



INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL

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Estimated 1,300 Economic Developers to Attend Conference in Toronto
2017 IEDC Annual Conference from September 17 - 20 in Ontario, Canada

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Sept. 15, 2017) – An estimated 1,300 economic development professionals will be convening in Toronto, Ontario, Canada next week for the largest global and annual event in economic development. The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) will hold its Annual Conference from Sept. 17 - 20 at the Sheraton Centre in downtown Toronto. The program theme will focus on how to Connect, Collaborate, and Create at the global level to contribute to the transformation of local, state, and regional economies. This year's Conference is the first time IEDC's flagship event is being hosted by a community in Canada.

"This will be a signature event for IEDC, as it is the first time the Annual Conference is being hosted by a city outside of the United States. This Conference is for people who work in economic development, interact with economic developers, or who want to learn how economic developers and their community leaders grow their local economies. As 2017 Board Chair, I am excited to hear this year's presenters, and to spend time with my peers from across North America and many other nations." - Michael Langley, FM, CEO of GREATER MSP, Minneapolis-St Paul, MN, and 2017 IEDC Chair of the Board of Directors

The conference will feature a series of informational sessions on topics such as technology disruption, foreign direct investment, recruiting and retaining talent to rural areas, entrepreneurship, tourism, building international partnerships, disaster recovery and [many other topics](#). A special report on Business Retention and Expansion by the Economic Development Research Partners, IEDC's think tank, will also be released during the event.

Attendees will take in-community economic development educational tours to some of Toronto's successful and unique projects, including Kensington Market and Chinatown, DMZ StartUp Incubator Facility, MaRS and Markham Centre. Several receptions, networking events and luncheons are planned, including a Women's Mentoring Luncheon, at which the Former Mayor of the City of Mississauga, Hazel McCallion, will speak; an International Dinner which hosts economic developers from across the world, Young Professional and Student Networking event, IEDC's Signature Chairman's Reception to be held in the Exhibit Hall of the Conference, Elected Officials Luncheon, and an LGBTQ reception at Quinn's Steakhouse, among other activities.



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IEDC's Excellence in Economic Development Awards are also presented to winners during Annual Conference. Categories range from best program, newsletter, website, video, new media, special event, leadership, and many others.

Featured keynote speakers include the Honourable Brad Duguid, Minister of Economic Development and Growth, Legislative Assembly of Ontario, Toronto, Canada; John Tory, His Worship, Mayor, City of Toronto; Michael Thompson, City Councillor, City of Toronto; The Honourable Michael Wilson, Chairman, Barclays Capital Canada Inc., Toronto; Dr. Richard Florida, Author and Professor, The Creative Class Group, LLC, Toronto, who will also be signing copies of his newest publications "The New Urban Crisis"; Dr. Ron Foxcroft, Chairman, Founder & CEO, Fox 40 International Inc., Hamilton, Ontario; Meric Gertler, President, University of Toronto; Janice Stein, Belzberg Professor, University of Toronto, Celia Smith, COO, TAS, Toronto, and many other respected professionals in economic development. IEDC Board Chair, Michael Langley will also speak, as will President and CEO, Tampa Hillsborough Economic Development Corporation, Tampa, FL, Craig Richard, CEcD.

The event is being co-sponsored by the City of Toronto; Tourism Toronto; Province of Ontario; and Signature Sponsor, Porter Airlines, the Exclusive Airline Sponsor. Chairman's Club Sponsors for the event include Accrisoft; Chmura Economic and Analytics; DCI; EMSI; ESRI; ICSC; OCO Global; and Statebook. Dozens of companies and organizations will also exhibit during their event. See all sponsors and exhibitors at iedconline.org/annualconference.

Conference admission is \$910 CAD/USD for IEDC Members and \$1,210 CAD/USD for Nonmembers. Groups, Honorary Life Members and students receive discounted rates. Event registration can take place onsite. More information and a detailed schedule of events can be found on the website as well as in the e-brochure, available for download from the homepage. iedconline.org/annualconference.

About the International Economic Development Council

IEDC is a non-profit membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 5,000 members, IEDC is the largest organization of its kind. Economic developers promote economic well-being and quality of life for their communities, by creating, retaining and expanding jobs that facilitate growth, enhance wealth and provide a stable tax base. From public to private, rural to urban, and local to international, IEDC's members are engaged in the full range of economic development experience. Given the breadth of economic development work, our members are employed in a wide variety of settings including local, state, provincial and federal governments, public-private partnerships, chambers of commerce, universities and a variety of other institutions. IEDC's members create high-quality



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jobs, develop vibrant communities and improve the quality of life in their regions.
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