

Immigration Summit

May 24–26, 2022

Agenda

Day 1 / May 24, 2022

11:30 a.m. [Welcome Remarks and Keynote](#)

Lessons from Crisis: Reimagining Canada's Immigration System

Elder:

Vera Pawis Tabobondung, Senator,
National Association of Friendship Centres

Speakers:

Arif Khimani, President & COO MobSquad

Claudia Hepburn, CEO of Windmill Microlending

Lisa Lalande, CEO, Century Initiative

Iain Reeve, Associate Director, Immigration Research,
The Conference Board of Canada

In recent years, the worldwide pandemic and humanitarian crises in Afghanistan, Ukraine, and elsewhere have forced Canada's immigration system to change quickly and dramatically. Some of these changes will necessarily be temporary, but others may be instructive, helping to open our minds to new imaginings of immigrant selection and settlement systems. Iain Reeve will follow the threads from recent adaptations to future possibilities and outline the steps that will be required to realize a more innovative, resilient, and responsive immigration system.

12:45 p.m. [Break](#)

1:00 p.m. [Fireside Chat](#)

Aligning Immigration with Indigenous Reconciliation

Moderator:

Stefan Fournier, Director, Indigenous and Northern Communities, The Conference Board of Canada

Speakers:

Ranjan Datta, PhD, Canada Research Chair II,
Community Disaster Research Indigenous Studies,
Department of Humanities, Mount Royal University
Norm Leech, Executive Director, Vancouver Aboriginal
Community Policing Centre

Susan Tatoosh, Executive Director, Vancouver
Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society

The linkages and tensions between immigration and Indigenous reconciliation have not been sufficiently explored within Canada's immigration system. This session examines opportunities to introduce newcomers to the histories and contemporary realities of Indigenous peoples in Canada and forge relationships between groups that advance Indigenous reconciliation.

2:00 p.m. [Break](#)

2:15 p.m. [Concurrent Sessions A1](#)

Enhancing International Student Education

Moderator:

Olga Stachova, Chief Executive Officer, MOSAIC

Speakers:

Sara Asalya, Founder and Executive Director,
Newcomer Students' Association

Sutama Ghosh, Associate Professor, Ryerson University

Ann H Kim, Associate Professor of Sociology,
York University

Agenda

Day 1 / May 24, 2022 (cont'd)

Lack of alignment between the goals of international students, post-secondary institutions, and immigration policies may work against international student success. For example, students may not receive the support they need to integrate into the labour market. Drawing on academic research and the lived experience of students, this session examines the immigration system for international students in Canada.

2:15 p.m. [Concurrent Sessions A2](#) **Preparing Newcomers for Life in Canada**

Moderator:
John Shields, Professor, Department of Politics and Public Administration, Toronto Metropolitan University

Speakers:
Sue Sadler, SVP, Services & Program Innovation
Iona Santos-Fresnoza, Program Manager, FAST, Immigrant Employment Council of BC
Jeremy Ferwerda, Assistant Professor of Government at Dartmouth College
Cameron Moser, Director of Services and Program Development

Pre-arrival services provide critical information to set newcomers up for success, including guidance on settlement destinations, employment advice, and help building community linkages. This session will explore how pre-arrival services operate for newcomers across all three immigration streams and examine how these services should evolve as Canada aims to broaden its potential pool of permanent residents.

3:15 p.m. [Break](#)

3:45 p.m. [Plenary Panel](#) **Examining Sector Reliance on Temporary Foreign Workers**

Moderator:
Patrick MacKenzie, CEO of the Immigrant Employment Council of BC

Speakers:
Olivier Bourbeau, Government Relations VP for Federal and Quebec at Restaurants Canada
Janet Krayden, Workforce Specialist, Crystal Clear Connections
Armine Yanlizyan, Economist and Atkinson Fellow on the Future of Workers, Atkinson Foundation

Temporary foreign workers play a prominent role in sectors such as agriculture, accommodation, and food services. Yet they also face vulnerabilities like low wages, which may discourage other workers in Canada. What role should immigration play in these sectors, and how does reliance on immigration shape working conditions and sector resiliency?

