



NMUN • CANADA

BANFF

2017

In Partnership  
With



CONCORDIA  
UNIVERSITY  
OF EDMONTON

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 and the NCCA, 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

NMUN • Canada, in partnership with Concordia University of Edmonton and the Office of the Vice President of International Relations 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)
- World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP)
- United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)

NMUN • Canada will focus on addressing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in the simulation of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. Other committee simulations will deal directly with issues from international peace and security to climate change to sustainable development and the new Sustainable Development Goals.



## Program Highlights at NMUN • Canada

- In 2017, Canada will be celebrating 150 years since its foundation, its relationship with the indigenous people, and the diversity of Canadians. The conference will feature a number of different cultural components and performances, emphasizing the diverse citizenship and multicultural mosaic of Canada
- On site, there will be an Indigenous Peoples Gallery of Art, Sculptures, and Storytelling from Indigenous artists and performers from both Canada and around the world.
- A Traditional Indigenous Foods Banquet will be held after 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 picturesque and world-renowned town of Banff is also an ancient gathering place of Indigenous peoples for thousands of years. Archaeological evidence found at Vermilion Lakes indicates the first human activity in Banff to 10,300 B.P. Prior to European contact, Indigenous peoples including the Stoney, Kootenay, Tsuu T'ina, Kainai, Piikani, and Siksika resided in the Banff region.

The NMUN 2017 conference is proud to be hosted by the Indigenous nations and Elders council of Treaty 7 of southern Alberta, Canada. This year's conference honours the spirit and intent of Treaty 7 and also marks the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its signing.

On September 22, 1877, the Indigenous nations of southern Alberta and the Banff area signed a Treaty of Peace and Friendship. The Kainai, Nakoda, Tsuu T'ina, Piikani, and Siksika made this treaty with the Crown of Canada. Treaty 7 connected and united the Province of British Columbia with the rest of Canada and helped to open up the west for development.

The location of the Banff Centre is on a location that is considered sacred to Indigenous nations from the area and still is called Sleeping Buffalo mountain—formally Tunnel Mountain.

Today, the Banff Centre is an international gathering place for artists and people with high ideals. This is completely in keeping with the prophesy of the great Stoney leader and medicine man Tatanga Mani. He was born on the Morley Reserve, just east of what is now Banff National Park, a decade before the collapse of the great bison herds that still roamed the prairie in the 1880s. His name, translated from Stoney as “walking buffalo,” is symbolically representative of “things of the past moving into the future.”

Travelling the world over as an emissary for peace, Tatanga Mani foresaw “a place on the banks of the Bow, where all nations can gather.” With the river and mystical Bow Falls abutting the run up to the Banff Centre, the conference and arts centre might well be a manifestation of what he envisioned long ago.

## Organizing Committee

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## Conference Contact

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

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# BANFF

**CENTRE FOR ARTS AND CREATIVITY**

### Volunteer Leadership



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Roger Tseng  
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