

# Canadian Immigration Summit

May 17, 2023



## Agenda

### Day 1 / May 17, 2023

8:00 a.m. [Registration and Breakfast](#)

9:00 a.m. [Welcome Remarks](#)

9:15 a.m. [Keynote](#)

**Dr. Aali Alizadeh**, CTO, Giatec and Adjunct Professor, University of Ottawa

Aali came to Canada in 2005 as an international student to pursue his PhD studies at the University of Ottawa. After graduation, he co-founded Giatec in 2010 with a passion to bridge the gap between academia and construction industry. In this talk, Aali will share his story of bootstrapping a tech startup, and the lessons learned in building a diverse team of 130 employees and a global company in concrete sustainability.

9:45 a.m. [Plenary Panel](#)

Moderator:

**Magdalene Cooman**, Senior Research Associate, The Conference Board of Canada

Speakers:

**Noel Baldwin**, Director, Government and Public Affairs, Future Skills Centre

**Dorra Gdoura**, Assistant Director, Adult Career Transition Centre, La Cité

**Arif Khimani**, President & COO, MobSquad

10:15 a.m. [Break](#)

10:30 a.m. [Sessions A1 / B1 / C1: Defining the Problem](#)

Your session champion(s) and/or a top expert in the field will introduce the theme and identify the current state of knowledge using a mix of research and lived experience. Through a presentation and Q&A format, this session will answer the following key questions: What do we know today? How is the issue impacting immigrants and Canadians? Where is more data and evidence needed? By advancing our understanding of the problem, we will prepare to workshop ways forward in subsequent sessions.

### **A1 Theme: Temporary Immigration and Pathways to Permanent Residence**

This theme will examine the consequences of a growing temporary residence program and why they matter. Discussions will explore the current availability of pathways to permanent residence and the impacts of these policies on newcomers.

Speakers:

**Naomi Alboim**, Senior Policy Fellow, Canada Excellence Research Chair in Migration and Integration (CERC), Toronto Metropolitan University

**Session Champion: Rupa Banerjee**, Canada Research Chair in Immigrant Inclusion and Associate Professor of Human Resource Management

**Kathryn Dennler**, Research Associate, The Conference Board Of Canada

**Shafiu Maznabin**, Senior Data Service Representative, The Canadian Institute (C5 Group Inc.)

**Session Champion: Armine Yalnizyan**, Economist and Atkinson Fellow on the Future of Workers, Atkinson Foundation

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## **B1 Theme: Resettling Refugees for the Long Term – The Role of Employment**

This theme brings together refugee resettlement experts, employers, settlement service providers, and refugees to share their experiences and challenges with employment opportunities and best practices in long-term resettlement.

Speakers:

**Anita Carroll**, SVP, Corporate and Stakeholder Engagement, ACCES Employment

**Julie Clark**, Senior Director, International Network, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

**Session Champion: John Biles**, Acting Senior Director Settlement Network Resettlement Operations Directorate, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

**Fariborz Birjandian**, Emeritus CEO, Calgary Catholic Immigration Society and Co-chair, National Afghanistan Resettlement Steering Committee

**Rema Jamous Imseis**, Representative to Canada, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

**Reza Mohammadi**, Talent Acquisition Coordinator, Carleton University

**Lori Wilkinson**, Professor of Sociology at the University of Manitoba

## **C1 Theme: Enhancing Employers' Capacity to Assess Skills, Experience, and Education Acquired Abroad**

This theme will explore the strategies that employers may leverage when recruiting and hiring to ensure they can better match immigrants' skills and credentials with jobs.

Speakers:

**Kristi Clark**, Human Resource Manager, GIATEC

**Session Champion: Shamira Madhany**, Managing Director, Canada and Deputy Executive Director, World Education Services (WES)

**Session Champion: Corinne Pohlmann**, Senior Vice President, National Affairs and Partnerships for the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB)

**Mehdi El Saadaoui**, Senior Program Advisor, Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC)

12:00 p.m. [Lunch](#)

1:00 p.m. [Sessions A2 / B2 / C2: Workshopping Solutions](#)

Building on the previous session, participants will work together with champions and facilitators to co-create and workshop solutions that address the problems identified in the first session. Facilitators will use interactive techniques including brainstorming, small group discussions, and design thinking to address systemic issues related to the session theme.

## **A2 Theme: Temporary Immigration and Pathways to Permanent Residence**

Speakers:

**Session Champion: Rupa Banerjee**, Canada Research Chair in Immigrant Inclusion and Associate Professor of Human Resource Management

**Session Champion: Armine Yalnizyan**, Economist and Atkinson Fellow on the Future of Workers, Atkinson Foundation

## **B2 Theme: Resettling Refugees for the Long Term – The Role of Employment**

Speakers:

**Session Champion: John Biles**, Acting Senior Director Settlement Network Resettlement Operations Directorate, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

**Lisa Bokwa**, Senior Director, Resettlement Policy, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

**Julie Clark**, Senior Director, International Network, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

**Dr. Wendy Cukier**, Founder & Academic Director of the Diversity Institute, Academic Director of the Women Entrepreneurship Hub, and Research Lead of the Future Skills Centre

**Tommy Desfosses**, Director Of Corporate Operations, PAL Airlines

## **C2 Theme: Enhancing Employers' Capacity to Assess Skills, Experience, and Education Acquired Abroad**

Speakers:

**Daniel Cervan-Gil**, Associate Director, Employer Initiatives, World Education Services (WES)

**Beth Clarke**, Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships, World Education Services (WES)

**Session Champion: Shamira Madhany**, Managing Director, Canada and Deputy Executive Director, World Education Services (WES)

**Session Champion: Corinne Pohlmann**, Senior Vice President, National Affairs and Partnerships for the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB)

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3:00 p.m. Break

3:15 p.m. Sessions A3 / B3 / C3: Reflection and Action

Following the workshopping session, facilitators will lead a discussion within each theme to share what champions and participants have learned and how they can put their new knowledge and connections into action. Participants will also share the insights and solutions they have garnered from the previous two sessions.

## **A3 Theme: Temporary Immigration and Pathways to Permanent Residence**

Speakers:

**Session Champion: Rupa Banerjee**, Canada Research Chair in Immigrant Inclusion and Associate Professor of Human Resource Management

**Session Champion: Armine Yalnizyan**, Economist and Atkinson Fellow on the Future of Workers, Atkinson Foundation

## **B3 Theme: Resettling Refugees for the Long Term – The Role of Employment**

Speakers:

**Session Champion: John Biles**, Acting Senior Director Settlement Network Resettlement Operations Directorate, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

**Fariborz Birjandian**, Emeritus CEO, Calgary Catholic Immigration Society and Co-chair, National Afghanistan Resettlement Steering Committee

## **C3 Theme: Enhancing Employers' Capacity to Assess Skills, Experience, and Education Acquired Abroad**

Speakers:

**Henry Akanko**, Executive Director, Hire Immigrants Ottawa

**Daniel Cervan-Gil**, Associate Director, Employer Initiatives, World Education Services (WES)

**Session Champion: Shamira Madhany**, Managing Director, Canada and Deputy Executive Director, World Education Services (WES)

**Session Champion: Corinne Pohlmann**, Senior Vice President, National Affairs and Partnerships for the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB)

4:00 p.m. Break

4:15 p.m. Closing Plenary

Speakers:

**The Honourable Sean Fraser**, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

5:00 p.m. Networking Reception