



## 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

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM EST

##### Welcome and Opening Remarks

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

11:30 AM – 12:45 PM EST

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

Chair: Ahmad Majid, Executive Director, Saskatchewan Association of Immigrant Settlement and Integration Agencies

Racism and Islamophobia are wicked problems that require multi-pronged solutions enacted at all levels of society. Their elimination is an aspirational long-term goal, with many steps along the way. An important step is to acknowledge that they exist and then to consider the myriad changes that will be required in both the short- and long-term to ultimately defeat racism and Islamophobia in our society and eliminate their negative impacts. In this plenary we will proceed on this journey through a discussion of the nature and context of racism and Islamophobia in Canada today, on-the-ground strategies for change, and systemic policies and practices that must be dismantled in order to achieve our ultimate goal.

- ◆ **Canada's Islamophobia Problem: What Can Be Done?**

Steven Zhou, Journalist and Author

- ◆ **Asking Anti-Colonial Questions: My Work in Radio, Storytelling and Confronting Racism**

Minelle Mahtani, Brenda and David McLean Chair of Canadian Studies, University of British Columbia

- ◆ **Standing Together: Anti-Racism and Mental Health Promotion**

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**

Chair: Nancy Clark, Assistant Professor, University of Victoria

Those who have attended previous Pathways to Prosperity National Conferences will know that for a number of years we have recognized the importance of fostering positive relations between Indigenous Peoples and immigrants in Canada, and have discussed strategies for doing so. Some progress has been made in this regard and in this panel we return to a discussion of the actions that can be taken to support immigrant-Indigenous relations in Canada and present some examples of success. Our goal is to learn from the work that is being conducted in this area and to support individuals and organizations as they strive to develop their own strategies for promoting increased understanding and collaboration between Indigenous Peoples and immigrants as they move toward a shared future.

- ◆ **Becoming Allies: Enhancing Cultural Understanding between Indigenous and Newcomer Youth in Canada**  
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

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

3:30 PM – 4:45 PM EST

**Concurrent Workshops**

1. **IRCC Research Insights**  
(In English)  
Chair: Cédric de Chardon, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)
2. **Socio-Geographic Perspectives on the Demographic Diversification of Minority Francophone Communities (CFSM)**  
(In French)  
Chair: Luisa Veronis, University of Ottawa

3. **The Powerful Role of Social Media in Resettlement**  
(In English)  
Chair: Leah Hamilton, Mount Royal University
4. **The COVID Cohort of Immigrants: Tackling Settlement and Employment Challenges**  
(In English)  
Chair: Yilmaz Dinc, The Conference Board of Canada
5. **A Gender-Based Violence Settlement Sector Strategy - Working Together Across Canada**  
(In English)  
Chair: TBD
6. **Advancing a National IEHP Integration Strategy**  
(In English)  
Chair: Joan Atlin, World Education Services Canada
7. **Sharing Our Cultures Social Enterprise: Impactful Gifts**  
(In English - TBC)  
Chair: Maggie Peyton, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

**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**

Chair: Debbie Douglas, Executive Director, Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants

While we are not quite there, the post-pandemic era is approaching, and immigration will be central to a successful recovery. This session will explore what immigration and settlement are likely to / should look like post-pandemic, and what we can do to harness immigration for a prosperous Canadian future. The presenters in this session will not only talk about what we know about immigration and settlement in Canada now and what we have learned during the pandemic, but will be creative in anticipating what future policies and programs in Canada could look like to optimize the benefits for newcomers and established Canadians alike.

