

Welcome to Toronto

Welcome to Toronto! Canada's largest city and one of the most multicultural in the world, Toronto sits at a crossroads of global migration, Indigenous histories, and layered colonial legacies. It is located on the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit. Check out the [*Canada by Treaty: Negotiating Histories*](#) exhibit near the conference registration desk to learn more. [First Story Toronto](#) offers guided walking tours that bring these Indigenous histories to life.

From the CN Tower—which stood as the tallest freestanding structure in the world from 1976-2009—to the striking Aga Khan Museum that is dedicated to Islamic art and culture, Toronto is a vibrant hub of architecture, art and heritage. Its [diverse and innovative food scene](#) reflects the city's global population, offering visitors a culinary map of the world in just a few square kilometers. Toronto has also been a key site of LGBTQ+ activism in Canada. It is home to the [The ArQuives](#), the world's largest independent collection of LGBTQ2+ documentary heritage.

The city's history as a financial capital—particularly in the global mining sector—is visible in the geological collections and Canadian Mining Hall of Fame at the [Royal Ontario Museum](#). Yet this on-going legacy is also critically examined by watchdog organizations such as [MiningWatch Canada](#), which document the environmental and human costs of extractive industry.

Toronto is also celebrated for its livability, its green spaces, and its beautiful [Toronto Islands](#). The city and its surrounding region host several of Canada's leading universities and law schools: the [University of Toronto Faculty of Law](#), [Osgoode Hall Law School at York University](#), and [Toronto Metropolitan University's Lincoln Alexander School of Law](#). You may wish to visit the [The Great Library at the Law Society of Ontario](#) for its stunning architecture and its compelling collections. You'll also find no shortage of world-class archives, museums, restaurants, and neighborhoods—from Kensington Market to the Distillery District—waiting to be explored during your visit.

Conference Event Venues

The University of Toronto has three campuses (St. George, Scarborough, and Mississauga). All conference events and accommodation options are located on or near the St. George campus in downtown Toronto.

The pre-conference workshop on the papers of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council will be hosted at the Faculty of Law (78 Queen's Park, Toronto, M5S 2C5). All main conference events, including the plenary and panels, will be held at the University of St. Michael's College, a federated college of the University of Toronto (81 St. Mary Street, Toronto, M5S 1J4). Please consult the program for detailed information, including

building names and room numbers, and the pubs where we will host the informal Wednesday social gathering and the Friday post-plenary reception.

Accommodation Information

The [Chelsea Hotel](#) is located 33 Gerrard Street West, in the heart of downtown Toronto. The hotel is easily accessible by public transportation and is within walking distance of the University of Toronto, as well as numerous restaurants, shops and recreational opportunities.

Our other accommodation facilities are three University of Toronto student residences that are located directly on campus: [Whitney Hall](#) (part of University College), [Massey College](#), and [Chestnut residence](#). Remember that Whitney Hall and Massey College are historic buildings and do not offer in-room air conditioning, although both provide fans.

Travel Tips

Toronto is served by a well-connected and extensive public transportation system operated by the [Toronto Transit Commission \(TTC\)](#), which includes buses, streetcars, and a four-line subway system. Payment can be made using a [PRESTO card](#), which can be purchased at subway stations, select retail outlets like Shoppers Drug Mart, or digitally through the PRESTO app, which allows you to load funds and tap with your phone. A single adult fare is \$3.35, and transfers are free within a two-hour window using the same payment method. You can also now pay for transit using your credit or debit card at certain terminals.

If you're flying to the conference, you will likely arrive at [Toronto Pearson International Airport \(YYZ\)](#), located about 30 kilometers (roughly 18 miles) from downtown. A taxi or rideshare such as Uber from Pearson to the conference hotel will take about 30 to 45 minutes, depending on traffic, and will cost approximately \$50 to \$70 CAD. A more economical and efficient option (recommended) is the [UP Express \(Union Pearson Express\) train](#), which departs every 15 minutes and connects the airport to Union Station in 25 minutes. The fare is \$12.35 CAD one way, and PRESTO cards are accepted. At Union Station, you can connect to the TTC or take a more affordable taxi to your hotel or residence.

A smaller downtown airport, [Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport \(YTZ\)](#), is located on the Toronto Islands and mainly serves short-haul domestic and U.S. flights. From Billy Bishop, the conference hotel is a short streetcar, taxi, or 10-minute ferry ride and walk away, making it an extremely convenient option for travelers arriving from nearby cities. Once downtown, Toronto's compact core is easily navigable on foot or by transit.

Weather

Toronto experiences a warm and often humid summer climate in July. Average daytime temperatures typically range from 25–29°C (77–84°F), with overnight lows around 18–

20°C (64–68°F). However, heatwaves can push daytime highs above 30°C (86°F), especially with humidity, so it's best to prepare for hot weather. July is generally a sunny month, but occasional thunderstorms or brief rain showers are not uncommon—typically occurring in the late afternoon. We recommend packing light, breathable clothing, along with a rain jacket or umbrella just in case. And as always, [check the forecast](#) before you travel!