4:45 p.m. [Adjourn](#)

Agenda

Day 2 / May 25, 2022

11:30 a.m. [Plenary Panel](#)

Moderator:
Beth Clarke, Senior Director, Strategic Partnership, World Education Services

Speakers:
Philip Mondor, President & CEO, Tourism HR Canada
Corinne Pohlmann, Senior Vice-President, National Affairs and Partnerships, Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB)
Veronica Rossini, Director of Marketing and Communications at Tent

Addressing Labour Shortages Through Immigration

With acute labour shortages in multiple sectors, Canada needs newcomers' skills. New immigrants bring their knowledge, experience, and creativity to Canada, but too often their talent is overlooked. Business and workforce development leaders will talk about how we can effectively leverage immigration to meet labour needs and realize the full potential of the immigrant workforce.

12:30 p.m. [Break](#)

Agenda

Day 2 / May 25, 2022 (cont'd)

12:45 p.m. [Keynote](#)

Keynote with Minister Sean Fraser

Moderator:

Iain Reeve, Associate Director, Immigration Research, The Conference Board of Canada

Speaker:

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

Please join the Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, for a conversation about how welcoming more newcomers will help Canada's pandemic recovery and address our labour shortage. He will also discuss the importance of a Team Canada approach in welcoming the world's most vulnerable, particularly those from Afghanistan and Ukraine.

1:45 p.m. [Break](#)

2:15 p.m. [Plenary Panel](#)

Building Secure Futures for Displaced Workers

Speakers:

Mustafa Alio, Managing Director, Refugees Seeking Equal Access at the Table (R-SEAT)

Steph Cousins, Global CEO at Talent Beyond Boundaries

Tom Kaneb, Entrepreneur and Investor in manufacturing and technology businesses in eastern Canada

Cosmina Morariu, Director, Fragomen Canada

Right now, there are over 80 million displaced people in the world. While almost half of them are of working age, most are stuck in countries where they cannot legally work, making their futures uncertain. At the same time, the global economy is experiencing an acute worker shortage in some sectors and occupations, with vacancies at record levels.

Governments, employers, and refugee-serving organizations are working together to help forcibly displaced people find secure futures based on their skills. When they succeed, everyone benefits: displaced people develop sustainable livelihoods, employers gain talented employees, and countries can better meet their labour needs while helping to alleviate the global refugee crisis.

This panel discussion will focus on lessons learned and best practices in global displaced talent mobility.

3:15 p.m. [Break](#)

3:45 p.m. [Concurrent Session C1](#)

Immigrant Perspectives on Essential Work

Moderator:

Marie-Solange Evehe Bebandoue, PhD, Coordinator, Retail Training Program, Calgary Immigrant Women's Association

Speakers:

Jingle Ayupan, PSP - Personal Support Provider

Dr. Luca Salvador, President, Internationally Trained Dentists Association of Canada

Birgit Umaigba, ICU/ER Registered Nurse & Clinical Course Director, Centennial College

The pandemic demonstrated that certain sectors are essential to ensuring the health and well-being of people in Canada. It also brought attention to the over-representation of immigrants in many of those sectors and their working conditions. This session is an opportunity for immigrants working in essential sectors to share their perspectives on Canada's immigration system and the role of immigrants in the workplace.

3:45 p.m. [Concurrent Session C2](#)

Boosting Regionalization Through Retention

Moderator:

Marco Campana, Freelance Communications Consultant

Speakers:

Kathryn Dennler, Research Associate, The Conference Board of Canada,

Mohammad Mousa, Programme Officer for Social Sciences, Humanities and Youth with the Canadian Commission for UNESCO

Brady Schnell, Economic Development Officer, Claresholm, Alberta

To realize the benefits of regionalization, communities must not only attract but also retain new immigrants. This session brings together research and experience about policies and practices that can support the retention of newcomers in small communities.

4:45 p.m. [Adjourn](#)

Agenda

Day 3 / May 26, 2022

11:30 a.m. [Plenary Panel](#)

Canada's Afghan Refugee Response

Moderator:

Mark Bigland-Pritchard, Migration & Resettlement Coordinator, Mennonite Central Committee Saskatchewan

Speakers:

Fariborz Birjandian, CEO, Calgary Catholic Immigration Society

John Biles, Acting Senior Director, IRCC

Adeena Niazi, Founder and Executive Director of Afghan Women Organization

The Honourable Ratna Omidvar, Senator for Ontario, The Senate of Canada

The Canadian government has committed to resettle Afghanis in need of protection after the Taliban retook control of Afghanistan. But resettlement has been fraught with challenges. This session examines the progress that has been made, the next steps, and how Canadian institutions have been supporting the refugee response.

