

## Pathways to Prosperity 2019 National Conference

### Immigration at the Crossroads: Renewing Support for Immigration to Canada at the Intersections of Research, Policy, and Practice

October 31 - November 1, 2019  
Westin Harbour Castle Hotel, Toronto

Immigration to Canada is at a crossroads. The federal election in the Fall may impact current immigration policy. New settlement contribution agreements are in progress. At the same time, there is some evidence that attitudes toward immigrants and refugees among established Canadians are hardening, with populism on the rise. In this time of uncertainty and possible change, it seems useful to consider how we can renew our support for immigration to Canada, which is essential for the future of our country. This conference will look ahead, focusing on how our research, policy, and practice supporting the attraction, settlement and integration of newcomers can continue to make important contributions to the well-being of Canada and those who live here, whether established Canadians or newcomers.

#### Thursday, October 31, 2019

7:00 AM to 8:30 AM — Location: Metropolitan West

##### **Breakfast and Registration**

8:30 AM to 9:15 AM — Location: Metropolitan East and Centre

##### **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

- ◆ Conference Chairs: **Victoria Esses** and **Jean McRae**, Pathways to Prosperity Co-chairs

9:15 AM to 10:45 AM — Location: Metropolitan East and Centre

##### **Plenary:**

##### **Goals for the Settlement and Resettlement Programs in the Coming Years**

The theme of this year's conference is Immigration at the Crossroads, and suggests that immigration to Canada requires renewed support. In this leadoff plenary to the conference, we will discuss what form this support may take. In particular, the speakers will describe their visions for the settlement and resettlement programs for the coming years; their views on what the main goals of these programs should be; and what they see as the primary needs of newcomers to Canada today and for the foreseeable future. They will also discuss whether they envision new challenges on the horizon, and what overall strategies we can utilize to overcome current and emerging challenges in the settlement of newcomers to Canada.

- ◆ **Fraser Valentine**, Assistant Deputy Minister, Settlement and Integration Sector, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
- ◆ **Chris Friesen**, Chair, Canadian Immigrant Settlement Sector Alliance
- ◆ **Stephen Chase**, Manager, Settlement and Multiculturalism Unit, Government of New Brunswick's Population Growth Division
- ◆ **Debbie Douglas**, Executive Director, Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants

10:45 AM to 11:05 AM — Location: Metropolitan West

**Refreshment Break**

11:05 AM to 12:15 PM — Location: Metropolitan East and Centre

**Plenary:**

**Immigration to Smaller, Rural, and Northern Communities: What Have We Learned?**

Most newcomers to Canada settle in a few major urban centres, with smaller, rural, and northern communities not able to reap the benefits that immigrants can provide. With the recognition that immigration can contribute to the economy and vitality of smaller centres, the regionalization of immigration has become a priority across the country, and strategies are being developed to attract, integrate, and retain newcomers in these communities. Recent work suggests that a collective and coordinated effort will be required to succeed. From the national to the local level, this plenary will discuss the challenges faced and opportunities available for smaller, rural and northern communities that seek to increase their prospects through immigration.

- ◆ **Lara Dyer**, Director, Regional Economic Immigration Programs and Policy, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
- ◆ **Robert Brouillette**, Owner and President, City Welding, Sudbury and Business Development and Technical Specialist Consultant, Ivey Immigration

12:15 PM to 1:30 PM — Location: Metropolitan West

**Lunch Provided**

**Spoken Word Performance by Ahmad Majid**

1:30 PM to 3:00 PM — Location: TBA

**Concurrent Workshops**

3:00 PM to 3:30 PM — Location: Metropolitan West

**Refreshment Break**

3:30 PM to 5:00 PM — Location: TBA

**Concurrent Workshops**

6:00 PM to 8:00 PM — Location: Metropolitan West

**Evening Cocktail Reception and Poster Session**

**Sponsored by: World Education Services**

A reception for delegates attending the conference along with a poster session featuring recent work by members of Pathways of Prosperity. Hors d'oeuvres will be served.



**Friday, November 1, 2019**

7:00 AM to 8:15 AM — Location: Metropolitan West

**Breakfast**

8:15 AM to 9:15 AM — Location: Metropolitan East and Centre

**Special Keynote Speaker:** Kamal Al-Solaylee, Journalist and Author of *Brown: What Being Brown in the World Today Means (to Everyone)*.

