

FMI Event on Canada's Immigration System

February 22, 2018
The Sutton Hotel Ballroom
10235 101 Street, Edmonton, AB



The purpose of this event was to broaden attendee's understanding of Canada's Immigration policy including the many levels of involvement and collaboration that occurs between government, non-profit organizations and caring volunteers in the community.

The FMI Edmonton Chapter organizing committee selected this topic for the purpose of bringing awareness to our cultural diversity and supporting an inclusive and respectful environment in the workplace. As a community we have a vested interest in supporting these goals and as public sector professionals we have an opportunity to make a positive impact by developing meaningful connections with neighbors and co-workers.

As a country, Canada is known for being one of the most welcoming nations in the world however the system is extremely complex and not widely understood. In this session FMI Edmonton Chapter is pleased to welcome an expert panel who will help unpack the complex web of government and community touchpoints that are involved in delivering welcoming and settlement services to well over 200,000 newcomers to Canada each year.

Presenters at this event included:

Government of Canada

Member of Parliament for Edmonton Centre, Randy Boissonnault



Prior to his election, Randy was a successful entrepreneur, community leader, and philanthropist. He has a strong record of leadership in business, in public service, and in the not-for-profit sector. In his

presentation Randy shared information on Canada's new Multi-Year Immigration Plan and priorities for welcoming newcomers by Immigration Classes including: Economic, Family, Refugees and Other.

Alberta Ministry of Labour

Alice Wong, Director - Immigrant Settlement and Language Programs



Alice Wong is the Director of Immigrant Settlement and Language Programs with Alberta Labour and is responsible for both settlement and integration services and innovative language programs in support of newcomers in Alberta. Alice's presentation provided a summary overview of the provinces labour market and immigration policies, advanced education and investment attraction.

Alberta Ministry of Community and Social Services

Regional Director, Access and Service Delivery - Tom Sutton



Tom began his career with the Government Alberta in 1998 as a Child Welfare Trainee in Westlock, AB and has over 19 years of experience working in various child intervention roles.

A registered Social Worker since 2000, Tom holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of Alberta and a Post Baccalaureate Diploma in Management and a Master of Business Administration degree from Athabasca University.

The focus of Tom's presentation included an overview of the provinces Community and Social Services programs and services available to support newcomers and Albertans when needed. Tom's presentation also highlighted some of the recent partnering that occurred with Catholic Social Services and the Mennonite Centre to help with settling and supporting Syrian refugees in the Edmonton region.

NAIT, CEO - Glenn Feltham



Dr. Glenn Feltham was appointed President and CEO of the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) in 2011 and has led the institute toward its vision of becoming one of the world's leading polytechnics, with a focus on relevance and responsiveness.

Beyond contributions to academic leadership and the legal and accounting professions, Dr. Feltham's career has also been defined by service on several culture, social welfare, and policy development boards including Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Edmonton Chamber of Commerce, Winnipeg Airports Authority and United Way Campaigns in Winnipeg and Edmonton.

The focus of Glenn's presentation included highlights of some of the benefits of a culturally diverse student body as well as some of the challenges.

**Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), Kristine Conroy
Regional Program Manager, Enforcement and Intelligence Operations Division**



Kristine Conroy is a manager within the Enforcement and Intelligence Operation Division of the Canada Border Services Agency. She began her career with the CBSA in 2000 and over the past 18

years has had the opportunity to work in various positions within the agency working front line operations at both the Vancouver and Edmonton International Airports and spending many years working as a Criminal Investigator. In her presentation Kristine shared some of the current challenges her agency is currently experiencing due to an increase in immigration and cross border activity.

City of Edmonton Antoinette Davis, Multicultural Liaison (co-presented with Shahriyar Khan)



As a Multicultural Liaison with the City of Edmonton, Antoinette contributes towards building a City that is supportive of its many culturally and socially diverse communities.



Shahriyar Khan, Multicultural Liaison (co-presenting with Antoinette Davis)

Shahriyar works closely with immigrant serving agencies, regulatory bodies, educational institutions, newcomer groups, interfaith and the mainstream community to ensure policies and programs support newcomers to transition smoothly into their new home.

In their presentation Antoinette and Shahriyar highlighted a number of formal and informal collaborations and partnerships to respond to issues such as resettlement, integration, health, employment, youth, seniors, program space, organizational capacity development and intercultural harmony.

Catholic Social Services, Ese Ejebe, Manager



Ese Ejebe arrived in Canada as a privately sponsored refugee 20 years ago. She knows firsthand, the barriers as well as the opportunities that immigrants and refugees face when trying to integrate into Canadian society.

In her presentation Ese shared some uplifting newcomer stories that she personally witnessed, as well as helped to debunk some of common myths about refugees

**Purple Aspen Consulting
Cultural Sector Consultant – Crystal Willie**



Crystal owns and operates Purple Aspen Consulting which provides management and governance services to museums, cultural sector organizations, and not-for-profits. She holds an MA and BA in History and a Professional Specialization Certificate in Cultural Heritage Sector Leadership from the University of Victoria.

Since 2015, Crystal Willie has been working on a volunteer team from Bethel and Grace Lutheran Churches to sponsor a Syrian refugee family. In her presentation Crystal shared the heart-warming story about what it has been like to work directly to welcome and settle a Syrian family. Attendees were truly moved hearing about tradeoffs that had to be made due to accessibility to public transit and the availability of language learning classes while balancing time, cost and child-care considerations. While

these issues are not unique to newcomers, these issues can be significant hurdles that get in the way of progress.

**Trust Science Co-Founder and Key Advisor
Ashif Mawji**



As a leader, Ashif's list of accomplishments are many. In 2002 he was awarded the Ernst and Young Prairies Entrepreneur of the Year, in 2005 he was named as one of Canada's Top 40 under 40 and in 2007 was named BDC's Entrepreneur of the Year for Alberta and has received Canada's 50 Best Managed companies award three years in a row. Ashif is a past recipient of NAIT's Alumni of Distinction Award and has also been recognized as one of the Top 50 Graduates in 50 years. More recently, Ashif was promoted from Hon. Lt. Colonel to Hon. Colonel for the 20th Field Artillery Regiment (Canadian Army) in 2017 and has been awarded the Queen's Golden and Diamond Jubilee medals as well as the Alberta Centennial Medal.

In Ashif's presentation he shared his own personal story coming to Canada from Kenya and about what it was like to make a fresh start. His key message to the audience was simple. While it's not easy, hard work and determination are the key ingredients to success. This was a message that he learned at an early age from his parents and that discipline has stuck with him and has allowed him to accomplish great things.

Robert Ascah – Moderator, Principal, Albertarecessionwatch.com



Robert Ascah was the Moderator for this event. Bob holds degrees in Commerce and Public Administration (M.A) from Carleton University and completed his doctorate in political science at the University of Alberta in 1984. Before his appointment as Director of the Institute for Public Economics in 2009, he worked for the Alberta public service and in 1996, he joined Alberta Treasury Branches. He is now a Fellow at the Institute and is a frequent commentator on Alberta politics and economics.