

Public Banks in Canada

**BUILDING A
PROGRESSIVE FUTURE**

**Ottawa, Canada
October 14th, 2022**

A critical conversation
about the future of public
banks in Canada.

Organized by the:



Welcome

Thank you for taking part in this conversation about public banks in Canada. Our aim is to stimulate debate about the past, present and future of public banks in the country, and how we can collectively create progressive public banking institutions that are democratic and accountable and geared towards equity and sustainability. There are no simple solutions to this challenge, and we look forward to hearing your thoughts on this important topic.

Featuring

Diana Barrowclough, UNCTAD

Jackie Fielder, San Francisco Public Bank Coalition

Magnus Andersson, Nordic Investment Bank

Thomas Marois, SOAS University of London

Melissa Marquez, Genesee Co-op Federal Credit Union & Public Bank, New York

Stephanie McHenry, The Democracy Collaborative

David McDonald, Queen's University

Marc-André Pigeon, University of Saskatchewan

Robert Ramsay, CUPE

Aditya Rao, CUPE

Christian Seitz, KfW

Susan Spronk, University of Ottawa

Karina Valverde Salas, Banco Popular Costa Rica

Heather Whiteside, University of Waterloo

Jessica Wood, *Si Sityaawks*, BC Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation



Programme

9:00 - 9:15 AM – Welcome Remarks

Susan Spronk, University of Ottawa

9:15 - 10:45 AM – Public Banks in Canada

What is a Public Bank? – Thomas Marois, SOAS University of London

A Short History of Public Banks in Canada – Marc-Andre Pigeon,
Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, University of Saskatchewan

A Critical Perspective on the Canada Infrastructure Bank – Heather
Whiteside, University of Waterloo

A Trade Union Alternative for a Canada Infrastructure Bank – Aditya Rao
and Robert Ramsay, Canadian Union of Public Employees

(Followed by facilitator-led discussions at tables)

10:45 - 11:00 AM – Coffee Break

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM – Remaking Public Banks I

Public Banks and the Sustainable Development Goals – Diana
Barrowclough, United Nations Commission on Trade and Development

Democratic Governance and Public Banks – Christian Seitz, KfW
Executive Board Office (Germany)

**Diversity and Community Inclusiveness in Forging a Social Justice
Approach to Public Banking** – Jackie Fielder, Co-founder of the San
Francisco Public Bank Coalition

Organizing a Grassroots Public Banking Movement – Melissa Marquez,
CEO of Genesee Co-op Federal Credit Union & Public Bank New York
organizer

(Followed by facilitator-led discussions at tables)

Programme cont.

12:30 - 1:30 PM – Lunch (onsite)

1:30 - 3:00 PM – Remaking Public Banks II

Reconciliation and the Prospects for Public Banks in Canada – Jessica Wood, Si Sityaawks, Associate Deputy Minister, Declaration Act Secretariat, Government of BC

Funding Decarbonization – Magnus Andersson, Nordic Investment Bank

Community Wealth Building and the Prospects for Public Banks – Stephanie McHenry, The Democracy Collaborative

Gender Equity and Public Banks – Karina Valverde Salas, Assembly of Workers, Banco Popular y de Desarrollo Comunal (Costa Rica)

(Followed by facilitator-led discussions at tables)

3:00 - 3:30 PM – Closing Comments and Future Actions

David McDonald, Queen's University

6:00 PM – Conference Dinner

Chez Lucien (Optional, registration required)

Thank You

We would like to thank the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) and the International Political Economy Network (IPEN) for their assistance with this conference, and to acknowledge the financial support of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).