

PROGRAM



banff
systems
summit

MAY 27 - 29, 2024

BANFF, ALBERTA, CANADA

WELCOME TO BANFF

Welcome to the Banff Systems Summit!

This is a unique gathering framed around systems-led approaches to issues that are so vital, timely and pressing, that they challenge us to slow down, take a pause, and be in conversation and relationship with others; To be in a place where we can ask new and better questions, where deeper layers of meaning might be excavated, and where we can approach systems work more thoughtfully and playfully.

We welcome participants from many parts of Canada, Turtle Island, and across the Atlantic to this unforgettable setting within Treaty 7 Territory, sacred lands that are a time-honoured gathering place for the Niitsitapi from the Blackfoot Confederacy (of whom the Siksika, Kainai, and Piikani First Nations are part; the Îyârhe Nakoda of the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Goodstoney First Nations; the Tsuut'ina First Nation); and the Métis Nation of Alberta, District 4.

This package is an overview of the Summit, which includes 3 plenary conversations, many networking breaks, and 4 blocks of 5 parallel 'break-out' sessions (panels, workshops, challenging conversations, and outdoor walks and exercises), all to keep our minds nourished. To keep our bodies nourished, the Summit includes an offsite BBQ, two breakfasts, two lunches, and an opening dinner. More detail, including descriptions for each of the 20 break-out sessions can be accessed with the QR Code below.

Whether you are a student or a practitioner, a local or joining from abroad, you are contributing something unique and important to the conversation. We are grateful for all of the gifts you are bringing to this spring gathering in the Rockies.

Your conference hosts,

Ashley Dion

Program Lead, Map the System Canada

Dr. Katharine McGowan

Assistant Professor of Social Innovation

James Stauch

Executive Director, Institute for Community Prosperity

Mount Royal University



Institute for
Community Prosperity



Scan the QR Code to visit the
Banff Systems Summit website
for full breakout session
descriptions and speakers

DAY 1: MONDAY MAY 27TH

6:00 PM	Welcome Reception (with Cash Bar) <i>Room K103</i>
7:00 PM	Welcome & Summit Opening <i>Room K103</i> Welcome & Land Acknowledgement: James Stauch, MC Elder's Welcome: Yumotata Mani (Alice Kaquitts), Elder, Goodstoney First Nation Welcome from MRU: Connie van der Byl, Associate Vice-President, Research, Scholarship and Community Engagement Welcome from ATCO: George Constantinescu, Chief Transformation Officer
7:30 PM	Buffet Dinner (Elders first, then by table) <i>Room K103</i>
8:00 PM	Fireside Chat & Opening Plenary The Fabric of Reality: A Systems Way of Seeing the World At the quarter mark of the 21st century, there is a growing sense that our conventional ways of understanding the world are insufficient to address the many overlapping problems we face. This plenary 'fireside' chat will explore how different cultures and sectors see (or have the potential to see) the world through a systems lens. Some of the questions this opening session will explore: What can we learn from Blackfoot cosmology, non-Western, and Western science-based insights into ways of understanding systems that help us better address the problems of our time? How can innovation - including technological innovation, policy innovation, and social innovation - benefit from systems thinking? Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oom ka pisi (Roy Bear Chief), Espoom tah, Faculty of Health, Community, and Education, MRU• George Constantinescu, Chief Transformation Officer, ATCO• Daniela Papi-Thornton, Founder and CEO, Systems-Led Leadership• Allan Boesak, Senior Coordinator, Strategic Initiatives, Network for the Advancement of Black Communities• Brenda Kenny, Board Chair (outgoing), Alberta Innovates Moderator: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Katharine McGowan, Associate Professor of Social Innovation, Bissett School of Business, MRU
9:00 PM	Wrap-up & Close

7:00 AM	<p>Breakfast <i>Vistas Dining Room (Sally Borden Building, 3rd Floor)</i></p>
9:00 AM	<p>Plenary Conversation <i>Room K103</i></p> <p>Decision-making in a (Poly)crisis: The Urgency of Slowing Down</p> <p>It is widely acknowledged that the human community is in a state of polycrisis and permacrisis, with global challenges, 'wicked problems', and 'mega messes', all related to each other in some way. These challenges come in cascading waves that exacerbate the ability to make sense of, nevermind 'solve' these complex challenges. Moreover, their effects are most acutely felt by young people, women, Indigenous, Black and racialized people, and others who are marginalized because of their socio-economic standing, ability, geography, or other factors where inequity amplifies the impact. But counterintuitively, as an open letter to worldwide civil society organizations by the philosopher, writer, and activist Bayo Akomolafe and theologian Marta Benavides urges... "The time is very urgent – we must slow down." How do we take the time to really understand, dig deep, ask better questions, and assert a systems-led approach to challenges when there is social, political and cultural pressure to 'act fast'?</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Louise Adongo, Founder, Caprivan Strip Inc. • Latasha Calf Robe, Project Manager, Indigenous Engagement One Child Every Child, University of Calgary • amanuel melles, Executive Director, Network for the Advancement of Black Communities • Wendy Mendes, Director of Community Impact and Partnerships, United Way of Calgary and Area <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sierra Swallow, Community Development Officer, Government of Alberta
10:30 AM	<p>Networking Break</p>

