



HOME

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This conference seeks to bring together business leaders, bankers, academics, justice advocates, policy makers, legal professionals, politicians, and those working in the not-for-profit sector to discuss the issues we face as well as hopeful solutions.

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Keynote Speakers

[Dr. Bob Goudzwaard](#), Professor Emeritus of Economics and Social Philosophy, VU University, Amsterdam

• [Video](#)

[The Honourable Diane Ablonczy](#), Member of Parliament for Calgary-Nose Hill

• [Video](#)



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CONFERENCE DESCRIPTION

On May 12 & 13, 2014, The King's University College and the Institute for Christian Studies (ICS) will co-host a conference on economic justice in Edmonton, Alberta, entitled *Are We There Yet? Economic Justice and the Common Good*.

While economic issues continue to dominate Canada's political agenda, popular participation in such protest movements as Occupy and Idle No More signals a growing concern about the effects of free market forces on the ecological health of the land and the general welfare of Canadian society. Disagreement about the beneficence of these forces threatens to polarize the citizenry, while any opportunity for meaningful dialogue between both the defenders and critics of these forces remains relatively rare. The conference we are planning seeks to address this deficiency in Canadian public discourse by setting a hospitable table around which a broad range of opinions, political perspectives, and socio-economic experiences can be gathered and shared.

We plan to generate and sustain conversational momentum both before and after the conference through strategic use of the internet and social media, as well as the publication of conference materials in digital and print formats. We thereby seek to encourage greater networking and cooperation among conference participants, facilitating relationships that can positively impact future work.

Please see our Call for Participation [here](#).

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



[The Honourable Diane Ablonczy](#) has been a Member of Parliament for over two decades. When first elected in 1993, she became a key member of the shadow cabinet of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, serving as chief critic for citizenship and immigration, health and human resources development. Upon forming government in 2006, Prime Minister Stephen Harper appointed Mrs. Ablonczy Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance. In 2008 she became Minister of State (Small Business and Tourism), a position she held until 2010, when she was appointed Minister of State (Seniors). From January 2011 to July 2013, she held the position of Minister of State of Foreign Affairs (Americas and Consular Affairs), representing Canada in the Americas and overseeing consular affairs around the world. Mrs. Ablonczy is also a member of the Cabinet Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence and an alternate member of the Treasury Board.

Prior to entering political life, Mrs. Ablonczy enjoyed a varied career, which ranged from teaching junior high school to managing a grain farm operation to building a successful law practice.



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Dr. Bob Goudzwaard is an internationally recognized economist whose influence extends well beyond the circle of his disciplinary expertise. Throughout his career, he has purposefully designed his lectures and publications to reach all people who seek wisdom in finding their way in our culture. His texts stand out as widely accessible, creative approaches to

the deep economic fault lines that divide and alienate us. He not only makes our problems understandable, but his alternative suggestions open paths that inspire hope for a better future.

Dr. Goudzwaard is Professor Emeritus of Economics and Social Philosophy at the VU University, Amsterdam, and a former member of the Dutch Parliament. From 1959-1965, Dr. Goudzwaard served as a Policy Researcher for the Doctor Abraham Kuyper Foundation, the intellectual arm of the Dutch Anti-Revolutionary Party (ARP), for which he also served as a member of Parliament from 1967-71. In 1971, Dr. Goudzwaard was appointed Professor of Economics in the Faculty of Social and Cultural Sciences at the Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam (now called VU University), a position he held until his retirement in 1999. Dr. Goudzwaard also played a formative role with several Christian social institutions in Canada, including the Christian Labour Association of Canada, Citizens for Public Justice, and the Institute for Christian Studies. A passionate advocate for “an economy of care” that looks beyond traditional market growth indicators, Dr. Goudzwaard is the author of many books and articles,

including (in English) *Capitalism and Progress: A Diagnosis of Western Society* (1979), *Beyond Poverty and Affluence* (1995, with Harry de Lange), and *Hope in Troubled Times: A New Vision for Confronting Global Crises* (2007, with Mark Vander Vennen and David Van Heemst).



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Are We There Yet? Economic Justice and the Common Good
Call for Participation
 May 12 & 13, 2014, The King's University College, Edmonton, Alberta

Recent social movements and protests reveal an increasing level of popular concern about building a more just society. There is little societal agreement about how to accomplish this goal. However, there is growing recognition that economic concerns must be included in any full-bodied conception of justice. It is our task to ensure that economic institutions continue to provide for human flourishing, and to work for their reform when they result in harm to social relationships or the ecological health of our planetary home.

Building a more just society requires the combined efforts of all parts of society working together. This conference hopes to facilitate this task by bringing together people working in many different fields that deal with economic issues—business leaders, bankers, academic theorists, justice advocates, policy makers, legal professionals, politicians, and those working in the not-for-profit sector—to discuss the problems we face as well as possible solutions and hopeful alternatives.

