



United Nations
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Canadian
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NEWS RELEASE

Canadian Leadership on Inclusive Cities

Canadian Commission for UNESCO to co-host major panels at Habitat III

Ottawa, October 13, 2016 – The Canadian Commission for UNESCO (CCUNESCO) is pleased to co-host, along with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), two panels on inclusive cities. The panels are part of the [United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development, or Habitat III](#), taking place in Quito, Ecuador between October 17 and 20, 2016.

Over half of humanity and over 80% of Canadians now live in cities, which provide access to jobs, education and health care. Yet many urban dwellers face unemployment, poverty and inequality. Overpopulation and growing diversity can lead to discrimination, gaps in service delivery, and challenges to social harmony. More than 35,000 people from around the world will participate in Habitat III, which is dedicated to helping the world face these challenges.

“Canadian cities are doing tremendous work to combat racism and discrimination, and to be more inclusive,” said Christina Cameron, President of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO. “These panels give us an opportunity, through our CCMARD network of 60+ municipalities nationwide, to share lessons learned with cities around the world.”

Panel 1 is called “Promoting Urban Inclusion Through Dialogue and Innovation” (Oct 17). It will include Mayor **Denis Coderre**, City of Montréal, a signatory municipality of the [Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination \(CCMARD\)](#). The panel will be moderated by **Benedetto Zacchioli**, [President of the European Coalition of Cities Against Racism](#) (ECCAR) and Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister of Italy.

Panel 2 is called “Inclusive Urban Development: What Works?” (Oct 17). **Becky A. Sasakamoose Kuffner**, Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Consultant for the City of Saskatoon (Treaty Six Territory), will be on this panel, which spotlights Indigenous expertise in creating more welcoming urban communities. Saskatoon is also a CCMARD signatory municipality. The panel will be moderated by **Eric Apelgren**, Head of International and Governance Relations, eThekweni Municipality, Durban, South Africa.

“As cities grow and diversity increases through Indigenous participation and

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Conseil des arts du Canada

150 Elgin Street, PO Box 1047
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5V8
Canada

150, rue Elgin, C.P. 1047
Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 5V8
Canada

1-800-263-5588
www.unesco.ca

global migration, it is imperative that municipalities deliberately and purposefully work toward the elimination of racial discrimination,” said Becky A. Sasakamoose Kuffner, Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Consultant for the City of Saskatoon (Treaty Six Territory). “I am so pleased to share the City of Saskatoon’s work in this area and learn other best practices from around the world.”

[The Canadian Commission for UNESCO](#) connects Canadians with the work of UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. It aims to create a society in which people share knowledge and learn from each other, locally and globally, in order to build peaceful, equitable and sustainable futures. It does so by supporting collective reflection, identifying priorities and facilitating concerted action in the fields of education, sciences, culture, communication and information to address some of the most complex challenges facing humanity. Recognizing that this mandate can only be fulfilled by engaging a broad range of partners, a spirit of cooperation is at the core of the Commission’s work. The Commission operates under the authority of the Canada Council for the Arts.



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Contacts:

Angèle Cyr, Senior Advisor, Public Affairs, Canadian Commission for UNESCO, (613) 297-3250 (cell)

Pauline Dugré, Program Officer, Communication and Information, Canadian Commission for UNESCO, (613) 566-4414 ext. 4558