



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

"THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON IMMIGRATION, INTEGRATION AND SETTLEMENT IN CANADA "

*The COVID-19 Social Impacts Network and Metropolis Canada will be holding a virtual Summit on **November 12 and 13th, 2020.***

The veritable reshaping of Canada's economy and society as a result of the COVID-19/ Corona virus pandemic has had a profound impact on international immigration. Since the outbreak of the contagion there has been a considerable decline in the numbers of immigrants coming to Canada. Rising unemployment, declining income, mental health challenges and uneven access to health care are amongst a myriad of issues confronting immigrant service providers and policy-makers across the country. The border between Canada and the United States is closed and the Safe Third Country Agreement is under review. The reunification of families, the admission of refugees, and the recruitment of economic migrants is all in flux. And there is considerable empirical evidence pointing to the uneven economic and health impacts on newcomers arising from the contagion. Racial inequality has emerged to the very centre of concern as we collectively address the effects of the contagion. Alongside the virus is the increased awareness of institutional and systemic racism that combine with other inequalities to make the experience of the virus and participating in the social protection measures more difficult and dangerous for some Canadians.

On the ground, settlement services have found new ways to strengthen service delivery to meet the emerging needs of newcomer communities. New priorities, directions and partnerships have formed and new voices are being centered as we strive towards achieving authentic and lasting social equity. Opportunities for renewing Canada's commitment to immigration have emerged, and questions around the sustainability of Canada's complex migration policies have been highlighted. More than ever, it is critical for service providers, researchers and policymakers to work together to identify solutions. With this objective in mind, on **November 12 and 13th, 2020**, the COVID-19 Social Impacts Network, Metropolis Canada will be holding a virtual summit on the critical issues confronting Canadians.

SUBMIT A PROPOSAL:

We're inviting a limited number of workshop proposals to be submitted with a particular focus on recommendations aimed at addressing the many challenges in the area of immigration, integration and settlement and ideally employing evidenced-based presentations in response to the ongoing crisis.



Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada

SESSION FORMATS:

- **Workshops (60 minutes)**

Workshops will usually consist of a minimum of two to a maximum of three presentations of approximately 10-15 mins each followed by discussion. Workshop organizers will preside over the session or designate another individual to do so.

- **Roundtables (60 minutes)**

The roundtable format is suitable for more informal discussions of emerging issues or controversies. It is a very effective format for the exchange of information and experiences among a relatively small number of people. The organizer or designated person chairs the virtual roundtable with other discussants.

- **Poster Sessions**

Virtual Poster sessions provide an alternative format through which conference participants can share research which has not been otherwise presented. Posters should provide some conclusive results, even if preliminary.

*If you are interested in presenting a paper, we strongly encourage you to solicit colleagues from your area of expertise in order to submit a workshop proposal. If you do not have the time or the contacts to put together a workshop proposal but you are still interested in presenting your paper, please consider selecting a "poster presentation option" format when prompted.

IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER:

In order to open as many opportunities as possible for the most participants, we ask that:

- Organizers promote the participation of as many different presenters as possible;
- Participants may organize more than one session but on different topics;
- An organizer can choose to participate in additional workshops as a chair, participant or discussant;
- Each person listed as an organizer, participant, chair or discussant in a workshop must register to the virtual conference either as a day or full conference participant and pay the applicable registration fees. Please inform your presenters of this requirement when inviting them to participate in your workshop.



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EXAMPLES OF CONFERENCE THEMES:

Workshop topics include but are not limited to the following:

- How best to make the case for restoring immigration levels?
- Newcomer's complex relationship to Canada's economy – what is Covid-19 revealing?
- Newcomers access to Canada's health care system and health information in the time of Covid-19 – access, equity and new possibilities.
- Newcomers and mental health and wellbeing – what are the lessons learned for policy, practice and resource distribution.
- How can newcomers best deal with the challenges associated with caregiving?
- How has Covid-19 helped the settlement sector to become more resilient?
- What is a resilient not for profit organization – how do NPOs support staff, change their operating environments and mitigate risk in the time of a pandemic
- The short, medium and long term impacts of Covid-19 on immigration / settlement sector / society. What can we do now to mitigate risks.
- How have people with various immigration statuses fared differently in the time of Covid-19. What does this mean for policy, practice and future research.
- Racism and racial equity – what are the lessons to be learned for the role settlement sector?
- The question of race based data – what does this mean for the settlement sector?
- How best to maximize assistance to refugees?
- How to address the challenges facing international students?
- How best to support family reunification?
- What needs to be done to secure the Canada-US safe 3rd country agreement
- What conditions are needed for safe cross border migration?

The Summit will feature include a number of workshops highlighting the most recent findings from the Canadian Index for Measuring Integration.

The Summit will also feature workshops with results from the CIHR's Canada United Mexico project entitled COVID 19's differential impact on Indigenous Peoples and Newcomers: A socioeconomic analysis of Canada, United States and Mexico (Project number: 2020-448105.).

The COVID-19 Social Impacts Network, an initiative of ACS - Metropolis, Immigration Research West, the Vanier Institute and CCUNESCO is a multidisciplinary network of the country's leading researchers and statisticians dedicated to monitoring the responses of Canadians to the COVID-19 pandemic in real-time with the goal of understanding the impact that COVID-19 will have on the Canadian public.

