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## NEWS RELEASE

March 21, 2018

### Calgary hosts Metropolis Conference March 22 to 24

Canada's largest annual conference on immigration and integration marks its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary

[United Way of Calgary and Area](#) and the [Calgary Catholic Immigration Society](#) are pleased to host Canada's largest annual gathering of immigration service providers, policy-makers, and researchers at this year's [Metropolis Conference](#) March 22 to 24 at The Westin Calgary Hotel.

This year's conference, called Immigration Futures, will deliberate models of governance best suited to address the challenges and opportunities arising from immigration, and what resources will be needed to achieve positive economic and social outcomes within Canada and beyond.

"Successful management of the migration process requires strong partnerships between governments, immigrant service providers, institutions, community organizations, and others," says Calgary Catholic Immigration Society CEO and Conference Co-Chair Fariborz Birjandian.

"As a welcoming country, Canada has an ambitious immigration plan that will see the number of immigrants and refugees climb from 265,000 in 2016 to 340,000 by 2020. To succeed, we must truly understand the complexities of settlement, integration, and adaptation so that high-quality services are available to those making Canada their home."

Research findings show that settling in a new environment and integrating all aspects of community life is a complex and long-term process. Leveraging resources and involving a broad range of system players in response to a rapidly changing environment is key.

"In addition to discussing the complexities of immigration, settlement, and integration, recent research and best practices in welcoming newcomers will be shared," says United Way CEO and Conference Co-chair Karen Young.

"Meeting the challenge of diversity with inclusive policies and programs is critical to positive settlement and ensuring every immigrant and refugee is a vital part of our community."

Speakers and respected thought leaders from across North America will share their experiences, insights, learnings, and respective visions for the future to more than 700 delegate attendees. The conference will also feature 75 workshops, 20 round tables, and 30 poster presentation tables.

For the complete program, visit [www.metropolisconference.ca](http://www.metropolisconference.ca)

#MetropolisYYC



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## Background

- Immigration, settlement, and integration in Canada is shared jurisdiction between the Federal, Provincial, and Municipal Governments.
- Provinces and cities are increasingly emerging as key players in service delivery and policy deliberation to ensure responses reflect local needs.
- In 2016, immigrants represented 21 per cent of Alberta's population, the third highest share of immigrants in the country.
- In 2016, Calgary's immigrant population represented 29 per cent of the population, the third highest Metropolitan region behind Toronto and Vancouver.
- Just over one in three Calgarians identified as a visible minority in 2016, the third highest percentage in the country behind Toronto and Vancouver (for facts and figures on immigration and integration in Alberta see [www.acs-aec.ca](http://www.acs-aec.ca)).
- In 2016, Calgary ranked 14<sup>th</sup> in North America amongst the largest immigrant receiving cities, behind Boston and Atlanta, and ahead of Seattle. Edmonton was 19<sup>th</sup>.
- In November 2017, the Government of Canada announced that the annual immigrant intake would increase from 300,000 to 340,000 by 2020. This plan will bring the country's yearly immigration level to just under one per cent of the population.
- Statistics Canada predicts that by 2036, immigrants will represent between 24.5 and 30 per cent of Canada's population – the highest proportions since 1871.
- By 2036, immigrants and second generation Canadians together could constitute nearly half the national population.
- By 2036, 35 to 40 per cent of the working age population could identify as a visible minority.

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