



**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**

- ◆ **Canada's Islamophobia problem: What can be done?**  
Steven Zhou, Journalist and Author
- ◆ Minelle Mahtani, Brenda and David McLean Chair of Canadian Studies, University of British Columbia
- ◆ Kenneth Fung, Clinical Director, Asian Initiative in Mental Health, University Health Network

**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**

- ◆ Oliver Kamau, Manager for Settlement Services, Edmonton Immigrant Services Association
- ◆ **Building Safe Spaces for Intercultural Understanding between Newcomers and Indigenous People**  
Jess Hamm, Executive Director, Saskatchewan Intercultural Association
- ◆ **Navigating Immigrant-Indigenous Relations in Canada – A New Way Forward**  
Anthony Olusola, Executive Director, Truly Alive Youth and Family Foundation

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
- ◆ **Canada as the Successful Immigrant Nation: Can We Make it Last?**  
Keith Neuman, Senior Associate, Environics Institute
- ◆ **Navigating a New Path in a Hybrid World: Reflections on Immigration and Settlement Services**  
Kathy Sherrell, Director, Settlement Services, Immigrant Services Society of BC

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

**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**

- ◆ Sarah Wayland, Hamilton Immigration Partnership
- ◆ Leyla Cherif, La Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique

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**

1. Next Steps in Our Anti-Discrimination Work: Taking the Results of Discrimination Surveys and Putting Them Into Action
2. The Role of LIPs and RIFs in Responding to the Afghani Refugee Crisis
3. What LIPs and RIFs Can Do to Support Newcomer Entrepreneurship and Employment

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM EST

**Plenary: LIPs and RIFs as Knowledge Mobilizers**

3:15 PM – 4:00 PM EST

**Concurrent Workshops**

1. How to Ensure that LIPs and RIFs Reach a Broad Audience to Increase Impact
2. The Role of LIPs and RIFs in Coordinating Information and Access to Services for Temporary Residents
3. Human Connections Workshop

4:15 PM – 4:30 PM EST

**Closing Remarks**