



SEPTEMBER 19 & 20, 2024



ACGC ALBERTA COUNCIL FOR
GLOBAL COOPERATION

Inspiring Action, Inspiring Hope

International Cooperation in a World of Uncertainty

Attendee Package

ACGC Annual Conference 2024

September 19 - 20, 2024



In partnership with

Canada

Day 1

Youth Networking (for youth 18 – 35)

TIME	AGENDA
4:30 – 5 PM	Doors Open and Welcome
5 – 5:30 PM	Speech and Presentations <i>Speech by Mitsat Dawit; Presentations by Islamic Relief Canada, Mennonite Central Committee, and Young Diplomats of Canada</i>
5:30 – 6 PM	Open Networking <i>Light refreshments provided</i>

50th Anniversary Gala

TIME	AGENDA
6 – 6:30 PM	Doors Open and Entertainment <i>Inyambo Dance Group</i>
6:30 – 7:15 PM	Welcome and Opening Remarks <i>Executive Director Sandra Muchekeza, Board of Directors Representative and Dignitaries; Message from Canadian Ambassador for Women, Peace and Security, Jacqueline O’Neill</i>
7:15 – 8 PM	Dinner and Entertainment <i>Mbira Renaissance Band, ACGC 50th Anniversary Video</i>
7:50 – 8 PM	ACGC History Speech <i>ACGC Founder Paul Carrick</i>
8 – 8:30 PM	Keynote Speech <i>Keynote speech by Erum Shazia Hasan</i>
8:30 – 9 PM	Recognitions and Closing Remarks <i>Awards and Recognitions, Vote of Thanks by Board Secretary Shaka Ceesay, and Closing Remarks</i>
9 – 9:30 PM	Closing Entertainment <i>Mbira Renaissance Band</i>

Day 2

Annual Conference

TIME	AGENDA
8 – 8:45 AM	Doors Open and Continental Breakfast
8:45 – 9 AM	Welcome and Opening Remarks
9 – 10 AM	Panel Discussion <i>Navigating Uncertainty: Practical approaches to delivering programming in times of crises</i>
10 – 10:30 AM	Global Affairs “Fireside” Chat <i>Demystifying Global Affairs Canada (GAC): A look into GAC structure and Canada’s International Development priorities for 2024 and beyond</i>
10:30 – 10:45 AM	Coffee and Health Break <i>Light refreshments provided</i>
10:45 AM – 12:15 PM	Workshop <i>Practical Approaches to Including Gender Equality in Program Design</i>
12:15 – 12:30 PM	Health Break
12:30 – 1:30 PM	Lunch and Annual General Meeting (AGM)
1:30 – 3 PM	Keynote Speech <i>Reimagining International Cooperation: Uncovering and challenging hidden assumptions</i>
3 – 3:15 PM	Closing Remarks

In-Person Logistics

Venue

Edmonton Hotel and Convention Center (Radisson). **4520 76 Ave NW, Edmonton AB T6B 0A5.** **Please type the address into your maps app, as the name “Radisson” may take you to the wrong hotel.**

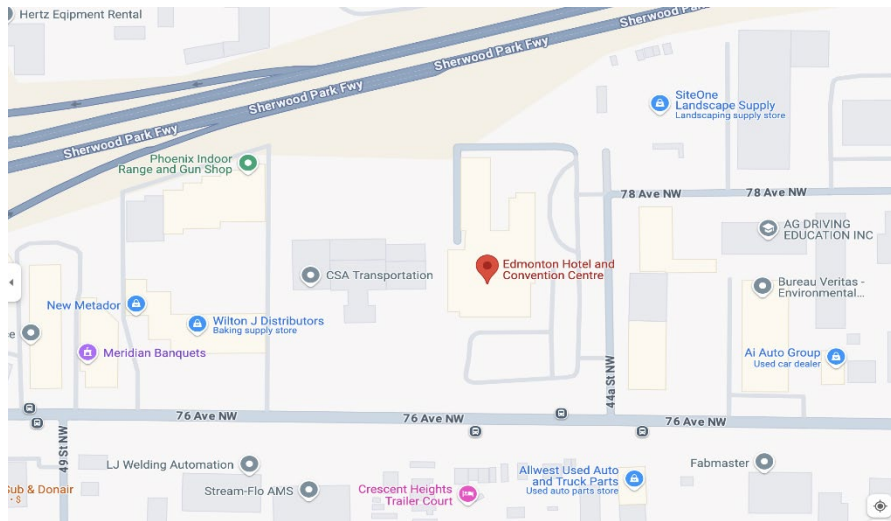


Image description: Aerial Google Maps capture of venue

Accessibility

The venue has plenty of lot parking and surrounding area parking available. All main entrances to the Edmonton Hotel and Convention Center building have several stairs leading up to the doors, or a ramp to the side of the stairs. Once inside the building, signs will lead you to the event space(s); there are no additional stairs or raised platforms between the building entrance(s) and the event space(s).

