

Call for Workshop Proposals: The Gathering 2021

The Gathering 2021
Due September 16, 2021



Canadian
CED Network
Réseau canadien
de DÉC

Summary

Proposals are being requested for programming at the Gathering 2021. In its 19th year, the Gathering is an annual event hosted by the Canadian Community Economic Development Network - Manitoba where Manitoba's community builders connect, learn, and celebrate success through a diverse range of workshops, panels, and presentations. Proposals are being accepted until September 16, 2021. Find information on the event, theme, format, and more below, and don't hesitate to reach out if further information is required.

About the Gathering

The Gathering is an annual pay-what-you-can event where Manitoba's community builders connect, learn, and celebrate success. It is open to all, from staff of community organizations to civil servants, funders, students, academics, or anyone interested in community development and community economic development.

The event objectives include:

- Networking and Information Sharing
 - Bring people together to connect and share
 - Foster partnerships and collaboration that are essential for good community work
- Mentorship and Peer Learning
 - Learn from each other's work building inclusive communities, fairer local economies, and more sustainable environments
 - Welcome and mentor new and young community builders
 - Celebrate the work to build stronger communities
- Action and Innovation
 - Create a space to innovate and try new things

- Broaden collective understanding of Community Economic Development
- Agenda Setting
 - Collectively discuss important questions, challenges, and ideas facing community builders in the year ahead
 - Discuss opportunities for action and leading social, economic, and environmental change

It has been a privilege for us at the Canadian CED Network to host this container, and to hold the stories and history of our community sector. Thank you to every single person who has participated, volunteered, coordinated, presented, worked, sponsored, provided feedback, or contributed energy to this event. It continues to exist because of you.

Theme for Gathering 2021

Throughout the challenges of the last two years, community-based organizations (CBOs) have stepped up to meet the needs of our communities. CBOs and community economic development (CED) practitioners supported, fed, housed, employed, helped heal, protected communities, and so much more. Manitoba needed us.

So where do we go from here? The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened and highlighted the inequities in our society. A smoky, drought-filled summer shows the urgency with which we need to usher in climate justice. Movements for justice for Indigenous, Black, People of Colour, and other racialized communities are demanding action to address the racism and colonialism within our institutions, systems, and sector.

What is the role of CBOs and CED in supporting communities and addressing inequities? Are we being called to do too much with not enough? What is our role in addressing climate change and a just transition? How do we challenge racism in our work and in our systems to

build truly inclusive communities? How do we collaborate better to take on this important work, while calling on those in power to address these urgent crises? These questions hit at the root of who we are and what we do as community builders. They deserve our collective attention and thought.

The Gathering 2021 will, as it has every year for the past 18 years, bring community builders together to connect, learn, and take action. This year, special attention will be paid to collectively contemplate our role in the systems we live, work, and gather within.

Format

Gathering 2021 will be delivered virtually through a combination of discussions, interactive learning sessions, and connecting events from December 7 to 9, 2021. Some in person events may be added, public health rules dependent, but the bulk of the event will occur online. The exact online platform for the Gathering is still being determined.

The questions guiding this year's Gathering regarding community economic development work encompasses a broad range of issues and approaches.

To reflect this, we welcome a diversity of session formats and topics. Proposals should consider the essential questions posed above and how it might interact with your proposed topic. Sessions should be interactive, discussion based, and mindful of clear take-aways and learning objectives for participants.

We will happily work with you on finessing your proposal to meet the event objectives and to deliver an engaging session.

Types of Workshops

While the content is varied, workshops generally fit into one of the following streams:

- **Storytelling through fireside chats, panels, Q&A, or other formats:** sharing stories of success, challenges, learning and growth, celebrating work and innovation
- **Skills and tools through workshops, presentations, or other formats:** teaching others about specific tools, techniques, and resources that will support their community work
- **Theory and concepts through interactive discussions, circles, panels, or other formats:** teaching others about core concepts and theories that relate to CED or the work of community-based organizations, including interrogating the questions posed in the event description

Topics of Workshops

Workshops can be related to one or more of these topics, based on the theme of Gathering 2021:

- Role of community-based organizations in our society
- Strengthening the work and practice of community builders, community economic development, and community-based organizations
- Building fairer local economies
- Climate change & climate justice
- Combatting racism, colonialism, and inequity - in broader systems and in the work of community-based organizations
- Collaboration & working together
- Taking action, advocacy, community organizing, and activism

Audience and Logistics

The Gathering brings together 300 to 500 attendees. On average, online workshops in 2020 had 100 participants in attendance. Workshop participants may include front-line or management staff from community organizations, civil servants, funders, students, academics, and others, so participants will have a range of experience and knowledge about the topics presented.

Workshops are 60 to 90 minutes in length. It is not necessary to provide technical details within your proposal at this point, though consideration to creating an engaging and interactive session within a digital space is encouraged.

Selection Process

The call for session proposals closes on **September 16, 2021**. The Gathering Design Team¹ will review all proposals. Applicants will be notified by September 29, 2021 if their proposal has been accepted.

How to Submit

Submit your proposal [here](#).

Contact

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¹ The Gathering Design team is responsible for setting the event objectives, goals, and programming, and includes representatives from Assiniboine Credit Union, Coalition of Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations, Community Futures Manitoba, Ka Ni Kanichick, Manitoba Co-operative Association, Manitoba Eco-Network, Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities, Manitoba Research Alliance / Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Manitoba Association of Newcomer Serving Organizations, Ndinawemaaganag Endaawaad Inc., United Way of Winnipeg, Volunteer Manitoba, West Central Women's Resource Centre, and Youth Agencies Alliance.