

# Call for Programming Proposals: *The Gathering 2025*

*Imagining Our Future: Moving to Transformative Action*

*Proposals due August 25, 2025*



Canadian  
**CED** Network  
Réseau canadien  
de **DÉC**



## Summary

Be a part of *The Gathering 2025* - submit a proposal for programming!

**Imagining Our Future: *Moving to Transformative Action*** is an incredible opportunity to collaborate with community builders to connect, learn, and take action. In its 23rd year, The Gathering hosts a diverse range of programming and **will be an engaging day that will focus on exploring transformative action through Community Economic Development.** Join us on October 24, 2025 in Winnipeg for The Gathering of Community Builders!

We are looking for proposals for programming for this year's Gathering workshops, panels, and presentations, for facilitating connecting opportunities between participants, and for fun & engaging ways for the community to network.

Get creative and share your ideas with us!

Don't hesitate to reach out to us (*via [m.funk@ccednet-rcdec.ca](mailto:m.funk@ccednet-rcdec.ca)*) if you would like to brainstorm further. Proposals are being accepted until **August 25, 2025.**

Find information on the event, theme, format, and more in this document.



## Theme for The Gathering 2025

We are surrounded by big threats - the climate crisis is intensifying, threats internally and externally to our democracy and sovereignty are a daily occurrence, and we are bearing witness to an assault on human rights globally. This is where many of us as Manitobans sit right now.

To overcome these big threats, we need to move to transformative action to envision a new future and build a space that is equitable, innovative, and just for all.

The learning opportunities of the 23rd edition of the Gathering will explore transformative action through the lens of Community Economic Development. Participants will benefit from peer learning and networking, and be challenged by speakers to shape our future as community builders.

Join us for the Gathering 2025 - **Imagining Our Future: Moving to Transformative Action** - a one-of-a-kind annual event for Manitoba community builders.

Together, we'll explore important questions like:

- How can we use our imagination and dream of a sustainable and just future for all?
- How will looking to the future help us in our present?
- What role will Community Economic Development play in bringing transformative change?
- How do we resource transformative change?

**You don't want to miss the Gathering 2025!**



## About The Gathering

The Gathering is an annual pay-what-you-can event where Manitoba's community builders connect, learn, and celebrate success. It is open to all, from staff of community organizations to civil servants, funders, students, academics, or anyone interested in community development and community economic development.

The event objectives include:

- **Networking and Information Sharing**
  - Bring people together to connect and share
  - Foster partnerships and collaboration that are essential for good community work
- **Mentorship and Peer Learning**
  - Learn from each other's work building inclusive communities, fairer local economies, and more sustainable environments
  - Welcome and mentor new and young community builders
  - Celebrate the work to build stronger communities
- **Action and Innovation**
  - Create a space to innovate and try new things
  - Broaden collective understanding of Community Economic Development
- **Agenda Setting**
  - Collectively discuss important questions, challenges, and ideas facing community builders in the year ahead
  - Discuss opportunities for leading social, economic, and environmental change

The Gathering is hosted by the Canadian Community Economic Development Network - Manitoba, with leadership and guidance from a team of community leaders from the Network who work together to design the theme and programming, as well as volunteer at the event.



## Format

The Gathering 2025 will be held in person in Winnipeg on October 24, 2025.

The questions guiding this year's Gathering regarding transformative action in community economic development work encompasses a broad range of issues and approaches.

To reflect this, we welcome a diversity of programming ideas and formats including workshops, cultural programming, fun activities, and networking ideas, as well as ideas for networking during lunch and in-between sessions. Proposals should consider the important questions posed in the Theme description on page 2, and how these questions might interact with your proposed topic.

Proposals are encouraged to include interactive, discussion-based opportunities, and be mindful of clear take-aways and learning objectives for participants.

We will happily work with you on finessing your proposal to meet the event objectives and to deliver an engaging session.

### Programming Suggestions

Here are some suggestions from programming proposals:

- **Storytelling through fireside chats, panels, Q&A, or other formats:** sharing stories of success, challenges, learning and growth, celebrating work and innovation (generally 1 hour in length)
- **Skills and tools through workshops, presentations, or other formats:** teaching others about specific tools, techniques, and resources that will support their community work (generally 1 hour in length)



- **Theory and concepts through interactive discussions, circles, panels, or other formats:** teaching others about core concepts and theories that relate to CED or the work of community-based organizations, including interrogating the questions posed in the event description (generally 1 hour in length)
- **Creative or community building activities:** creative activities to cultivate joy throughout the event, community building or cultural activities, movement-based or mental health-focused activities, or sessions involving music or arts (variable time length)

### Topics of Programming

Programming can be related to one or more of these topics, based on the theme:

- Action, advocacy, community organizing, and activism for change
- Creating healthy and equitable workplaces
- Building fairer local economies
- Care for the environment and sustainability
- Collaboration & working together
- Embracing change
- Economic reconciliation

### Audience and Logistics

The Gathering brings together 300 to 400 attendees. Participants may include front-line or management staff from community organizations, civil servants, funders, students, academics, and others, so participants will have a range of experience and knowledge about the topics presented.



Workshops, panels, and presentations are 60 minutes in length and can accommodate up to 30 people. Other programming (such as community building activities) during the lunch break will be 30-45 minutes.

If you require use of technology (computers, slides, use of video) please highlight this in the submission form. We try to accommodate all technology requests, however, due to the limited materials and no wifi we may not be able to meet your needs.

## Selection Process

The call for session proposals closes on **August 25, 2025**. Applicants will be notified by **September 5, 2025** if their proposal has been accepted.

## How to Submit

Submit your proposal through [this form](#).

If you are having difficulty with the form, please email [m.funk@ccednet-rcdec.ca](mailto:m.funk@ccednet-rcdec.ca) for a copy via email.

## Contact

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