

Transform 2021: Bubble-Breaking and Sense-Making

The global pandemic has given the world a glimpse of the challenges that lie ahead for our species in the face of climate change and ecosystem collapse. It has powerfully demonstrated that social, economic and environmental justice are inextricably linked and fundamental to our collective wellbeing. We have less than a decade to engineer a green recovery, safeguard ecosystem integrity and implement a pathway to net zero, centered in equity and social justice. As funders, we must build on the progress the environmental movement has realized, while recognizing the need and the opportunity to act with even greater urgency. We must step up, do more, do it quickly and be willing to do things differently. We must break out of our sectoral bubbles, even while we remain confined to our social bubbles.

Transform 2021: Sense-Making and Bubble-Breaking is an opportunity to come together as funders to embody the lessons and wisdom that are emerging from the pandemic and to channel our tremendous power and resources to pave the way for the transformation that lies ahead. We must recognize that each of us only holds a tiny piece of the puzzle. To be successful, we need to elevate our commitment to bold transformation beyond our individual agendas, egos, and comfort levels. By working together, we can usher in a new era of healing and resilience for our children and grandchildren.

This will not be a passive conference experience! While nothing can replace the dynamic of being together in person, we are designing a virtual experience that will engage you from start to finish. Each day, through compelling plenary discussions and ‘fireside chats’, small-group conversations, and interactive ‘sense-making’ sessions, we will explore how to burst a different bubble – economic inertia, privilege, public opinion, and our own philanthropic barriers – all while ensuring time for networking and informal conversation.

To start things off, after you register, **we will be soliciting your input and ideas in advance of the conference** to help shape the interactive ‘sense-making’ sessions that will happen at the end of each day. We will then further refine these discussions as we go, deriving inspiration from the themes and content delivered earlier in the day. And on the last day, we will create a funder-only open space for you to present ideas and questions to your colleagues and begin to catalyze post-conference collaborative efforts that are relevant to your work. Your input leading up to and during the conference will also provide valuable insights to inform EFC’s strategic planning process, getting underway in June.

So, roll up your sleeves and join your colleagues for some unparalleled bubble-breaking and sense-making!

We also know how tiring hours of online sessions can be so, in addition to mixing up the session formats, there will be plenty of breaks throughout the agenda. Use this time to stretch your legs, take the dog out, check on your kids, prepare a meal or catch up on emails. Or, just sit back and take in the music we’ll be featuring from or about different regions of Canada.

CONFERENCE AGENDA

OPENING RECEPTION – May 25, 2021 @ 7:00pm – 8:00pm ET

Join your fellow colleagues from Canada and beyond for some informal connecting, networking and entertainment. We'll provide some short welcoming remarks and have plenty of time to mingle and chat. So, grab a snack and a drink, and consider this a virtual cocktail party with no need to dress up. And you don't have to worry about how to get home afterwards! Hope to see you there!

DAY 1 – MAY 26, 2021 12:00pm – 5:00pm ET

REDEFINING ECONOMICS 101 (Breaking the Economic Inertia Bubble)

How do we engineer an improved economic system based on new, sustainable values so that it becomes feasible to prevent ecosystem collapse and firmly entrench a net zero pathway in this decade? With an important change of leadership south of the border and new industries and approaches coming to the forefront here, Canada has a unique window of opportunity to reverse our current trajectory and reinvent a new economy based on care and repair. We stand to gain immeasurably by rebuilding an economy where wealth and power are distributed equitably, resources are used sustainably, UNDRIP is upheld, and our social systems and infrastructure are guided by a deep, abiding commitment to social justice. In redesigning our systems based on such values, we can heal our relationship with each other, with other species and with the planet that contains and sustains us.

So how do we overcome the challenges, barriers and inertia needed to seize this moment for economic transformation?

12:00pm – 12:15pm – Land Acknowledgement and Welcome

12:15pm – 1:05pm – Plenary Fireside Chat – Inspired Ideas

What are the values that should underpin our economic models to facilitate a bold transformation to a sustainable economy? How should they be reflected in our capital allocation structures? What's stopping us from getting there and how do we overcome those barriers? What are the opportunities for public, private and philanthropic investments? This fireside chat will explore a range of perspectives and provide food for thought for small group discussions immediately following.

