

Canada's Immigration and Refugee Goals: Connecting Policy and Practice in Saskatchewan. A multisectoral dialogue

<https://sask-immigration.eventbrite.ca>

FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 2018: 9:00AM – 4:00PM

Diefenbaker Canada Centre

*** Space is limited – please pre-register ***

CIC-Saskatoon hosts its first all-day event in well over a decade, this one an examination of Canada's immigration and refugee policy. We hope you can join us for the event.

Immigration is recognized by most as being crucial for a growing economy. Many people regard refugee resettlement as an international human rights issue, an important part of what makes Canada stand tall in the world. Governments put a great deal of thought and consideration into "how many people to let in?", "who do we let in?", and "how should we help people who come in?". Thousands of hours of effort are put in by resettlement agencies and individuals to help people who arrive here to get on their feet and become connected to the community.

But regions are very different. Saskatoon – and similar and smaller cities – have special circumstances, unique to their economies, and infrastructure aspects different from the major centres. What are the challenges to resettlement in a place like Saskatoon, and what are our special talents? How can we do a better job at resettlement, and what can we teach other locations? Join us for a series of discussions with local experts and stakeholders as we examine made-in-Saskatchewan practices we need for immigration success. We welcome your voice in these discussions.

Speakers at this event include:

- Ali Akubar - Saskatoon Open Door Society, a comprehensive immigrant and refugee settlement agency
- Alan Anderson - Saskatoon Open Door Society, Global Gathering Place, Saskatoon Refugee Coalition
- Charlie Clark - Mayor of Saskatoon
- Joe Garcea - Professor of Political Studies, researcher on immigrant integration in Saskatoon
- Rob Norris - Senior Strategist for Partnerships, U of S, and a past Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration in the Government of Saskatchewan
- Melanie Baerg - Global Gathering Place, an active immigrant and refugee settlement agency
- Bill Rafoss - Chair of the National Board of Amnesty International – Canada
- Asit Sarkar - President of the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan.
- Helen Smith-McIntyre - chair, Saskatoon Refugee Coalition and Saskatoon branch of Amnesty International-Canada
- and others as we approach March 9

At three weeks before the event, we are **more than half sold out**. If such an event is of interest to you, please pre-register at our Eventbrite site. The event is free, and lunch is provided.

For more information, contact Dan.Sutherland@canada.ca or the website
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AGENDA

(subject to change; consult Eventbrite site for most up-to-date information)

9:00 **Introduction: Welcome and Overview**

9:15 **Session 1: Canadian Immigration and Refugee Policy and Saskatchewan**

Plenary address and discussants

10:30 **Break**

10:45 **Session 2: Misconceptions and Challenges in Immigration and Refugee Policy**

Is there an optimal number? Do immigrants compete with Canadians for jobs? What role should recruitment of foreign workers play? Are human concerns for refugees being turned into security issues? What should be the Canadian response to international refugee crises? What could be learned from the European experience?

Panel discussion

12:00 **Lunch Break**

Keynote: "Immigration and the City's Future"

13:15 **Session 3: Implementing Canadian Immigration/Refugee Policy: Strategic Issues**

What are the challenges faced by settlement agencies – particularly language, employment, accommodations services? How realistic are settlement expectations for immigrants and refugees? How could assistance to government and private refugee sponsors be improved?

Panel discussion

14:30 **Break**

14:45 **Session 4: Charting an Immigration Policy Success Path for Saskatchewan**

While Canada's immigration policy has national goals and objectives, its success at the provincial and community levels depends on how well these policy goals respond to the economic and social needs at the local levels and their implementation process generates buy-ins from different community stakeholders. This session focuses on these pathways, potential stakeholder and how the community needs would be impacted.

- Immigrants collaborating in Indigenous Economic Development
- Immigrants as drivers of innovation
- Immigrants as drivers of the local economy
- Cultivating international learners as future immigrants

Panel discussion

16:00 **Conclusion/Review**

The Canadian International Council wishes to thank all for their support of this event, including:

Carin Holroyd – Ken Coates – Peter Phillips

Centre for the Study of Science and Innovation Policy

Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy

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