



Canadian Community for
Dialogue and Deliberation

Canadian Conference on Dialogue and Deliberation 2009

“Leading Change: How Conversations Make Stronger Communities and Healthier Democracies”

Toronto, Canada

Thursday October 22 – Sunday October 25, 2009

Call for Contributions – Be Part of the Conference Program

Across Canada and around the world, people are using purposeful conversation or dialogue to make their communities better places to live. People in all walks of life are talking with others to navigate the challenging times we are currently facing – from community centres, workplaces and schools to governments and the United Nations (UN).

By listening to and understanding each other, people decide together on ways to solve shared problems – in their local neighbourhoods, towns and across whole countries. This is the power of dialogue and deliberation in creating change!

At the 2009 Canadian Conference on Dialogue and Deliberation (C2D2), participants will learn about and actually experience specific ways in which dialogue and deliberation are helping to create stronger communities and healthier democracies. C2D2 is excited and proud to host the 2009 Conference with our partner, *Toronto Community Housing*.

We want you to be part of our conference program! This Call for Contributions gives you all the information you need to send us your application. Here’s how:

1. Read the rest of this Call for Contributions
2. Follow the step-by-step instructions on page 4 in the “Guide”.
3. Send your application to program@c2d2.ca by July 31, 2009.

To learn more and to register, go to www.c2d2.ca/conference2009



More About C2D2 2009...

The 2009 Conference will use large and small group sessions to help participants build knowledge, practical skills and hands-on experience in dialogue and deliberation. It will bring together community leaders, government decision-makers, practitioners, researchers, and others working for grassroots change.

... A special invitation to youth!

C2D2 and Toronto Community Housing recognize the important contributions young people have made to leading change. We'd like to hear what you're doing. If you're under 30, we'd like to extend a special invitation to you share the innovative and impactful things you're doing.



The Conference program will be designed to foster dialogue around the key issues and questions of the day. As a session leader, you will need to make sure your contribution focuses on one or more of these themes. You can respond to our overall questions or identify and answer your own questions related to the dialogue and deliberation themes for the Conference.

- **Leading Change**
 - *How have communities and community leaders used dialogue and deliberation to create change?*
 - *What does "leadership" mean when it comes to dialogue and deliberation?*
 - *What are new ways or emerging promising practices?*

- **Conversations**
 - *How can governments use dialogue and deliberation to make more sustainable decisions?*
 - *How do organizations outside government – like community groups, NGOs and businesses – use structured conversations to make important decisions?*
 - *What ways of facilitating dialogue have worked well, or not worked well? Why?*
 - *What is the role of technology and social media in fostering dialogue?*

- **Stronger communities**
 - *How can dialogue and deliberation create stronger communities?*
 - *How do we make sure "silent voices" are part of these conversations?*
 - *How do we get people involved across generational divides?*

- **Healthier democracies**
 - *How can dialogue and deliberation help solve some of the problems in today's democracies?*
 - *What can people do to help create stronger democracies?*

What other questions about dialogue, conversation and change are important to you? We want to include them, so please describe them in your application.



Ways to Be Part of the Program...

a) Concurrent Sessions (60, 90 or 120 minutes)

These are interactive sessions in which presenter(s) - you! - share details about your project or story and involve participants in exploring how your experience increases our understanding of dialogue and deliberation, as well as any of the conference themes – leading change, conversations, stronger communities or healthier democracies.

In the *description* part of your application, you will need to address the following questions:

- How does your project or experience fit with the conference theme?
- What was the role of dialogue & deliberation (or conversations) in your project?
- How is your project creating change in your neighbourhood, city or country?
- What are you learning from challenges and mistakes?
- What is innovative about what you are doing?

b) Field Visits – Community-Based Sessions in Toronto Neighbourhoods

Field visits will provide an opportunity for conference participants to see and experience your community-changing project “with their own eyes”, by travelling to your site in Toronto. Presenters will construct a 90 or 120 minute experience in which participants gain hands-on understanding of your project, the role of dialogue and its results.

In the *description* part of your application, you will need to address the following questions:

- How does your project or experience fit with the conference theme?
- What is/was the role of purposeful conversation or “dialogue” in your project?
- How is your project changing the neighbourhood and/or Toronto?
- What are you learning from your experience?
- How can conference participants generate new ideas to help your project?

c) Marketplace Showcases

During the conference, participants will have time to look around a “marketplace” of project showcases located in the conference venues. Marketplace showcases are presentations of your unique program or initiative – and you can be creative, using posters, art, video, music or dance! Your showcase should allow participants to learn about your project/issue/problem, how you used dialogue and what you have learned so far. You can also describe what changes your project is creating.

In the *description* part of your application, you will need to address the following questions:

- How does your project or experience fit with the conference theme?
- How is your project using conversation or dialogue, to create change?
- What are you learning? What changes are you helping to start?

d) Evening Night-Cap Dialogues

In the evenings, night-cap dialogues will bring interested people together for a relaxed and meaningful conversation about issues and questions that matter. Your night-cap could focus on a hot topic that interests you, on deeper questions related to the conference theme, or about which you want to seek help and advice from other people on a dialogue project or problem you are working on. Night caps will take place in select local places, like community centres, restaurants or pubs.



Guidelines for Your Application.

Please use the guide to design your application, answering the questions within the word limits provided. If you have any questions, please contact Miriam Wyman, program@c2d2.ca, (416) 413-0347.

The deadline to receive proposals is **12:00 noon EST, July 31.**

All proposals will be review by representatives from the C2D2 Conference Program Committee, bringing together a broad range of perspectives and backgrounds. They will use the following criteria to evaluate each proposal:

- How well the proposed session fits with the conference theme
- Its relevance and interest to participants
- The degree of innovation in the project or approach to dialogue
- The format of the session and degree of interactivity and fun/enjoyment for conference participants

It's not all about talk...

Dialogue and change are all about people communicating with others. Your conference session can do more than talk; you can describe your project in other media, using

- Music
- Art
- Dance
- Or other creative ways you can think of!



Just describe your creative ideas for a session in your application.

Please use the following headings in your application...

Name

Contact Information

Session Title

Your Biography (100 words or less)

- I accept that my bio can appear on the conference website



Type of Program Contribution

- Concurrent Session
- Field Visit
- Marketplace Showcase
- Night-Cap Dialogue

Relevant Themes

- Leading Change
- Conversations
- Stronger Communities
- Healthier Democracies

Description (200 words or less)

This main section of your application should provide an overview of your project or experience, your presentation and will address the relevant questions (outlined on page 3 of this Guide)

Type/Style – how would you describe your session?

- Interactive
- Presentation
- Other (please describe in 50 words or less)

Suitability for Knowledge about Dialogue and Deliberation. Suitable for:

- Newcomers to the field (beginner)
- More experienced practitioners (intermediate)
- Expert researchers and practitioners (advanced)

For Concurrent Session Applications... please specify:

- Preferred length (60, 90, 120 minutes]
- Ideal audience size (less than 25, 25-50; doesn't matter)
- Desired room configuration or setup
- Equipment needs (e.g. audio-visual)

For Field Visit Applications... please specify:

- Preferred length (90, 120 minutes]
- Ideal audience size (less than 25, 25-50; doesn't matter)
- Location in Toronto