10:45 AM	Breakout Sessions				
	Panel <i>K203</i>	Panel <i>K103</i>	Challenging Conversations <i>K105</i>	Skills Building <i>K205</i>	Walk and Talk (Outside) Meet in <i>K101</i>
	Perched on a Precipice: The Health System in Crisis	From the Classroom to the World: Peace and Systems Learning	Inclusive Systems Work: Asking Questions to Better Serve Community	Systems Dojo	Reading Systems from the Land
12:00 PM	Lunch <i>Vistas Dining Room (Sally Borden Building, 3rd Floor)</i>				
1:15 PM	Breakout Sessions				
	Panel <i>K203</i>	Panel <i>K103</i>	Challenging Conversations <i>K105</i>	Skills Building <i>K205</i>	Walk and Talk (Outside & Inside) Meet in <i>K101</i>
	Map the System 2.0	Making an Impact in Complexity: Systems- Led Philanthropy	Getting The Whole System in the Room? Change Labs	Seeing the System Part 1: Participatory Systems Mapping	What Can the Land Teach Us About Systems? & Planetary Health
2:30 PM	Networking Break				
2:45 PM - 4:00 PM	Breakout Sessions: Thinking About the Future				
	Panel <i>K203</i>	Panel <i>K103</i>	Challenging Conversations <i>K105</i>	Skills Building <i>K205</i>	Walk and Talk (Outside) Meet in <i>K101</i>
	The Missing Puzzle Piece of Innovation: Systems Thinking	An Introduction to Futures Literacy	Students as Changemakers: Bridging Community, Research, and Systems-Led Leadership	Seeing the System Part 2: Story Visualization	Weaving Worlds: Exploring Connectedness and Complexity through Anitopisi
5:15 PM- 9:30 PM	Dinner at Mount View BBQ Everyone who wants to get to the dinner must be in the parking lot at PDC Building <i>no later</i> than 5:30 PM. Guests are not permitted to take private transportation to the venue. The first bus will leave at 5:15 PM from the Banff Centre (PDC Building). There will be 15 min gaps in between each shuttle, so all guests should be at Mount View BBQ by 6:00 PM. <i>Note: First shuttle back to the Banff Centre will be at 8:15 PM, the last shuttle will be at 9:30 PM</i>				

DAY 3: WEDNESDAY MAY 29TH

7:00 AM	Breakfast <i>Vistas Dining Room (Sally Borden Building, 3rd Floor)</i>				
9:00 AM	Breakout Sessions				
	Panel <i>K203</i>	Panel <i>K103</i>	Challenging Conversations <i>K105</i>	Skills Building <i>K205</i>	Walk and Talk (Outside) Meet in <i>K101</i>
	Hungry for Change: Toward a Secure Food System	The Great Conflation: Public Policy and Systems Change	Classroom to the World: Making Systems Matter	Building a Sustainable World: Using LEGO® Serious Play to Think about Systems	Reading Systems from the Land
10:30 AM	Coffee Break				
10:45 AM	Closing Plenary with Aatif Baskanderi, CEO Northpine Foundation <i>Room K103</i>				
	<p>Learning, Unlearning, and Relearning, from Classroom to Career</p> <p>While philanthropy may play a much smaller role than government in funding social impact (roughly 1:20 is the ratio, just in terms of dollars), philanthropy also has a unique capacity to experiment boldly, be relentlessly future-focused, and ultimately play a catalytic role in shifting systems. Hear about Aatif's incredible journey as a changemaker with a diverse background spanning engineering, social policy, and technology management. Learn about Northpine's vision for venture philanthropy, revolutionizing social impact, and creating sustainable systems for continuous improvement in social outcomes. The Northpine Foundation supports ventures to achieve scalable outcomes for underserved and underinvested communities in Canada. With a portfolio that includes refugees and formerly incarcerated persons, Scarborough, and rural Newfoundland and Labrador, Northpine funds approximately \$50 million annually and is on a path to deploy \$1 billion over the next decade. Northpine is pioneering a tailored financing model that includes grants, loans, equity, and blended finance while building deep relationships to work with investees to learn, unlearn, and relearn.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barb Rallison, Associate Director, Institute for Community Prosperity 				
12:15 PM	Lunch <i>Vistas Dining Room (Sally Borden Building, 3rd Floor)</i>				
2:00 PM	Buses Depart Banff Centre <i>Meet in the parking lot of PDC at 1:45 PM - buses will leave promptly at 2:00 PM. 1 bus will be arriving to Mount Royal University and 1 bus will be arriving to YYC International Airport.</i>				

OUR SPONSORS



