



**PATHWAYS TO  
PROSPERITY**  
Promoting Welcoming Communities in Canada



**VOIES VERS LA  
PROSPÉRITÉ**  
Promouvoir des communautés accueillantes au Canada

## **Pathways to Prosperity 2021 National Conference**

**Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose: Post-COVID Strategies to Address Enduring  
Challenges in the Settlement and Integration of Newcomers in Canada**

**November 8-10, 2021 | A Virtual Conference**

### **Conference Agenda**

#### **Day 1 – November 8, 2021**

**9:45 AM – 10:45 AM EST**

**Discussion Forums**

**11:00 AM – 11:30 AM EST**

**Welcome and Opening Remarks**

**11:30 AM – 12:45 PM EST**

**Plenary: Acknowledging and Defeating Racism and Islamophobia in Canada: The Path Ahead**

- Steven Zhou, Journalist and Author
- Kenneth Fung, Clinical Director, Asian Initiative in Mental Health, University Health Network
- TBD
- TBD

**12:45 PM – 1:45 PM EST**

**Exhibitor Presentations and Poster Presentations**

**1:45 PM – 3:00 PM EST**

**Plenary: Supporting Immigrant - Indigenous Relations in Canada: Addressing Long-standing  
Issues and Moving Toward a Shared Future**

- Jess Hamm, Executive Director, Saskatchewan Intercultural Association
- Anthony Olusola, Executive Director, Truly Alive Youth and Family Foundation
- TBD
- TBD

3:00 PM – 3:30 PM EST

**Exhibitor Presentations**

3:30 PM – 4:45 PM EST

**Concurrent Workshops**

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM EST

**Settlement Sector Roundtable on Advocacy Priorities for the Future**

**Facilitator: Chris Friesen, Chair, Canadian Immigrant Settlement Sector Alliance (CISSA-ACSEI)**



Under the auspices of the Royal Society of Canada (RSC), a national working group of academics, former government officials and settlement sector representatives came together to reflect and analyze the impact of COVID-19 on immigration and newcomers. Based on these analyses, the working group provided a robust set of recommendations on all aspects of immigration to Canada, including those from the settlement sector perspective. In March 2021, the RSC published the Working Group's Policy Briefing entitled "[Supporting Canada's COVID-19 Resilience and Recovery Through Robust Immigration Policy and Programs](#)." This roundtable

discussion will provide an opportunity to reflect on the recommendations and explore areas where the settlement sector could come together in possible local, regional and national advocacy areas.

**Day 2 – November 9, 2021**

9:45 AM – 10:45 AM EST

**Discussion Forums**

11:00 AM – 12:15 PM EST

**Keynote Speaker: Silmy Abdullah, Author, Lawyer and Social Justice Advocate**

***Why Our Stories Matter: Racialized Women, Immigration and Gender Justice in Post-Pandemic Canada***



**Silmy Abdullah** is a Bangladeshi-Canadian author, lawyer and social justice advocate. Her debut collection of short stories, *Home of the Floating Lily*, explores the Bangladeshi immigrant experience in Toronto. Set primarily in a Bengali neighbourhood in the Scarborough/East York Area, the stories are inspired by her own lived experience as an immigrant, as well as the work she does in her community as a lawyer. Silmy provides legal services to low-income South Asian clients in Ontario, many of whom are newcomers. Her practice focuses on the intersection of immigration, poverty and gender-based violence. She is a passionate advocate who has spoken on

important human rights issues on numerous platforms, including community workshops, mainstream media, the Parliament of Canada and conferences in Canada and overseas.

**12:15 PM – 1:15 PM EST**

**Exhibitor Presentations and Poster Presentations**

**1:15 PM – 2:30 PM EST**

**Plenary: Envisioning Immigration and Settlement in Canada in a Post-Pandemic Era**

- Corinne Prince, Director General, Settlement and Integration Policy, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
- Keith Neuman, Senior Associate, Environics Institute
- Kathy Sherrell, Director, Settlement Services, Immigrant Services Society of BC
- TBD

**2:30 PM – 3:00 PM EST**

**Exhibitor Presentations**

**3:00 PM – 4:15 PM EST**

**Concurrent Workshops**

**4:15 PM – 4:45 PM EST**

**Closing Remarks and Poster Awards**

**Day 3 – November 10, 2021**

**P2P Conference for Local Immigration Partnerships and Réseaux en immigration francophone**

**11:00 AM – 11:15 AM EST**

**Welcome and Opening Remarks**

**11:15 AM – 12:15 PM EST**

**Plenary: Representing Our Communities: Ensuring Diversity and Inclusion Within LIP and RIF Structures**

**12:15 PM – 1:00 PM EST**

**Break: Time for Networking and Visiting Exhibitors and Posters**

**1:00 PM – 1:45 PM EST**

**Concurrent Workshops**

**2:00 PM – 3:00 PM EST**

**Plenary: The Role of LIPs and RIFs in Responding to the Afghani Refugee Crisis**

**3:15 PM – 4:00 PM EST**

**Concurrent Workshops**

**4:15 PM – 4:30 PM EST**

**Closing Remarks**