Moderator: **Toby Heaps**, CEO and Co-founder, Corporate Knights

In conversation with:

- **Carol Anne Hilton**, Founder and CEO, Indigenomics Institute
- **Rebekah Young**, Director, Fiscal & Provincial Economics, Scotiabank
- **Hadrian Mertins-Kirkwood**, Senior Researcher, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

1:05pm – 1:30pm – Small Group Discussions

What surprised you? What inspired you? Catch up with your colleagues, meet new people and reflect on what you just heard during a short, small group discussion.

1:30pm – 2:00pm – BREAK – Music in the Lobby

2:00pm – 3:15pm ET – Plenary Rapid Fire Q&A – Tangible Solutions

What is the economic and environmental solution that you are most excited about, and what must change to make it a reality? Hear what our panelists have to say and come armed with questions that you might have.

Moderator: **Alison Cretney**, Managing Director, Energy Futures Lab

Seeking solutions from:

- **Tyson Atleo**, Natural Climate Solutions Program Director, Nature United
- **Liam Hildebrand**, Executive Director and Chairman, Iron & Earth
- **Lori Tagoona**, Senior Associate, Inuit Nunangat, MakeWay
- **Laura Zizzo**, Co-Founder, Manifest Climate
- **Toby Sanger**, Executive Director, Canadians for Fair Taxation.

3:15pm – 3:45pm ET – BREAK – Music in the Lobby

3:45 – 5:00 – Interactive Sense-Making Discussions

Our final session each day will provide us with the space to explore the big questions that has emerged leading up to and throughout our conference. Working in groups, we'll step out of our comfort zones and collectively brainstorm, capturing discussion using Collaboard, a tool to facilitate online collaboration. You'll have the opportunity to move from discussion to discussion, and contribute your thoughts, as you see fit. Questions arising one day will help to inform sense-making the next! Stay tuned for more details, coming soon!

DAY 2 – MAY 27, 2021 12:00pm – 5:00pm ET

ADVANCING DECOLONIZATION, EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE IN PHILANTHROPY (Breaking our Privilege Bubble)

Recent events have illustrated the glaring disparities and discrimination that still exists across every aspect of society and have elevated the urgency to address Indigenous, racial, and other social justice issues. But how do we move from language and guiding principles to tangible action within the philanthropic sector? What are the implications of this new language and increased openness for change for environmental funders who are working to prevent ecosystem collapse and implement a pathway to net zero?

12:00pm – 12:15pm – Land Acknowledgement and Welcome

12:15pm – 1:05pm – Plenary Fireside Chat – Inspired Ideas

Why is it crucial for environmental funders and ENGOs to consider and center justice if they want environmental progress, beyond the understanding that it's the right thing to do? This fireside chat will explore a range of perspectives and provide food for thought for small group discussions immediately following.

Moderator **Sherry Yano**, Director of Grants and Community Engagement, Real Estate Foundation of BC

In conversation with:

- **Emmay Mah**, Executive Director, Toronto Environmental Alliance
- **Wawa Gatheru**, Environmental Justice Advocate and Rhodes Scholar, The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
- **Eriel Deranger**, Executive Director, Indigenous Climate Action
- **Graham Saul**, Executive Director, Nature Canada.

1:05pm – 1:30pm – Small Group Discussions

What surprised you? What inspired you? Catch up with your colleagues, meet new people and reflect on what you just heard during a short, small group discussion.

1:30pm – 2:00pm – BREAK – Music in the Lobby

2:00pm – 3:15pm ET - Plenary Rapid Fire Q&A – Tangible Solutions

What are the tangible implications of centering decolonization, equity and social justice in the transformation ahead? What has been done in the past and how would it be done differently today if these values were centered in the work?

