



NMUN • CANADA

BANFF

2017

In Partnership
With



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Information Package

National Model United Nations

National Model United Nations (NMUN) draws a diverse group of post-secondary students and faculty from colleges and universities around the world to address current global issues. NMUN conferences are experiential learning programs that provide students with a greater understanding of the inner workings of the United Nations and a forum to hone their skills in diplomacy, negotiation, critical thinking, compromise, public speaking, writing, and research.

NMUN conferences have been hosted annually in the United States for over 70 years, coinciding with the inception of the United Nations. The first international NMUN conference hosted outside of the United States was in Xi'an, China in 2008, and has since been hosted annually in numerous locations including the Galapagos, Japan, Italy, South Korea, and the Czech Republic.

Concordia University of Edmonton, alongside NMUN, is excited to announce that NMUN 2017 will take place in beautiful Banff, Alberta, Canada.

NMUN • Canada, hosted at the Banff Centre, is looking to involve hundreds of students and faculty from all over the world.

A QR link to a video on the NMUN experience:

Or visit <https://www.youtube.com/user/nationalmodelun>



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NMUN • Canada, in partnership with Concordia University of Edmonton and the Office of the Vice President International and Research, will host NMUN in Canada for the first time. Banff, Alberta was chosen as the location due to its cultural significance, pristine natural beauty, and its status as an UNESCO World Heritage Site.

NMUN • Canada will seek to engage delegates with important international issues through the simulation of four United Nations committees:

- The General Assembly Plenary (GA)
- The Security Council (SC)
- The Economic and Social Council Plenary (ECOSOC)
- The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)

NMUN • Canada will help to celebrate the 10th year anniversary of the creation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and feature simulations that focus on global Indigenous issues, international peace and security, climate change, and the new Sustainable Development Goals.



Program Highlights at NMUN • Canada

In 2017, Canada will be celebrating its sesquicentennial birthday, its relationship with Indigenous Peoples, and the diversity of Canada. The conference will feature a number of different cultural components and performances, emphasizing the diverse ethnicity and multicultural mosaic of Canada.

A traditional Indigenous foods banquet will be held in conjunction with the Opening Ceremonies. Delegates and faculty will be invited to partake in various Canadian Indigenous dishes. Throughout the conference students, staff, and faculty will be able to engage firsthand with Indigenous culture, language, art, and the importance of each in engaging meaningfully with global Indigenous issues.

Conference Grounds—Tatanga, the Sleeping Buffalo

The NMUN • Canada conference is being held in Banff National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, home to an abundance of wildlife and a diversity of human histories.

Although established as a National Park in the 1880s, Banff has a long record of settlement and use by various Indigenous communities, with archeological evidence dating back to around 10,300 BCE. By the time Europeans first visited the region in eighteenth century, Banff was frequented by numerous Indigenous peoples including Nakoda (Stoney), Ktunaxa (Kootenay), Tsuu T'ina, Kainai, Piikani, and Siksika peoples.

Banff, and the wider region of southern Alberta, is an ideal location for the NMUN • Canada conference with its special focus on Indigenous issues and rights from a global context. Banff lies within the region of Treaty Seven, which was signed 140 years ago. This treaty paved the way for the transformation of this region of Canada from a space dominated by Indigenous peoples, into one managed and largely controlled by Europeans and their descendants. While the treaty represents a remarkably peaceful and negotiated instance of the transfer of land from Indigenous to European hands—a negotiation in which Indigenous people were able to secure several rights and guarantees from the government in exchange for their land—this treaty also ushered in one of the darkest eras in Canada's history, marked by poverty in Indigenous communities, enforced assimilation through residential schools, and the breaking of treaty promises by the Canadian government. Conducting the NMUN Conference in the territory of Treaty Seven provides an ideal context in which to discuss and reflect upon the mixture of ways Indigenous peoples across the globe have been shaped by the past and present conditions of colonialism, treaties, and state policies of land appropriation.

More broadly, the NMUN • Canada conference will occur at a time when Canada is itself undergoing a major change in how it, as a nation, thinks about and interacts with its Indigenous Peoples. After years of Indigenous land loss, dispossession, and assimilation, the people of Canada and its government are hoping for a brighter future. In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada conducted an inquiry into the broad implications of the Indian residential schools and released its final report which includes over 90 calls to action. Among other things, this report called for a rebalancing of the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada and a return to the spirit of partnership as initially outlined in foundational agreements like Treaty Seven. More recently, the Canadian government announced its support for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, signalling the willingness on the part of political leadership to try and meet this call to reconcile the relations between the Government of Canada and Canada's Indigenous peoples. This move towards reconciliation is being watched across the world as other states try to wrestle with their own complex relationships with Indigenous peoples.

Framed by the hope and promise of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, NMUN Canada seeks to engage Canadian and international delegates in a cultural experience that features the culture of some of southern Alberta's Indigenous peoples. Faculty and delegates will have opportunities to engage with Indigenous food, dancing, art, language, and history during their stay at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, making NMUN Canada an immersive experience.

While the NMUN debates and discussions amongst student delegates are directed by the current work of the UN, there is an allowance for students to envision a brighter future for all people of the world by building off of consensus and negotiation. NMUN Canada will feature simulations of multiple UN committees, including the Economic and Social Council, informed by the UN's Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

The conference committee simulations will take place at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, a world-renowned Arts, Science, Culture, and Business centre. While its beginning was as an extension of the University of Alberta in 1933 with a grant from the Carnegie Foundation, The Banff Centre has become a leading public institution in Alberta as a non-degree granting institution that specializes in programs in the arts, creativity, leadership development, mountain culture, and the environment. This venue will be an ideal meeting place to discuss issues ranging from global Indigenous issues to climate change, sustainable development goals, and global peace and security.



Organizing Committee

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We invite you to contact us to discuss
opportunities for supporting
NMUN • Canada 2017.

Volunteer Leadership



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CENTRE FOR ARTS AND CREATIVITY



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NATIONAL MODEL
UNITED NATIONS