Sites and Archives

Toronto offers a wide range of museums, cultural institutions, and historical archives—many of them easily accessible from the downtown core. Just a short walk or transit ride from St. Michael's College and the Faculty of Law are some of the city's premier museums: the [Royal Ontario Museum \(ROM\)](#), known for its diverse collections of natural history, world cultures, and Canadian archaeology; the [Art Gallery of Ontario \(AGO\)](#), home to significant Canadian, Indigenous, and international artworks; and the [Bata Shoe Museum](#), a small but fascinating space dedicated to global footwear and its social history. Also nearby is the [Aga Khan Museum](#), which showcases Islamic art and culture in a stunning, contemporary architectural setting.

The [Textile Museum of Canada](#), the [Hockey Hall of Fame](#), and the [Toronto Railway Museum](#) offer more specialized collections, while the [Allans Garden Conservatory](#) and [TIFF Bell Lightbox](#), the headquarters of the Toronto International Film Festival, are great options for those interested in botany or film culture. A bit further afield—but reachable by subway—is the [Black Creek Pioneer Village](#), a living history museum recreating 19th-century Ontario life.

Toronto's vibrant neighborhoods also offer rich cultural experiences. [Kensington Market](#) is a bohemian, multicultural hub full of vintage shops, street art, and international food. It is just down the road from [401 Richmond](#), a thriving arts & culture hub with many smaller art galleries and organizations. [Chinatown](#), [Little Italy](#), and [Greektown](#) reflect waves of immigration, while [Church-Wellesley Village](#) is the historic heart of the city's LGBTQ+ community. The [Harbourfront area](#) offers waterfront parks, ferries to the Toronto Islands, and the [Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery](#).

Nature lovers won't be disappointed either: [High Park](#) features trails, gardens, and even a small zoo, while the [Toronto Islands](#) offer car-free biking, beaches, and skyline views. [Evergreen Brick Works](#) blends city infrastructure with natural escapes.

For researchers and history buffs, Toronto also hosts several outstanding archives. The [City of Toronto Archives](#) contains extensive records documenting the city's development and governance. The [University of Toronto's Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library](#) houses one of Canada's most important collections of rare books and manuscripts, including materials on early Canadian law. [Osgoode Hall Law School Library](#) at York University holds rich legal collections, while the [Archives of Ontario](#), also located at York University, preserves provincial records vital to understanding Ontario's legal and social history. The [ArQuives: Canada's LGBTQ2+ Archives](#) is the largest independent

LGBTQ+ archive in the world and an essential resource for queer and trans history in Canada. Scholars of labor, immigration, and activism may also want to visit the [Multicultural History Society of Ontario](#) and the [Workers Arts and Heritage Centre](#) in nearby Hamilton.

Whether you're seeking modern art or historical documents, cityscapes or green spaces, Toronto offers a wide array of opportunities for exploration and research.

Food and Drink

The conference venue and hotels are nestled in the heart of downtown Toronto, surrounded by a vibrant tapestry of neighborhoods—Kensington Market, Harbord Village, Little Italy, Queen West, and Chinatown—each offering a unique culinary experience. Whether you're looking for a quick bite between sessions or a memorable dinner out, there's something to satisfy every palate. Here are some of our favourite places to eat, drink, and unwind:

Affordable & Casual Eats (Mostly \$–\$\$):

- [Eataly](#) – Italian food hall around the corner from St. Michael's College with an artisanal market, several cafes, and sit-down restaurants. A great option for a quick takeaway lunch (try the filled-to-order cannoli!).
- [La Bella Managua](#) – Homey Nicaraguan food near Bloor and Ossington. Get the *pollo a la parrilla* with fried cheese.
- [Mama Chef Korean Restaurant](#) – A student favorite for warming bowls of *bibimbap* and other Korean classics.
- [Roti Cuisine of India](#) – Cozy, fast, and flavourful. Try the *malai kofta roti*.
- [Okonomi House](#) – A longtime local spot near campus serving quick and tasty *okonomiyaki*, *chicken teriyaki* and Japanese comfort food.
- [Fresh Kitchen + Juice Bar](#) – Toronto's original plant-based restaurant. Delicious vegan dishes, with smoothies, bowls, and hearty plant-based mains. Several downtown locations.
- [Pomegranate](#) – A beloved Persian restaurant offering delicious stews and warm, elegant hospitality in a charming setting near College and Bathurst.
- [Ethiopian House](#) – Cozy and welcoming, this longstanding spot serves injera and richly spiced stews just south of Bloor.
- [Lao Lao Bar](#) – Bold, modern Laotian dishes and vibrant cocktails served in a lively, stylish setting near campus. Try the steak salad.
- [Waterworks Food Hall](#) – A recently opened, architecturally striking space with a variety of local vendors.
- [Pizzeria Badiali](#) – A hit with locals for New York-style slices and their excellent *vodka sauce pizza*.
- [Khao San Road](#) – A longtime favorite for Thai classics, known for bold flavors and generous portions. The *khao soi* is a standout.
- [Momo Ghar](#) – Elevated Nepali-style dumplings. The *butter chicken momos* are a must.