Hospitality

Refreshments will be served throughout the conference events. Day 1 (50th Anniversary Gala) will include refreshments, a buffet-style dinner, and a cash bar. Day 2 (Conference Day) will include a continental breakfast, mid-morning refreshments, and a buffet-style lunch.

Accommodation & Transportation

Unless prior arrangements have been made with ACGC, all conference participants are responsible for their transportation (public transit/rides/parking), accommodations, and subsequent costs. The venue has plenty of lot and surrounding-area parking.

Health & Safety Protocols

Hand sanitizer and disposable masks will be available to all attendees.

Main Contact

For any questions or concerns, please contact a member of the ACGC team at 780-885-4692.

Welcome and Greetings

Greetings from the ACGC Executive Director

Welcome to the ACGC Annual Conference 2024, ***Inspiring Action, Inspiring Hope: International Cooperation in a World of Uncertainty***. What a privilege it is for us to meet on Treaty 6, which has been a traditional meeting ground, gathering place, and travelling route of the nêhiyawak (Cree), Anishinaabe (Saulteaux), Niitsitapi (Blackfoot), Métis, Dene, and Nakota Sioux, who have cared for this land for time immemorial. Throughout this conference, we remember the histories, languages, and cultures of these peoples which enriches our shared heritage.

Across the world and here in Alberta, people are facing critical issues stemming from climate change, economic crisis, food insecurity, health inequities, growing geopolitical instability, and weakened governance structures. Women and girls continue to be amongst the most vulnerable groups, existing at the intersection of multiple challenges. At the same time, the rise of technology and growing interconnectedness across the globe are providing opportunities for innovative development solutions to address challenges in health, food insecurity, and climate change.

Through the theme of ***Inspiring Action, Inspiring Hope: International Cooperation in a World of Uncertainty***, ACGC members will explore the pertinent question, “*What can Alberta and Canada do to help shape a brighter, more prosperous, and peaceful world?*” This conference will focus on identifying windows of opportunity to advance development and strengthen resilience and security, with a particular focus on women and girls, while organizations continue the march towards Agenda 2030.

At the same time, we are celebrating the 50 Year Anniversary of the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation. Thank you to ACGC members, past and present, for your tireless commitment to Alberta’s international cooperation sector and working towards a better world. I hope this conference inspires 50 more years of Albertans to make a difference around the world.

Sandra Muchekeza

ACGC Executive Director

50th Anniversary Gala

ACGC History Speech | 7:50 – 8 PM

Paul A. Carrick



Paul has worked in international relief and development work overseas and in Canada for close to 50 years. He has 25 years of post-secondary teaching experience and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Education from the University of Makeni in Sierra Leone, ratified by the Association of African Universities, for *Poverty Reduction through the Support of Formal Education*. Paul founded CAUSE Canada in 1984 and co-founded Embrace International Foundation in 2017. Paul was also one of the founding board members of ACGC in 1994 in the most recent iteration of the Council and has always enthusiastically supported inter-agency collaboration.

Keynote Speech | 8 – 8:30 PM

Erum Shazia Hasan



Erum's debut novel, [We Meant Well](#) was longlisted for the 2023 Giller Prize and a finalist for the 2024 Dayton Literary Peace Prize. In it, she explores the complex moral and emotional landscape of International Aid work, asking questions about what it means to be charitable, who deserves what, and who gets the power to decide. Erum has been a sustainable development consultant for the United Nations for the last 15 years.

Performances



Inyambo Dance Group

The cultural dance group from Burundi, known as "Inyambo," is based here in Edmonton, Alberta. They established themselves in 2009 and are a vibrant ensemble that embodies the essence of Burundian culture through their mesmerizing dance performances and soulful songs.



Mbira Renaissance Band

Music for your spirit! Using the traditional mbira instrument of the Shona people with contemporary guitar, keyboard and brass, the Mbira Renaissance Band offers a fresh, energetic yet delicately balanced sonic experience. Cyclical yet improvisational, this band serves a unique take on the contemporary mbira sound with hints of reggae, afro-jazz, chimurenga and afro-pop.