#### ◆ Title TBD

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

◆ **Title TBD**

Patricia Roset-Zuppa, Vice President, Policy, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)

◆ **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**

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

**3:00 PM – 4:15 PM EST**

**Concurrent Workshops**

1. **Overview and Examples of IRCC's Anti-Racism Activities: Views from the Department, the Settlement Program, and the Sector**

(In English)

Chair: Tracey Donaldson, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)

2. **French-Speaking Immigrant Attraction and Retention**

(In French)

Chair: Aurélie Lacassagne, University of Ottawa

3. **Volunteer Engagement Within the Digital Settlement Context**

(In English)

Chair: Andrew Lusztyk, Together Project

4. **Employer Engagement in Employment Services for Racialized Newcomer Women**

(In English)

Chair: Lindsay Alves, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)

5. **Newcomer Navigation from Coast to Coast during a Dual Pandemic: Key Findings from a Pan-Canadian Needs Assessment**

(In English)

Chair: Mariah Maddock, N4 - Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO)

6. **Language Training for Employment**

(In English)

Chair: Tresanna Hassanally, Colleges and Institutes Canada

7. **Where Are the Homes? Welcoming Newcomers to Small and Rural Communities**

(In English)

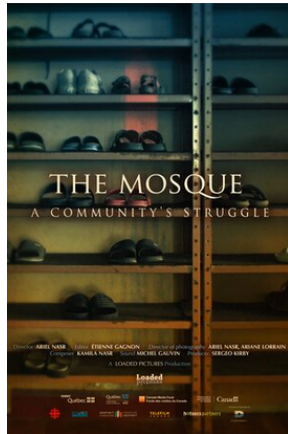
Chair: Natalya R. Brown, Nipissing University

4:15 PM – 4:45 PM EST

**Poster Awards**

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM EST

**Screening of the Documentary, The Mosque: A Community's Struggle  
Q and A with the Producer, Director, and Documentary Interviewees**



The story of the Quebec Mosque Shooting is known around the world, but the story of the community that survived the attack is all but unknown. The Mosque: A Community's Struggle is an intimate portrait of the resilient Muslim community of Sainte-Foy, Quebec as they struggle to survive and shift the narrative of what it means to be a Muslim, one year after the devastating attack that took the lives of six of their members. As the world moves on, this small mosque and its community fight Islamophobia, harassment and hate speech. How will the community heal and how will they stop the rhetoric that threatens to precipitate further violence?

**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 LIPs and RIF**

In order to be most effective, the composition and operation of LIPs and RIF must reflect and fully include the diversity of the communities that they represent. Purposeful action is required to do so, rather than assuming that this will occur “naturally.” The speakers in this plenary will discuss guidelines and strategies that they have put into place to achieve both diversity and inclusion within their structures, and consider how these may be adapted to other LIP and RIF contexts and communities.

- ◆ Sarah Wayland, Senior Project Manager, Hamilton Immigration Partnership
- ◆ Leyla Cherif, Coordinator, Community Development, La Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique
- ◆ Mariam Bilgrami, Coordinator, Surrey Local Immigration Partnership

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 RIF in Responding to the Afghani Refugee Crisis
3. What LIPs and RIF Can Do to Support Newcomer Entrepreneurship and Employment

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM EST

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

One important function of LIPs and RIF is knowledge mobilization – effectively synthesizing and disseminating useful information to service providers, immigrants, and the community at large. This plenary focuses on strategies that have been undertaken to fulfill this role, and the multiple means that must be employed in order to target particular knowledge users and audiences. Presenters will discuss the goals of their knowledge mobilization actions, the strategies that they have utilized to achieve these goals, what has been found to be effective, and pitfalls to avoid.

- ◆ Monica Champagne, Project Coordinator, Windsor Essex Local Immigration Partnership
- ◆ Melanie Bailey, Project Coordinator, Prince Edward Island Immigration Partnership

3:15 PM – 4:00 PM EST

**Concurrent Workshops**

1. How to Ensure that LIPs and RIF Reach a Broad Audience to Increase Impact
2. The Role of LIPs and RIF in Coordinating Information and Access to Services for Temporary Residents
3. Human Connections Workshop  
Peter Bombaci, Founder, Genwell Project

4:15 PM – 4:30 PM EST

**Closing Remarks**

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