- [White Lily Diner](#) – Farm-to-table diner dishes done right. Great for breakfast or brunch.

Upscale Restaurants (\$\$\$):

- [Lake Inez](#) – Inventive and seasonal nostalgic food that's hard to describe in a beautiful space on Gerrard East. Try the mystery patio tasting menu on Thursday night (but remember to book ahead).
- [Gusto 501](#) – Modern Italian in Corktown with a multi-level architectural design and standout pastas.
- [Mamak's Taverna](#) – Refined Greek fare in Ossington, known for share plates, grilled meats, and vibrant atmosphere.
- [Azhar](#) – A Mediterranean restaurant with excellent fire-cooked dishes—especially the steak.
- [Byblos](#) – Eastern Mediterranean cuisine with a modern twist, located near the Entertainment District. Great for sharing plates and cocktails.
- [La Sélect Bistro](#) – A charming, traditional French bistro tucked away near Spadina, with a sprawling wine list and cozy ambiance.

Cocktail Bars & Speakeasies:

- [New Retro](#) – A stylish basement bar with strong drinks and a nostalgic Japanese vibe.
- [Gift Shop](#) – Hidden behind a barbershop near Queen West, serving some of the city's best cocktails.
- [Club Paris](#) / [Paris Paris](#) – Wine bar meets bistro, offering natural wines and snacks with flair. The upstairs restaurant is also worth a visit.
- [Bar Raval](#) & [Bar Pompette](#) – Two must-visits on College Street. Raval is Spanish-inspired with standing-room tapas; Pompette's bar program is as strong as its French menu.
- [Bang Sue Bar](#) – Located above Khao San Road (a fantastic Thai restaurant), this cocktail bar serves drinks with bold Southeast Asian flavors.
- [Cocktail Bar](#) & [Rhum Corner](#) – Sister spots on Dundas West. One's moody and elegant; the other's laid-back and rum-soaked.
- [Tommy's Wine Bar](#) – A cozy, intimate bar perfect for sipping natural wines.
- [Burdock](#) & [Bellwoods Breweries](#) – Excellent local breweries with patios.
- [Grape Witches](#) – A retail shop and bar for fans of natural and biodynamic wine, with occasional tastings and events.
- [Varda @ TIFF](#) – A relaxed spot inside Toronto's premier film venue. Great for a drink before (or after) an indie film screening.

Bakeries & Cafés:

- [Emmer](#) – Small-batch bread and pastries and breakfast sandwiches, often with a line in the morning (worth it).
- [Nadège Patisserie](#) – Chic and elegant French pastries and treats. Several locations around the city.
- [Oretta Caffé](#) – Italian coffee bar with modern design, espresso, and light fare. Try the bomboloni.

Toronto's food and drink scene is incredibly varied, and there's something for every appetite—often within just a few blocks of campus. Whether you're craving late-night dumplings, a daytime croissant, or an inspired negroni, you'll find it nearby. And if the mood strikes, catch a film or explore one of the city's nearby neighborhoods between meals!

Music Venues

Toronto boasts a thriving music scene that spans everything from classical orchestras to indie rock. During the weekend of the conference, you can catch performances by the [Toronto Symphony Orchestra](#) and the [Canadian Opera Company](#). For those interested in live shows, venues such as [The Horseshoe Tavern](#), [The Danforth Music Hall](#), and [Lee's Palace](#) are all close by.

If you're into jazz, check out [The Rex Hotel](#), a legendary jazz bar offering live performances all weekend, or [The Jazz Bistro](#) in the Entertainment District. For electronic and club music, head to [Coda](#) or [The Drake Underground](#) for an unforgettable night.

Outdoor Activities

Toronto offers a variety of stunning parks and outdoor spaces perfect for relaxation or exercise. [Queen's Park](#), conveniently located between the Faculty of Law and St. Michael's College and near the Ontario Legislative Building, is a beautiful spot in downtown Toronto, offering tree-lined paths and expansive lawns, perfect for a peaceful break.

The [Waterfront Trail](#) offers beautiful views of Lake Ontario and the Toronto Islands. Ideal for running, walking or biking, it stretches along the shoreline and provides a peaceful escape from the city. A short trip west will take you to [High Park](#), Toronto's largest public park, featuring walking trails, ponds, and even a zoo. It's perfect for a jog, a stroll, or just enjoying the outdoors. For a more urban experience, [Trinity Bellwoods Park](#) is a popular green space in the heart of the city, offering tennis courts, a dog park, and open areas to relax.

For those willing to venture a bit further, [Toronto Islands](#) offers a car-free getaway with bike rentals, beaches, and scenic views of the skyline. [Evergreen Brick Works](#) in the Don Valley provides a blend of nature trails, a farmers' market, and environmental exhibits. Finally, [Rouge National Urban Park](#), just outside the city, is Canada's first national urban park, providing extensive trails, wildlife, and quiet spots perfect for an escape into nature.

We can't wait to see you in Toronto in July!