Families in Canada Conference 2019
THINK BIG!

MARCH 27 AND 28, 2019

National Site
Infinity Convention Centre
2901 Gibford Drive
Ottawa, ON K1V 2L9

Regional locations will be announced in Fall/Winter 2018.

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS, ABSTRACTS AND POSTERS

For more than 50 years, the Vanier Institute of the Family has been a national resource for information and insights on families and family life in Canada. A national, independent and charitable organization, the Vanier Institute is dedicated to understanding the diversity and complexity of families and the reality of family life in Canada. The Institute enhances the national understanding of how families interact with, have an impact on and are affected by social, economic, environmental and cultural forces.

On March 27 and 28, 2019 in Ottawa, Ontario, the Vanier Institute of the Family will host the Families in Canada Conference 2019 – a national, pan-Canadian conference with simultaneous satellite regional conferences co-hosted by university partners across the country.

Guided by this year's theme – **THINK BIG!** – diverse leaders from multiple fields and disciplines who study, serve and support families will gather at this unique and inclusive series of events for two days of knowledge-sharing and catalytic conversation.

We are calling for presentations, abstracts and posters from researchers from disciplines, backgrounds and professions who will bring their unique perspectives to important discussions about measuring and optimizing family well-being in the context of "Big Data."

ACCESS PRESENTATION/ABSTRACT/POSTER APPLICATION FORM

GOALS AND SUGGESTED THEMES/TOPICS

We live in an increasingly complex and interconnected world, with unparalleled access to data about families and family life. This era of "Big Data" has had a significant impact on population research, fuelled by the growing use of new sources of personal information (e.g. *digitized records and services, data from smart devices and social media*), a virtually unlimited capacity to store data (e.g. *reductions in the cost and physical size of devices, parallel increases*), improved record linkage techniques and advanced analytical computer programs that can learn from and make predictions on data. Simply put, there have never been greater possibilities and opportunities for analyzing data and understanding families in Canada.

Analyzing and understanding the diverse ways families interact with, have an impact on and are affected by social, economic, cultural and environmental forces is an essential step in the development of effective and inclusive policies, programs and practices to o*ptimize family well-being.*

Building a Canada where families engage and thrive in a caring and compassionate society, with a robust and prosperous economy, in an inclusive and vibrant culture, and in a safe and sustainable environment requires **BIG IDEAS**...

BIG IDEAS for learning about families:

- Exploring families and family life through diverse, evolving, unconventional and emerging data sources (and combinations of sources)
- Embracing new research methods and facilitating interdisciplinary and intersectional approaches for richer analysis
- Broadening our understanding of what "family is" to ensure diverse experiences and perspectives are included

BIG IDEAS for facilitating family well-being:

- Measuring "family well-being"
- Building the research and knowledge networks necessary to support the development of evidence-based, evidence-informed and evidence-inspired policies, programs and practices

Studying, serving and supporting families is neither a simple nor straightforward task. Families are diverse and family life is complex; a range of interconnected and ever-changing social, economic, cultural and environmental forces affects our lives and, through our thoughts and actions, we shape these same forces.

That's why we are **calling for presentations, abstracts and posters from researchers from disciplines, backgrounds and professions who will bring their unique perspectives to important discussions about measuring and optimizing family well-being in the context of "Big Data."**

We are accepting proposals for oral presentations, abstracts and posters, for a broad range of themes/topics, including (but not limited to):

Employment and Housing
- Low-income households, reducing poverty
- Employment and labour – On the Move
- Self-employment and entrepreneurship
- Family business and "interpreneurship"
- Education
- Housing and homelessness (co-housing, co-ops, living arrangements, multi-generational households)

Ending Violence
- Domestic violence, intimate partner violence
- Violence against women
- Cyberbullying

Achieving Work–Life Quality
- Flexibility
- Childcare and eldercare
- Young carers
- Caregiving and work
- Leaves and benefits (family care leaves and benefits)
- Family-friendly work environments
- Women's career advancement

Enhancing Health and Wellness
- Advances in health care, home care, palliative care, respite care
- Advances in mental health care
- Prevention and health promotion
- Family medicine
- Sports and leisure

Understanding Family Law
- Marriage, divorce
- Parentage (adoptive non-intimate families, "co-mamas/papas")

Building the Middle Class
- Family finances
- Wealth creation
- Tax policies
- Social innovation

CROSS-CUTTING THEMES/TOPICS

Building Sustainable Communities
- Inclusive and accessible communities

Marginalized Families
- Families affected by incarceration
- Families in the Far North
- Skip-generation families
- Foster families
- Alienated grandparents
- Families living with mental illness (depression, PTSD, OSI)

Understanding Demographics
- Diversity and inclusion
- Aging population
- Immigrants and refugees
- Intergenerational family finances
- Death and dying
- Family formation
- Fertility
- Grandparents and great-grandparents
- Households with lead, co- and solo parents
- High-wealth families
- Forecasting the future (youth and young adults)

Diverse Families in Canada
- Military and Veteran families
- Families new to Canada (immigrant, refugee)
- LGBTQ2I+ families
- Indigenous families
- Polyamorous families
- Families by choice
- Black families

SELECTION CRITERIA

Presentations, abstracts and posters must focus on a theme/topic **related to families and family life** or **family experiences, expectations and aspirations**, and should aim to *inform and inspire* conference delegates in their work studying, serving and/or supporting families in Canada.

Preference will be given to research that uses a **strength-based lens**, which includes the use of positive language that avoids "deficit language" or that focuses on crises, negativity, fear and blame (e.g. *what is wrong with families, family problems, family breakdown*).

Maximum length for oral presentations is 10 minutes, plus an additional 2–3 minutes for participant engagement (e.g. *questions, comments*). Priority will be given to presentations that encompass the presenter's **lived experience** with the subject matter. The use of PowerPoint or other visual aids is permitted but must include minimal text and be used to organize and structure your presentation, highlight key points and provide visual representations of ideas.

More details to come.

SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL

Please note that the information you provide will be included in the conference program.

Proposals must be submitted electronically no later than November 30, 2018, 4 p.m. EST, and can be submitted through our online application form.

ACCESS PRESENTATION/ABSTRACT/POSTER APPLICATION FORM

For additional information, please contact FAM2019@vanierinstitute.ca.