

# Reaffirming Canada: Confronting Challenges to Unity, Diversity and Identities

The 8th annual Metropolis Identities Summit

October 29-30 2025

Delta Hotels Saskatoon Downtown

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR SESSIONS

**Deadline to submit: June 21st, 2025**

Canada has been adjusting to unprecedented global challenges that entail significant economic and social disruption. These challenges are inextricably linked, as profound changes to our economy will have inevitable impacts on migration and mobility across the country. Our geography has historically been an asset and now poses a unique challenge. The need for unity in the face of an ongoing external threat will have a significant bearing for our ever-evolving national conversation around diversity and identity.

Migration remains critical to the country's present and future. Yet we're witnessing transformative national discussions over immigration levels, admission categories, settlement and integration, among others. How does this align with growing calls for national unity and greater cohesion? What do the current challenges mean for the future vision(s) of Canada? What does the threat to unity imply for fostering diverse expression of identities and the need to honor commitments to Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, as well as preserving and promoting our country's official language communities? On October 29th and 30th, the city of Saskatoon will host the 8th edition of the Metropolis Identities Summit entitled: **Reaffirming Canada: Confronting Challenges to our Unity, Diversity and Identities**

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 below.

**We're inviting workshops, roundtables and poster submissions within the framework of the following 3 themes and topics:**

**Understanding Complex Identities and Relations**

- National Identities
- Regional/Provincial Identities
- Canadian-American Relations
- Indigenous Peoples
- First Nations, Métis and Inuit and Reconciliation
- Canada's francophonie
- Intersections and Multiple Identities
- Gender Equality
- Diaspora Communities
- Official Languages
- Indigenous Languages
- Non-official Languages
- Histories, narratives, and stories

**Documenting Barriers to Inclusion and Reducing Inequalities**

- Addressing Intergroup Conflict (s)
- Best Practices in Intercultural Dialogue
- Combating Racism, Discrimination, and Prejudice
- Citizenship and Citizen Engagement
- Creating successful conditions for newcomers
- Documenting Social and Economic inequalities
- Generational Mobility
- Housing Challenges
- The changing workplace
- Strategies for overcoming the skills gap / Underemployment / Entrepreneurship
- Recognition of credentials
- Improving knowledge about diversity

**Defining Concepts, Measurement and Policy Application**

- Integration
- Inclusion
- Diversity
- Multiculturalism
- Equity/Equity Seeking Groups/Equity Deserving Groups
- Settler Colonialism
- Systemic Racism
- Unconscious Bias
- Social Cohesion
- Shared Values

# 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.**

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**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**