

We look forward to welcoming you to Toronto for the International Society for Psychotherapy Research's 48th Annual Conference. The conference will be held at the University of Toronto's Victoria College. This is the site of one of Toronto's oldest Universities – a lovely campus consisting of a mix of modern and old Victorian buildings around a verdant and shady quadrangle. The campus is situated downtown Toronto, a block south of an upscale luxury shopping district, and close to restaurants that will satisfy the most epicurean of tastes, art galleries and museums, including the Royal Ontario Museum, the Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art, and the Art Gallery of Ontario.

Sitting on the edge of Lake Ontario, Toronto is a lovely place to visit in the summer. Temperatures in June are usually in the high 20's – low 30's with bright blue skies and balmy winds. Toronto is one of the most cosmopolitan and diverse cities in the world. It is home to people from North and South America, Western and Eastern Europe, the Caribbean, Africa, as well as South, Central and East Asia. The diversity of the population is most evident in the variety of cuisines and restaurants throughout the city as well as the rich and eclectic music scene, visual and fine arts and the number of languages spoken. Koerner Hall around the corner from Victoria College on Bloor Street hosts musicians of all genres from around the globe in a hall of architectural note adjacent to the Royal Conservatory.

Other fun places in and around the city include, Harbourfront and the Toronto Islands, which are a brief ferry ride away, where visitors can dine, picnic, swim, walk, and cycle. There is a theme park on Centre Island to entertain the children and young of heart. For those who enjoy being on the water it is possible to rent sailing boats, kayaks and canoes. Other tourist attractions in Toronto include the CN Tower, Ripley's Aquarium, Fort York, the Leslie Street spit, the Brickworks, the Distillery District, with boutiques, restaurants, and galleries housed in an old distillery and warehouses near the port. Toronto is also home to the Blue Jays baseball team, the Raptors basketball team, and the Maple Leafs hockey team. During the summer it may be possible to catch a baseball game at the Rogers Centre. For more information visit the Toronto Tourism website <http://www.seetorontonow.com/> and please take time to read the NY Times article that featured Toronto as an exciting city to visit that has been linked to our website. The article gives an overview of interesting places to visit and eat over the course of 36 hours in the city.

In addition there are numerous day trips to a variety of different destinations in Ontario including Niagara-on-the-Lake a charming village close to the world famous Niagara Falls. While visiting this area it is possible to take in some of the local vineyards and taste some Ontario wines. Ontario is renowned for its ice wine, which wins International Vintner awards. The Elora Mill set in the rolling Ontario countryside is a pleasant day trip. Close by is St. Jacob's where the Amish community hold farmer's markets and their horse and buggies take us back to another time when life was simpler and less complicated. Longer trips to some of Canada's beautiful northern lakes are also possible for those who enjoy hiking,

swimming, camping, fishing, canoeing, kayaking in the wilderness. To explore alternative travel destinations visit <http://www.ontariotourism.com/>

Transportation

Most major airlines fly into to Toronto. Air Canada has a promotional code for discounted fares. Currently the Canadian Dollar is trading at *1.50 to the Euro* and *1.33 to the US dollar*. We are hoping that these rates might hold until after the conference. However, in the meantime attendees will want to book accommodation to ensure a good exchange rate. To get the discounted rate at the three conference hotels, the Chelsea, Sheraton and Park Hyatt, guests must book by early May, 2017. Please visit the conference website to make your reservations and ascertain the specific deadlines for each hotel. In addition there is accommodation at Victoria College at the University of Toronto, details of which are on the SPR website.

There is a train from Toronto's Pearson International Airport that brings visitors to downtown Toronto. From there they can feed into the subway and local transportation networks. There are also cabs and limos to escort people to their destinations. More information concerning transportation is available on the conference website or at the following link:

<https://torontopearson.com/en/toandfrom/ground/#>

Downtown, Toronto is served by an excellent subway system and has bikes for rent as well as cabs to ensure that you are able to get around the city with ease.

Please note the following information about travel to Toronto:

Crossing the border - Canada Customs

Be sure to introduce your meeting to our Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) by visiting this website and completing the form at the bottom of the page

<http://www.cbsa.gc.ca/services/ie-ei/notice-avis-eng.html>

You will need to complete an "introduction letter" and advise them of the percentage of non-Canadians expected to attend your event, a brief description of exhibits being brought into Canada and the name of your customs broker, if known. If you do not have a customs broker, please let me know and I can send you a listing of our member.

This Canada Border Services Agency link, <http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/services/ie-ei/cmt-cre-eng.html> will be useful to you when planning other aspects of your meeting. For more information on planning meetings in Toronto also visit:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/meeting.asp>

*****Exhibitors and tradeshow cross border questions? Let us connect you with a customs broker who can work with your exhibitors to ensure a seamless border crossing.***

As a reminder, the US Department of State and Homeland Security's announcement

of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative states that all US citizens, Canadians, citizens of the British Overseas Territory of Bermuda and citizens of Mexico must obtain a passport or another accepted secure document to enter or re-enter the United States.

For more information, visit

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis_pa_tw_2223.html

- For international visitors, please visit Citizenship & Immigration of Canada (CIC) website

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/meeting.asp>

- If you are expecting a large contingent of attendance from outside of North America, please be sure to check out this website on organizing an international event:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/meeting.asp>

The Special Events Unit can help facilitate and coordinate CIC's support for international events taking place in Canada by liaising with organizers in Canada and overseas, to provide advice and guidance on visa requirements.

- Work Permits: Organizers and administrative staff of international meetings or conventions being held in Canada do not need a work permit. For more information, please visit Citizenship and Immigration Canada (for Customs and Immigration website at

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/meeting.asp>

NEW Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA)

Canada has introduced a new entry requirement, known as an eTA, for visa-exempt foreign nationals travelling to Canada by air. Exceptions include U.S. citizens and travellers with a valid visa. Entry requirements for other methods of travel (land, sea) have not changed. Starting August 1, 2015, eligible travellers can apply online for an eTA. This entry requirement will become mandatory and travellers will need an eTA before they can board a flight to Canada.

Find out more about [Electronic Travel Authorization \(eTA\)](#).

(<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta.asp>)

We look forward to hosting you all in June at what should be a stellar event with numerous luminaries in the world of psychotherapy research in attendance.

Jeanne Watson

On behalf of the Local Organizing Committee