. Reaching the targets has important ramifications for categories of immigrants, different regions of the country, and migrant countries of origin. Given the asymmetry in immigration policies in Canada, the effects of these immigration level reductions will inevitably be uneven. What does this imply for the future of immigration in Canada? Is the direction we're headed the best for the country in meeting future challenges? What are the unintended outcomes of these policy decisions? Do they advance Canada's competitiveness in the current global economy or impede it? Do we need to consider changing course? These are some of the questions upon which we will be collectively reflecting at the 28th edition of the National Metropolis Conference in Halifax.

This important national gathering will seek to address the above questions and invite submissions for workshops, roundtable and panel sessions as well as posters on the themes listed below.

We will be accepting workshop proposals on themes related to immigration settlement and diversity in Canadian society, with the central theme being that which is related to the conference title “*Changing Course? Establishing Consensus on Canada’s Immigration Future*”.

Suggested topics include:

Understanding Complex Identities and Promoting Inclusion

- Public Opinion, Political Framing and Social License
- Quantitative and Qualitative Research on Identities and Migration
- Intersections and Multiple Identities
- Generational Mobility
- The role of diasporas in Identities and Migration
- Improving public knowledge and literacy about migration and diversity
- Fostering Harmonious Intergroup Relations
- Best Practices in Intercultural Dialogue
- Combating Racism, Discrimination, and Prejudice
- Citizenship and Citizen engagement
- First Nations, Métis and Inuit and Reconciliation
- Gender Identities

Documenting Barriers to Service(s) and Reducing Disadvantage

- Creating successful conditions for newcomers
- Documenting Social and Economic Disadvantage
- Housing Challenges
- Healthcare
- The changing workplace
- Strategies for overcoming the skills gap / Underemployment / Entrepreneurship
- Recognition of credentials

Demography Challenges, Policies and Programs

- The Multi-Year Levels Plan and its impact
- Economic Migrants/Skilled workers
- International students
- Refugees
- Temporary Foreign Workers
- Immigration Levels Plan and Population Growth Management
- Express entry
- Families
- Retention
- Population Growth Strategies

Governance

- Intergovernmental Cooperation on immigration and integration
- Refugee and Asylum Policy
- The Role of Provinces and Municipalities on Immigration
- Digital, AI, Automation: Risks & Opportunities
- Immigration Law
- Ongoing Challenges Confronting SPOs
- Labour Market Needs
- Sectoral Immigration Selection
- The Role of the business community
- Best Practices in governing migration
- Immigrant attraction and promotion

SESSION FORMATS

Workshops/panel presentation sessions (75 minutes)

Workshops /Panel sessions will usually consist of a minimum of three to a maximum of five presentations of approximately 15 minutes each followed by at least 20 minutes of discussion. Workshop rooms will be equipped with a laptop, screen, and projector. Workshop organizers will preside over the session or designate another individual to do so.

Roundtables (75 minutes)

These networking sessions usually focus on a specific theme under the guidance of a moderator to encourage open dialogue. Unlike traditional presentations, this format is designed for free-flowing, interactive discussions on current topics or debates. It offers a unique opportunity for participants to share insights and experiences in a more informal and engaging setting, ensuring everyone has the chance to contribute to the conversation.

Poster presentations

Poster sessions provide an alternative format through which conference participants can share research which has not been otherwise presented. Posters should provide some conclusive results, even if preliminary. Poster presenters must bring their own display materials of a maximum of 4' high and 3.5' wide posters.

IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER

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;
- Each person listed as an organizer, participant, chair or discussant in a workshop must register to the conference either as a day or full conference participant and pay the applicable registration fees. Please inform your presenters of this requirement when inviting them to participate in your workshop.

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- **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.

IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER

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.

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

Session organizers will be required to provide the information listed below during the submission process via our website:

- Name and contact information
- Format of your session (workshop or roundtable)
- Theme (from the 5 above) in which the session falls under
- Title of your session
- Names of co-organizers (if applicable)
- Names of presenters including their affiliation, email address and titles of their presentation
- A 50-word abstract which will be included in the program (please make sure it is descriptive but is also formulated to interest as many conference participants as possible)

Please note that 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.

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-word abstract for the program.

SUBMIT BELOW