

**Goods Hill, Queen's University  
Kingston, Ontario, Canada  
June 25-27, 2017**

**A conference, *Gathering on Common Ground: Building Harmony through Diversity in Canada and India*, will be held at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, June 25-27, 2017.**

**'Mutual Accommodation' has been a key practice in Canada whereas 'Non-violent Action' has been used extensively in India. Both practices have enabled significant progress, but major challenges remain. Some, such as the state of Indigenous peoples, have been present throughout both countries' histories. New issues are emerging as our societies become more diverse. The conference will build on our found Q ú 6 % new approaches to addressing societal**

**You are one of a select, diverse group of about sixty Canadians and Indians who has been invited and has committed to attend. Please note that it is important that you attend the entire conference.**

**Registration and all sessions will be held at Goods Hall, 143 Union St. W, Kingston, Ontario**

**Sunday, June 25**

**12:13PM Arrival and Registration (a light lunch will be available), Goods Hall Lobby**

**2:245PM Opening Goods Hall 118 Agenda Review by Paul Schwartzertuber: Welcome from Laurel Claus Johnson (Indigenous Elder), Tom Harris (Vice Principal, Queens) and Arun Kumar Sahu (Deputy High Commissioner of India to Canada). Remarks and introduction of William Macdonald by High Hefety.**

**2:453:45 Keynote 1: 'On Mutual Accommodation' by William A. Macdonald**

**3:454:00 Break**

**4:004:15 Remarks and introduction of Rajagopal PV by Paul Schwartzertuber**

**4:155:15 Keynote 2 'Building Nonviolent Social Movements for an Inclusive Society' by Rajagopal PV**

**5:156:15 Panel Presentations and Discussion Bill Innes, Heather Nichol, Jill Carr Harris, Robert Lovelace, Bill Bharja (moderator)**

**6:157:00 Break to allow check in at David C. Smith Residence (222 Stuart Street)**

**7:009:00 Dinner and Sponsor Recognition, University Club (168 Stuart Street)**

**Monday, June 26**

**9:10AM Presentation Goods Hall 118 'Gandhi's Political Vision and the World Order', Ramin Jhabbegloo**

**10:12 Workshops I: Identifying issues and each group selects one to work on**

**Indigenous Issues Roundtable Facilitator: Nicholas Bara (India), Terri Lynn Brennan (Canada)**

**Minorities Roundtable Facilitator: Ramin Jhabbegloo (India), Yusef Al Bahari (Canada), Bill Bharja (Canada)**

**Gender Struggles Roundtable Facilitator: Monir Rahman (Canada), Jill Carr Harris (India)**

**Poverty and Economic Inequality Roundtable Facilitators: Jo and Stephanie Mancini (Canada), Paul Schwartz (Canada).**

**12:15 Lunch (provided)**

**1:30-2:30 Panel Presentations and Discussion Goods Hall 118; Teri-Lynn Bieman, Reva Joshee, Rachel Laforest, Sunon Majumdar (moderator)  
Report out by each Workshop Group on the issue they have selected to work on**

**2:45-5:00 Workshops II: Working the Issues: How can Mutual Accommodation and Non-Violent Action be utilized to address them? How do we build on these two practices? What new, innovative approaches/solutions have the potential to accelerate the pace at which issues are addressed?**

**5:00-9:00 Free Evening (a list of local restaurants will be provided)**

**Tuesday, June 27**

**9:00-11:00 Workshops III: Assessing the Impact: Will the proposed approaches/solutions likely work? What could go wrong and how could that risk be mitigated? How could the proposed approaches/solutions be enhanced to improve effectiveness? Would the proposed approaches be effective in addressing other issues?**

**11:00-12:00 Workshop Groups Prepare For Report Out to Whole Conference**

**12:00-1:00 Lunch (provided)**

**1:00-3:00 Final Session Goods Hall 118; Reports from Workshops, Concluding Remarks, Adjourn**

**The organizers wish to thank the following sponsors for their generous support:**



- 1. The design of the meeting is a 'working conference'. While there will be keynotes and one plenary presentation, the primary work of the conference will happen in 68 small roundtable workshop groups. We will ask these roundtable groups, with the assistance of facilitators from India and Canada, to identify key issues in particular areas and then assess the likelihood of success of various approaches for addressing them. We expect that the participation of a diverse group of attendees will enable the creation of effective approaches. These approaches will be developed further after the conference and lead to our second planned conference in India in 2019.**
- 2. The conference has been carefully planned around two themes and four challenge areas. The two themes are 'mutual accommodation' (in the Canadian tradition) and 'non-violence/ahimsa' (in the Indian tradition) as approaches to tackling societal issues.**

- 6 It is expected that this process and work will spawn projects among participants between the countries which will generate ongoing dialogue and action leading to the next conference, proposed to be held in India in 2019**
- 7 The conference is expected to integrate participants from both countries in a way that will broaden and deepen their engagement. With this in mind, we are bringing together experienced and young people with backgrounds in academia, business, and social activism. It will be one of the strengths of the conference to foster rich dialogue among all of these groups**

**Executive in Residence  
Smith School of Business  
Queen's University  
Kingston, Ontario**

**Associate Member  
Centre for the Study of Democracy and Diversity  
Queen's University  
Kingston, Ontario**

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### **Keynote Speakers**

**William A. Macdonald** <http://www.macdonald.com/>

**Rajagopal PV:** <http://www.ekta-paishad.com/enus/about/messagefromrajagopal.aspx>

### **Panelists (June 25<sup>th</sup>)**

**Bill Bhanja (Moderator):**  
Co-Founder, Canadian Department of Peace Initiative, Canadian diplomat (retired).

**Jill Carr-Harris**  
<http://www.ekta-paishad.com/UpcomingEvents/TabId/62/ArtMid/522/ArticleID/136/Creating-space-for-women-in-India/%E2%80%9D%20Ekta-Paishad.aspx>

**Bill Irres**  
Co-Founder, Canadian Difference Project; President, ExorMobil Research and Engineering (retired).

**Robert Lovelace**  
Adjunct, Global Development Studies Department, Queen's University, Kingston

**Heather Nicol**  
Professor and Acting Director, School for the Study of Canada, Trent University, Peterborough

**Selected Other Speakers/Participants**

**Ramin Jhabbegloo**

**Executive Director, Mahatma Gandhi Centre for Nonviolence and Peace Studies, Professor and Vice Dean, Jindal Global Law School, O.P. Jindal Global University, Delhi**

**Arunik Shah**

**Vice-Chancellor, Gujarat Vidyapeeth University, Ahmedabad**

**Panelists (June 26)**

**Teri Lynn Brennan**

**Cultural Services Coordinator, City of Kingston**

**Reva Joshee**

**Associate Professor, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, Toronto**

**Rachel Laforest**

**Associate Professor, School of Policy Studies, Queen's University, Kingston**

**Sunon Mjundir (Moderator)**

**Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Queen's University, Kingston**