

Name of organizer: Hai Nguyen
 E-Mail
 Organization: Citoyenneté et Immigration Canada
 Title of workshop: Challenges, Opportunities and Hope for Emerging African Communities in Western Canada: the Alberta experience
 Format of Workshop: workshop presentation
 Theme of the workshop: Welcoming Communities

Name of first presenter: Christine. Kayirangwa
 E-mail address:
 Organisation: Citizenship & Immigration Canada
 Title/Theme of presentation: Emerging African Communities in Canada- A National Perspective

Name of second presenter: Victor Moke Ngala
 E-mail address
 Organisation: Northern Alberta Alliance on Race Relations (NAARR)
 Title/Theme of presentation: Migrant Routes: From Africa to Alberta

Name of third presenter: Dr. David Este
 E-mail address:
 Organisation: University of Calgary
 Title/Theme of presentation: Emerging African Communities: View from Southern Alberta

Name of fourth presenter: Nicolas Ameyaw
 E-mail address:
 Organisation: Human Rights and Citizenship, Alberta Culture and Community Spirit
 Title/Theme of presentation: Emerging African Communities: View from Northern Alberta

Name of fifth presenter: Ann Mah
 E-mail address:
 Organisation: Edmonton Public Schools Board
 Title/Theme of presentation: A Mentorship Model for African youth

Name of sixth presenter: Lynn Smarsh
 E-mail address:
 Organisation: Edmonton Catholic School Board
 Title/Theme of presentation: Community support, Youth development and school integration

Abstract

This workshop presents the challenges, opportunities and hope for African emerging communities during their integration process in Western Canada. The Alberta experience in helping these vulnerable communities can serve as model for other jurisdiction across Canada in their efforts to build welcoming and inclusive communities for all.

Summary

For thousands of refugees and immigrants from Africa, Alberta is a good place to start a new life in Western Canada. Despite recent sensational media headlines regarding crime and gang violence involving African youth, continuous support from the Federal and Alberta governments, municipalities, community organizations, schools, institutions, media, and the business sector have helped settle these newcomers positively.

Recognizing that integration is a long and challenging process, it is agreed that good understanding from the host communities and strong support from government of all levels coupled with action – oriented community strategies play a major and positive role in helping these vulnerable communities.

The “Challenges, Opportunities and Hope for Emerging African Communities in Western Canada: the Alberta experience” workshop presents the realities of emerging African communities in Alberta. While effective strategies adopted by community organizations and municipalities will be discussed, major issues related to community perception, institutional relations, the role of host communities, media and police relations, youth involvement and government support will be examined. In particular, the mentorship and school integration models adopted by Alberta will be highlighted.

This workshop addresses not only the Conference priorities of “The role of the host communities for newcomers and minorities” and “Family, children, youth”, but it also deals directly with the priority of “Social and civic integration”. It is hoped that Alberta experience in assisting emerging African communities can serve as a model for other jurisdictions across Canada in their efforts to build welcoming and inclusive communities for all.