Annual Conference

Panel Discussion | 9 – 10 AM

Navigating Uncertainty: Practical approaches to delivering programming in times of crises

In this panel, ACGC members and community partners will speak to their organizations' experience delivering services and managing partnerships locally and globally in difficult political, environmental, peace, and security contexts. Panelists will share practical approaches they have been using to navigate uncertainty and continue to deliver critical programming.



Lindsey Machona-Maenzanise, *Moderator*

Lindsey Machona-Maenzanise has been the Executive Director of Expand Hope (EH) for over 5 years. In this time, she has led EH with unwavering passion, courage, and strategic acumen, resulting in the construction of sixteen schools and positively impacting the lives of thousands of children in Guatemala. Lindsey holds a Post-Graduate Degree in Media and Communication Studies, and is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in

Community Engagement.

Panelists



Jack Unterschultz
President
Nafasi Opportunity Society



Delmy Garcia Hoyt
Vice President
Sombrilla International



Christina Caouette
CEO
Young Diplomats of Canada



Nabeel Hameed
Alberta Manager
Islamic Relief Canada

Annual Conference

Global Affairs “Fireside” Chat | 10 – 10:30 AM

Demystifying Global Affairs Canada (GAC): A look into GAC structure and Canada's international development priorities for 2024 and beyond

In this “Fireside” Chat, we will explore Global Affairs Canada's changing structure, its upcoming priorities, and how it plans to continue engaging with Canadian organizations that are carrying out work towards the SDGs at home and abroad. We will explore issues of citizen engagement in international development, and how Canadians engaged in international work can continue to prioritize girls and women in light of the complex humanitarian and political contexts around the world. This session will be moderated by Greg Sowak, M.Ed. (International Projects & Mobility; NorQuest International).

Brandon A. Lee, *Speaker*



Brandon A. Lee holds the title of Director General with the Grants and Contributions Transformation Bureau at Global Affairs Canada. He has a strong background in leading innovation and has held several executive positions with national and international governments. Previously, Brandon worked in the private sector as a pioneer entrepreneur in online banking in North America, as well as in large-scale telecommunications management consulting.

Greg Sowak, M.Ed., *Moderator*



Greg Sowak is the Norquest College technical lead on a 4 year CIGan Young Africa Works project dedicated to implementing an RPL system in Kenyan Technical Institutions. He also oversees a federally funded (Global skills Opportunity) student mobility program and is leading a new 4 year CIGan project in Kenya committed to CBET curriculum development and Gender Equity at Technical Trade Institutions. *Greg joined the ACGC Board in 2022 and is currently serving his second term as board member.*

Annual Conference

Workshop | 10:45 AM – 12:15 PM

Practical Approaches to Including Gender Equality in Program Design

In this interactive workshop, Karen Craggs-Milne will share and walk through an easy-to-use framework (based on the Global Affairs Canada Feminist International Assistance Policy) that will support your organization's efforts to integrate gender equality considerations into your program review and design.

Karen Craggs-Milne, *Facilitator*



An Obama White House recognized Gender Equality Changemaker, Karen has worked with NGOs globally for over 20 years to design industry leading programs that have successfully secured hundreds of millions of dollars in donor funding and have resulted in measurable impact worldwide. CEO & Founder of [Conscious Equality Incorporated](#), Karen Craggs-Milne is known as THE go-to expert for organizations who are serious about getting social change work right.

Keynote Address and Workshop | 1:30 – 3 PM

Reimagining International Cooperation: Uncovering and challenging hidden assumptions

In the face of global challenges like climate change, geopolitical instability, and rising inequality, organizations often rely on hidden assumptions when developing strategies and interventions. This keynote and hands-on workshop will introduce Assumption Mapping, a strategic foresight tool designed to help international cooperation actors identify and challenge the assumptions that shape their work. Participants will learn how to surface critical assumptions, evaluate their impact, and explore how to rethink their strategies to better navigate uncertainty and seize emerging opportunities.

Andy Ouedraogo, *Keynote Speaker*



Andy is a Research and Program Officer at Cooperation Canada and is currently navigating the exciting realms of strategic foresight and international development. With a foundation in international relations and global political economy, Andy leads the Global Cooperation Futures Initiative funded by the International Development Research Centre and aimed at reimagining next-generation global cooperation.