9:15 AM to 10:30 AM — Location: Metropolitan East and Centre

**Plenary:**

**The Ever-Changing Terrain of Attitudes toward Immigrants and Refugees**

Attitudes toward immigrants and refugees in Canada are thought to be relatively favourable, particularly in an international comparative context, yet they demonstrate some variation over time, with dips and rises. And not all

immigrant groups in Canada are viewed in an equally favourable light. What are the factors that are influencing Canadians' attitudes, and what roles do national, regional, and local policies play? Do Canadians have different views of different classes of immigrants, specifically economic immigrants versus refugees? Are Canadians susceptible to populist, anti-immigrant sentiment? And what role do the media play? Speakers in this plenary will attempt to address these and other questions surrounding the ever-shifting terrain of attitudes toward immigrants and refugees in Canada.

- ◆ **Keith Neuman**, Senior Associate, Environics Institute for Survey Research
- ◆ **Antoine Bilodeau**, Professor, Department of Political Science, Concordia University
- ◆ **Kelly Toughill**, Associate Professor, School of Journalism, University of King's College

10:30 AM to 11:00 AM — Location: Metropolitan West  
**Refreshment Break and Book Signing**

11:00 AM to 12:30 PM — Location: TBA  
**Concurrent Workshops**

12:30 PM to 1:45 PM — Location: Metropolitan West  
**Lunch Provided**  
**Musical Performance by Frank Bessai**

1:45 PM to 3:15 PM — Location: TBA  
**Concurrent Workshops**

3:15 PM to 3:30 PM — Location: Metropolitan West  
**Refreshment Break**

3:30 PM to 4:45 PM—Location: Metropolitan East and Centre

**Plenary:**

**Developing an Evidence Base and Sharing Settlement and Integration Practices that Work**

This plenary will provide an in-depth view of the IRCC-funded project being led by Pathways to Prosperity focusing on the sharing of settlement and integration practices that work. The background, rationale, and current state of the project will be presented, and we will hear about several examples of promising practices that have been highlighted to date. The unique aspects of this project include the focus on innovative practices with empirical evidence of their effectiveness, and the dissemination of information about these practices through videos in which their creators describe their key features. Please come prepared to vote on priority areas of practice for future calls for nominations, as we will conclude the session by soliciting feedback and suggestions for future themes and areas of practice on which to focus.

- ◆ **Fariborz Birjandian**, Chief Executive Officer, Calgary Catholic Immigration Society
- ◆ **Sue Sadler**, Senior Vice President, Services and Program Innovation, ACCES Employment
- ◆ **Dorota Blumczynska**, Executive Director, Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba

4:45 PM to 5:00 PM — Location: Metropolitan East and Centre

**Summing Up and Closing Remarks**

- ◆ Conference Chairs: **Jean McRae** and **Victoria Esses**, Pathways to Prosperity Co-chairs

**Saturday November 2, 2019**

8:00 AM to 9:00 AM – Location: Marine

**Breakfast for Board of Directors**

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM – Location: Marine

**Meeting of the Pathways to Prosperity Board of Directors**

## Members of the 2019 Pathways to Prosperity National Conference Planning Committee

- ◆ Nabiha Attalah, Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia
- ◆ Cédric de Chardon, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
- ◆ Manolli Ekra, Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants
- ◆ Kareem El-Assal, CanadaVisa.com
- ◆ Leah Hamilton, Mount Royal University
- ◆ Aurélie Lacassagne, Laurentian University
- ◆ Rebeka Lee, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
- ◆ Craig Mackie, PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada
- ◆ Yollande Dweme Mbukuny Pitta, University of Toronto
- ◆ Carlo Lavoie, University of Prince Edward Island
- ◆ Mohammed Soulami, Actions interculturelles de développement et d'éducation
- ◆ Carlos Teixeira, University of British Columbia, Okanagan
- ◆ Cathy Woodbeck, Thunder Bay Multicultural Centre
- ◆ Jean McRae, Pathways to Prosperity Partnership
- ◆ Victoria Esses, Pathways to Prosperity Partnership