Moderator: **Kris Archie**, Executive Director, The Circle on Philanthropy and Aboriginal Peoples in Canada

Seeking solutions from:

- **Lawrence Martin**, Mushkegowuk Marine Region Manager, Mushkegowuk Council
- **Tom Liacas**, Founding Director, Climate Justice Organizing Hub
- **Naolo Charles**, Co-Director, National Anti-Environmental Racism Coalition
- **Yonis Hassan**, Co-Founder and CEO, Justice Fund
- **Hannah Askew**, Executive Director, Sierra Club of BC

3:15pm – 3:45pm ET – BREAK – Music in the Lobby

3:45pm – 5:00pm – Interactive Sense-Making Discussions

Our final session each day will provide us with the space to explore the big questions that has emerged leading up to and throughout our conference. Working in groups, we'll step out of our comfort zones and collectively brainstorm, capturing discussion using Collaboard, a tool to facilitate online collaboration. You'll have the opportunity to move from discussion to discussion, and contribute your thoughts, as you see fit. Questions arising one day will help to inform sense-making the next! Stay tuned for more details, coming soon!

DAY 4 – JUNE 2, 2021 – 12:45pm – 5:00pm

TRANSFORMING OURSELVES (Breaking the Philanthropic Barrier Bubble)

Our final day will be an opportunity to explore how we can work together differently and more effectively to embody courage, embrace risk, share power, and act with urgency and humility to facilitate the transformation we desire. We will be joined by members of Community Foundations of Canada for two concurrent sessions – funder collaboratives and community foundation and environmental work – and then have open-space sessions, among ourselves, to address issues that emerge from our prior days' work.

12:45pm – 1:00pm – Land Acknowledgement and Welcome

1:00pm – 2:00pm – Concurrent Sessions – In Collaboration with Community Foundations

Join us as we open our doors to our community foundation colleagues for two concurrent sessions that address topics of relevance to all of us. These sessions are being offered to EFC conference attendees and as concurrent session choices available to attendees of Community Foundations All In Summit.

Session A – Funder Collaboratives

Funder collaboratives come in all different shapes and sizes. Some share information; some pool resources; some work directly with community members; some do all three – or something different altogether! During this session, you will hear from representatives of three different collaboratives. What is their purpose? How did they start? What have they done? What's worked and what hasn't? They'll then share their collective insights and provide "five great ideas" for you to consider, leaving plenty of time for discussion and Q&As.

Moderator: **Joanna Kerr**, CEO, MakeWay

In conversation with:

- **Peter Kendall**, Schad Foundation, on behalf of the Target One Funders.
- **Julie Price**, MakeWay, on behalf of the Northern Manitoba Food, Culture and Community Collaborative
- **Allie Urbanski**, Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo, on behalf of the Great Lakes Funders Collaboration

Session B – Community Foundations and the Environment

Community Foundations work tirelessly at the local level to improve the quality of life in our communities,. But with so many urgent social needs to address, where does a healthy environment fit in? How does environmental work intersect with, and perhaps help address, the other priority issues at the forefront of our work? During this session you will hear from representatives of three community foundations. What kind of environmental work are they doing? How did it get started? Where does it fit in their agenda? They'll then share their collective insights and provide "five great ideas" for you to consider, leaving plenty of time for discussion and Q&As.

Moderator: **Jason Bates**, Vice President, Grants and Community Initiatives, Calgary Foundation

- **Steve Winkelman**, Executive Director, Ottawa Climate Action Fund, Ottawa Community Foundation
- **Megan Tate**, Director of Community Grants, Winnipeg Community Foundation
- **Suzanne Veenstra**, Community Fund and Foundation Associate, Niagara Community Foundation

2:00 – 2:30pm – BREAK – Music in the Lobby

2:30pm – 3:30pm – Open Space Sessions

Our final conference session, open to funders only, is purposely undefined and will provide a space for funders to host burning conversations they would like to have with their colleagues, and/or present ideas for feedback. Throughout the conference, we will provide a platform to gather and promote ideas, and then – whether there be two or ten – we’ll explore these ‘conversation café’ style, in the last hour of our event. Stay tuned for more details, coming soon.

3:30pm – 4:00pm – BREAK – Music in the Lobby

4:00pm – 5:00pm – Reception with Community Foundations

To close out our conference, we’ll join our Community Foundation friends and colleagues at their reception as they open up their **All In Summit**. We’ll provide them with some insights from ours, and have plenty of opportunity to network, chat and take in some entertainment. So grab your glass and head on over!

THANK YOU!

We are grateful to the following organizations for their support as conference sponsors.

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