

Call for Papers

*Revisiting the demographic challenges of the 21st Century -
Population dynamics, demographic methods and public policy*

**Conference of the Federation of Canadian Demographers
Ottawa, University of Ottawa, 4-5 June 2015**

Ten years after the 2005 Conference in Montreal, the Federation of Canadian Demographers announces a special conference on the theme “Revisiting demographic challenges in the 21st Century - Population dynamics, demographic methods and public policy”. The Conference will take place during the annual meetings of the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences as a joint initiative of the Canadian Population Society and the Association des démographes du Québec.

A conference on research methods and data aimed at understanding “the challenges that demographic trends represent for 21st century societies” was held in Montréal in 2005. In the call for papers for that conference it was noted that the combination of developments in analytical methods, data collection activities and the dynamics of Canadian society presented an opportunity and a need to advance the field of demographic research.

We are now in 2015, and this conference provides us with an opportunity to once again assess the challenges presented by current demographic trends. Although it can be said that some of the challenges discussed during the 2005 conference have been addressed in the past 10 years, there remain a substantial number of issues that still need to be examined, as was pointed out in a report prepared for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council by the Population Change and Lifecourse Strategic Knowledge Cluster (<http://ir.lib.uwo.ca/pclc/vol2/>).

Furthermore, the environment has changed greatly over the last ten years. The impact of the 2008-2009 recession has been felt in a number of ways, such as on the funding of pension funds. Also, some of the longitudinal data sources that were available in 2005 are no longer available. The mandatory long-form census has also been replaced with a voluntary survey called the National Household Survey. Finally, Canada experienced many demographic changes, the rapid increase in ethnocultural diversity, rapid growth among Aboriginal peoples, new immigration policies and large increases in the labour force participation rates for people above the age of 50.

The goals of the current conference are to shed light on the state of the science and on the challenges that Canadian society faces in the coming decades. It should be noted that developments in Canada are mirrored elsewhere in the World. Therefore, this conference will also consider global patterns in demographic research.

Topics and Content of Papers

The primary focus of the Conference is on demographic research that contributes to understanding the factors that will influence the future of populations. Submissions are invited on the following themes:

- Using the past to inform the present and future
- Mythbusters – this session would present research that debunks myths such as that the increasing ethnocultural diversity is only linked to immigration levels

- The role of demographic research in public policy
- Official language minority communities
- The dynamics of the Aboriginal Peoples
- The responses to Canada's demographic challenges – population growth, population ageing and immigration.

Consideration will be given to submissions that do not fall exactly into one the themes that are listed above but that fall generally within the theme of the conference.

Submissions

Researchers working in cognate disciplines in Canada and elsewhere are invited to submit papers. Students working in related fields are highly encouraged to submit papers. A prize will be awarded for the best student-authored paper.

English and French are the languages of the conference. Simultaneous translation will be provided for some of the sessions, assuming the FCD is successful in obtaining the requested grant to support the conference.

Dissemination of results

It is anticipated that the papers and presentations made during this conference will be published in English and in French. The exact form of the publication will depend on the funding that is available for this purpose. Ideally it is hoped to produce special issues of Canadian Studies in Population and Les Cahiers québécois de démographie.

Procedures to submit an abstract

The deadline for submitting an abstract is January 31, 2015. The abstract should include:

- The title
- A text of 250 words (maximum) that describes the research question(s), the data, method, and expected results.
- Names and affiliations for the authors
- First author's status: professor, analyst/researcher, or student.

Please send the abstract by email to 2015fcdconf@gmail.com . Authors will be notified of the results of the selection process by March 20, 2015.