For this purpose, we are calling for panel and presentation proposals from all these people on topics related to economic justice. Topics may include, but are not limited to, such issues as keeping faith with the poor, justice on the worksite, ecological stewardship and sustainable development, justice and corporations, principles of land use, business and social responsibility, food and agriculture, taxation and the common good, as well as justice and public policy.

We envisage panel presentations that consist of 2-4 people, speaking from a variety of viewpoints on a common topic. Presentation styles may vary, and alternative presentation formats are encouraged. We invite proposals for both full panels and individual presentations (which will be placed into panels by the conference organizers). Topic sessions will last 90 minutes, the last half hour of which will be reserved for public discussion.

Please send an expression of interest in .doc or .pdf format to Allyson Carr, Associate Director, Centre for Philosophy, Religion and Social Ethics at The Institute for Christian Studies (cprse@icscanada.edu).

- Individual presentations: Provide 1-2 paragraphs describing the topic that you hope to speak on and the type of contribution you will make. (For example, will you tell the story of how your own business or organization contributes to economic justice? make a scholarly argument? report on recent research? present a policy proposal?) Please also provide a brief description of your background and experience or expertise.
- Panels: Provide 1-2 paragraphs describing the topic you intend the panel to address. Identify the contribution that will be made by each participant in the panel; this could consist of individual presentations on a common topic as described above, or a debate or other interactive type of presentation. Please also provide a brief description of each participant's background and experience or expertise.

The deadline for submission is **December 11, 2013**. Presenters will be notified of their selection by mid-January. If you have any questions about the conference, please do not hesitate to contact us.



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Monday, 12 May 2014

7:30-9:00 am	Breakfast	Atrium
8:00-9:00 am	Registration/Check-in	Foyer
9:00-9:15 am	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Atrium
9:15-10:30 am	Keynote Address: Bob Goudzwaard	Atrium
10:30-11:00 am	Break and Refreshments	Atrium
11:00 am-12:30 pm	Session One	
	<i>Faithful Business: Beyond the Bottom Line</i> John Leder, Supreme Steel Kathy Schmidt, Schmidt Realty Group Gregg Oldring, Industry Mailout Lachlan Whatley, MetalBoss Technologies Inc.	N110
	<i>Economic Justice and Urban Food Security</i> Jessie Radies, Founder, Live Local Alberta Elizabeth Smythe, Concordia University College Candace Vanin, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Janelle Hebert, Riverbend Gardens Moderator: Lorelei Hanson	N119
	<i>Just Economy and First Nations</i> Travis Enright, Canon Missioner for Indigenous Ministry Janice Makokis, Organizer, Idle No More Lorraine Land, Olthuis Kleer Townshend LLP	L116
12:30-1:45 pm	Lunch	Atrium
1:45-3:00 pm	Keynote Address: Diane Ablonczy	



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3:00-3:30 pm	Break and Refreshments	
3:30-5:00 pm	<p>“Putting Ideas to Work” <i>Practitioners and Theorists Networking Forum</i></p> <p>The session will open with an introduction and discussion of a new, cross-sectoral partnership between the Centre for Philosophy, Religion, and Social Ethics at the Institute for Christian Studies, The Christian Reformed Church in Canada, and the Centre for Community Based Research entitled, <i>Justice and Faith: Individual Spirituality and Social Responsibility in the Christian Reformed Church in Canada</i>. This project will serve as a case study for developing and maintaining fruitful cross-sectoral partnerships; it will open to a broader discussion of the benefit of such partnerships, and will also provide an opportunity to brainstorm potential future collaborations.</p> <p>Steve van de Hoef, CRC Office of Social Justice, facilitator Ronald A. Kuipers, Institute for Christian Studies, facilitator</p>	Atrium
5:30-7:00 pm	Dinner	Atrium
7:30-8:30 pm	Live Musical Performance: Jey Witten and Braden Gates	
Tuesday, 13 May 2014		
7:30-9:00 am	Breakfast	Atrium
8:30-9:00 am	Registration for New Arrivals	Foyer
9:00-10:30 am	Session Two	
	<p><i>Civil Society Panel</i> Doug Blomberg: "Economic Justice for Schools in Secular Societies" Theresa Zolner: "Mental Health Justice" Harry Kits: "International Development: Trade or Aid"</p>	N110