12:30 p.m. [Plenary Short Session](#)

Deloitte Video

Immigration Summit Sponsor, Deloitte, shares with us perspectives on Canada's imperative toward immigration and refugee resettlements. Deloitte talks about how they look at making the Canadian economy more competitive and inclusive, and how immigration plays into these aspects.

12:45 p.m. [Break](#)

1:00 p.m. [Concurrent Session D1](#)

Employer Champions in Small Centres

Moderator:

Doug Piquette, Executive Director, ERIEC

Speakers:

Beth Clarke, Senior Director, Strategic Partnership, World Education Services

Denis Desjardins, Director of International Recruitment and Special Projects, Group Savoie

Chad Friesens, CEO, Friesens Corporation

Scott Marsden, Executive Director, Red Deer Museum

As small centres seek revitalization through immigration, it is important that local employers are engaged in welcoming immigrants as employees. In this session, early adopters discuss how they became engaged on the issue of immigration and the lessons they have learned along the way.

1:00 p.m. [Concurrent Session D2](#)

Planning Housing for the Future of Immigration

Moderator:

Zhixi C. Zhuang, Associate Professor, School of Urban and Regional Planning, Toronto Metropolitan University

Speakers:

Murtaza Haider, Professor, Data Science and Real Estate Management, Ryerson University

Brendon Ogmundson, Chief Economist, British Columbia Real Estate Association

Damaris Rose, Adjunct Professor of Urban Studies, INRS

Plans to increase Canada's population through immigration must be matched by investments in key infrastructure. With housing markets already under pressure, this session examines the steps that must be taken to ensure that Canadians are able to access appropriate and affordable housing in the future.

2:00 p.m. [Break](#)

2:30 p.m. [Concurrent Session E1](#)

Immigration in the North

Moderator:

Iain Reeve, Associate Director, The Conference Board of Canada

Speakers:

Ann Bowen, Labour Market Officer, Government of Yukon

Claudia Grill, Project Coordinator, Training to Employment

John Hunderson, President & CEO Det'on Cho Management LP

Malini Sengupta, Coordinator, Yellowknife Immigration Partnership

Canada's North is an emerging destination for newcomer settlement. Immigration to the North offers unique opportunities and challenges. In this session, diverse stakeholders come together to discuss current efforts to attract and support immigrants in the North.

2:30 p.m. [Concurrent Session E2](#)

Using Technology to Manage Migration

Moderator:

Nicholas Keung, Immigration Reporter, Toronto Star

Speakers:

Mark Holthe, Canadian Immigration Lawyer, Holthe Immigration Law

Lou Janssen Dangzalan, Founder, LJD Law

Petra Molnar, Migration and Tech Monitor Refugee Law Lab, Centre for Refugee Studies

Zeynab Ziaie, Ziaie PC, Barristers & Solicitors

Agenda

Day 3 / May 26, 2022 (cont'd)

Technology could help Canada tackle its immigration backlog and streamline and digitalize application processing. However, technologies such as artificial intelligence come with risks of bias and discrimination. Learn how technology is already being used or developed for immigration processing and what must be done to minimize the risks.

3:30 p.m. [Break](#)

3:45 p.m. [Fireside Chat](#)

A Renewed Vision for the Canadian Immigration System

Moderator:

Yilmaz Dinc, Senior Research Associate,
The Conference Board of Canada

Speakers:

Debbie Douglas, Executive Director, OCASI

Shamira Madhany, Managing Director and Deputy
Executive Director, World Education Services Canada

Ben Rempel, Former Assistant Deputy Minister,
Manitoba Immigration

Elder:

Vera Pawis Tabobondung, Senator, National Association
of Friendship Centres

How can Canada match its bold planned immigration levels with a bold vision for the future of admission and settlement? How can we advance economic and social inclusion and help immigrants thrive in their new home? In this session, thought leaders will share their perspectives on how immigration and settlement systems can be transformed through innovation, design thinking, and a renewed focus on equitable outcomes.

4:45 p.m. [Closing Remarks](#)