

THE 8TH METROPOLIS IDENTITIES SUMMIT

*LE 8E SOMMET METROPOLIS
SUR LES IDENTITÉS*

**REAFFIRMING CANADA:
CONFRONTING CHALLENGES TO
UNITY, DIVERSITY AND
IDENTITIES**

*RÉAFFIRMER LE CANADA : RELEVER
LES DÉFIS DE L'UNITÉ, DE LA
DIVERSITÉ ET DES IDENTITÉS*

OCTOBER 29-30
DU 29 AU 30 OCTOBRE

2025

**PROGRAM
PROGRAMME**

WIFI:
Metropolis Identities
PASSWORD:
Saskatoon 2025

**DELTA HOTEL BY
MARRIOTT
SASKATOON
DOWNTOWN,
SASKATCHEWAN**



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www.metropolisconference.ca

Block A / Bloc A**A2 - Workshop - Panel Presentation /
Atelier - Présentation en panel**Shakespeare Room,
3rd Floor**Tailored Attraction, Integration, and Retention Strategies for Northern Ecosystems (TAIGA RISE)**

Tailored Attraction, Integration, and Retention Strategies for Northern Ecosystems (TAIGA RISE) is a three-year project responding to demographic shifts in Northern Alberta and the Northwest Territories through a citizen science research approach. Amid population decline and slow immigration growth, these regions face challenges in welcoming and supporting newcomers. TAIGA RISE will co-develop community-driven strategies to strengthen local capacity in attracting, integrating, and retaining immigrants—helping these communities meet labour needs, support newcomer inclusion, and improve long-term settlement outcomes.

- **Fatemeh Kazemi**, The Immigrant Education Society
- **Annisha Plesche**, The Immigrant Education Society

Block A / Bloc A**A3 - Workshop - Panel Presentation /
Atelier - Présentation en panel**Michelangelo Ballroom,
Convention Level**Inclusive Civic Engagement: Exploring Permanent Resident Voting Rights in Saskatoon**

Saskatoon's growing diversity is reshaping our city's social, cultural, and economic fabric. Yet thousands of permanent residents — who contribute daily to the vitality of our communities — are excluded from participating in municipal elections. Our community-based research project, conducted in collaboration with Saskatoon Open Door Society, the City of Saskatoon, and the University of Saskatchewan, examined the perspectives of permanent residents and local leaders on the possibility of granting municipal voting rights to permanent residents. We will talk about findings from our research and place them in the broader context of trends on immigrant and refugee voting rights and highlight the innovative, cross-sector partnership.

- Moderator: **April Sora**, City of Saskatoon
- **Monica Hwang**, St. Thomas More College
- **Charlie Clark**, former Mayor of Saskatoon
- **Ali Abukar**, Saskatoon Open Door Society

2025 AAISA Settlement & Integration Conference

*Navigating Change: Immigration Policy,
Perceptions, and the Road Ahead*

FINAL PROGRAM

October 28-30, 2025

*Wyndham Edmonton Hotel and Conference Centre,
Edmonton, Alberta*

Tailored Attraction, Integration, and Retention Strategies for Northern Ecosystems (TAIGA RISE)

Northern communities in Canada face unique challenges in attracting and retaining newcomers due to population decline, labor shortages, and limited settlement infrastructure. Tailored Attraction, Integration, and Retention Strategies for Northern Ecosystems (TAIGA RISE) is an innovative project funded by IRCC. Through a community-based approach, the project develops culturally responsive tools to support newcomers in Northern Alberta and the Northwest Territories. By engaging local communities and Indigenous leaders, TAIGA RISE strengthens regional capacity and fosters inclusive, sustainable integration strategies that empower both newcomers and established residents.

- **Hamed Kazemzadeh**, Centre for Immigrant Research, The Immigrant Education Society
- **Nova Zeraati**, Centre for Immigrant Research, The Immigrant Education Society
- **Amanda Ong**, Centre for Immigrant Research, The Immigrant Education Society