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	<p><i>Faith, Community, and Climate Change</i> Joe Gunn, CPJ, Ottawa Ms Sara Farid, CCODP animator, Calgary Rev. Dr. Mishka Lysack, Calgary's School of Social Work Moderator: Randolph Haluza-Delay</p>	L116
	<p><i>Thought that Matters to Economics</i> Joshua Lee Harris: "Value Problems Left and Right: Hans-Georg Gadamer and the Economic Person" Michael DeMoor: "Property Rights and the Common Good: How Aristotle and Hegel can make Alberta a more just place." Allyson Carr: "Speaking Stories Into Truth: Economic Justice for Women in Christine de Pizan's <i>Book of the City of Ladies</i> and life in V Day's <i>City of Joy Today</i>"</p>	N119
10:30-11:00 am	Break and Refreshments	
11:00am-12:30 pm	Session Three	
	<p><i>Genuine Progress: How Do You Measure Economic Justice?</i> Graeme Esau, "The Economics of Well-being" Hector Acero Ferrer, "Evolution of Social Catholic Thought in Latin America: What We Can Learn about Economic Justice from Contexts of Oppression" Mark Anielski, author of <i>The Economics of Happiness</i></p>	L116
	<p><i>Talking About the Oilsands: Is a Breakthrough Possible?</i> Elwil Beukes, The King's University College Dennis Vroom, Industry Relations Wayne Prins, Christian Labour Association of Canada</p>	N110
	<p><i>Canadian Law and Economic Justice</i> Jonathan Nicolai-deKoning, The Mustard Seed Mark Huyser-Wierenga, Crown Prosecutor, Government of Alberta</p>	N119
12:30-1:45 pm	Lunch	Atrium



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1:45-3:15 pm	Session Four	
	<i>Working for Socio-Economic Justice: CLAC's Efforts on Behalf of Canada's Under-Represented Groups and Communities</i> Dick Heinen, Christian Labour Association of Canada Paul Wilson, Christian Labour Association of Canada	N110
	<i>Getting to the Roots: Making Public Commitments to End Homelessness and Poverty: Learning from the Edmonton Experience</i> Bob McKeon, Office for Social Justice, Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton Jay Freeman, Edmonton Homeless Commission Janice Melnychuk, Mayor's Taskforce to Eliminate Poverty in Edmonton	L116
	<i>Talking About the Oilsands: Finding a Way Forward?</i> John Hiemstra, The King's University College Gerda Kits, The King's University College Melody Lepine, Mikisew Cree First Nation	N119
3:15-3:45 pm	Break and Refreshments	Atrium
3:45-5:00 pm	Concluding Plenary Panel	Atrium
5:00-5:15 pm	Concluding Remarks & Acknowledgements	Atrium



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LOCATION

The conference will be held at The King's University College, Edmonton.

Address:

9125 - 50 Street NW, Edmonton, Alberta

Accessibility:

The building and all conference rooms are fully wheelchair-accessible.

Food:

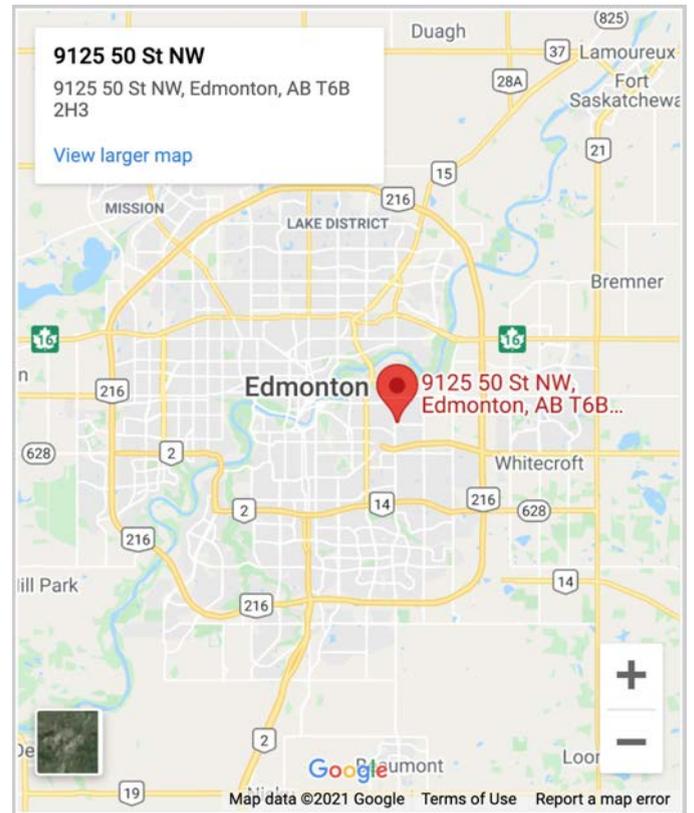
Meals and snacks will be provided on the premises for conference participants.

Accommodations:

Some accommodations are available on the King's campus. Please see the Registration page for booking information.

For information about the conference, contact:

Allyson Carr, Associate Director
Centre for Philosophy, Religion and Social Ethics at the Institute for Christian Studies
CPRSE@icscanada.edu



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