

Taboo Topics Forum - "Multiculturalism: Breaking Down Borders"

Date: April 24, 2008

**Place: Loose Moose Theatre,
1235 - 26th Ave SE, Calgary.**

**Time: 6:00 pm Juice & cookies served
7:00-9:00 pm panel discussion and
public input**

Taboo Topics Forum – “Multiculturalism: Breaking Down Borders”

At the request of the Royal Society of Canada and under the direction of former Vice President (Research) Dr Dennis Salahub and current VPR Dr Rose Goldstein, a “Taboo Topic Forum” has been organized. For a complete list of previous forums and their final reports, please visit the RSC web site: http://www.rsc.ca/index.php?&page_id=62&lang_id=1

Past fora have included a panel discussion followed by public participation which is moderated by a local media person. The outcome is usually a “point of reference” document focusing on more thorough understanding of the issues and impacts.

The general topic chosen by Dr Salahub is Immigration and related issues. During this time of explosive growth in Calgary and near devastating labour shortages throughout Alberta, this is a most relevant, but potentially volatile subject, hence a fine “Taboo Topic.”

After polling various research professors with expertise in this topic area from the Faculties of Law, Education, Humanities and Social Sciences or who are involved with the International Centre, a steering committee was formed to further define the topic and format of the event.

Our committee includes Wisdom Tettey, David Este, Yvonne Hebert and Jim Frideres, with input from Tim Goddard, Cen Huang, Herb Emery, Rob Huebert, Martin Kirk, Ron Kneebone and David Watt. We also received communications input from our External Relations Department.

The committee has narrowed the focus of discussion and entitled the forum: **“Multiculturalism – Breaking down Borders.”** The format will be a debate between Dr Marie McAndrew from the University of Montreal and Dr Tom Flanagan from the University of Calgary, on whether or not Multiculturalism policies are effective in Canada and will serve us well in the global arena into the future.

A panel, consisting of Fariborz Birjandian, Catholic Immigrant Society, Frank Van Doorn, Uof C and Dr Carl James, York University, will then provide comment on the debate, and initiate the Question and Answer session. Attendees will be invited to participate with comments and questions.

Dr Amal Madibbo, U of C will provide the background for the topic, and the event will be hosted and moderated by Ms Donna McElligott, CBC Radio Calgary.

The forum will take place on **Thursday April 24, 2008 at the Loose Moose Theatre, 1235 – 26th Ave SE**, refreshments will be served at 6:00pm, with the debate, panel discussion and audience input to follow from 7:00 to 9:00pm.

The invitation list to the general public consists of people from corporate Calgary, the municipal and provincial governments, donors to the university and members from community associations who provide services to immigrant people.