



For immediate release

CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY AT TORONTO REFERENCE LIBRARY CELEBRATES
NEW CITIZENS AND CANADA BOOK DAY
60 new citizens to be sworn in at special ceremony

TORONTO, APRIL 23, 2019—The Institute for Canadian Citizenship (ICC), in partnership with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, and the Toronto Public Library, today will celebrate 60 citizens from 19 countries in a special citizenship ceremony part of a series of such ceremonies across the country marking Canada Book Week.

Before the ceremony, the ICC will host roundtable discussions during which the new Canadian citizens and their guests will share their journeys to citizenship and reflect on what Canadian citizenship means to them.

“All of us at Toronto Public Library extend our heartfelt congratulations to our newest Canadian citizens. It’s wonderful to see them take this significant step at the library, a place where we welcome newcomers and support their transition to life in their new city with a variety of programs, collections and services that will help them become active and engaged citizens,” said Vickery Bowles, City Librarian at Toronto Public Library.

“Public libraries are often the first place newcomers go to help them navigate life in Canada. Through their programs and services, they provide newcomers, most of whom become new citizens, with a sense of inclusion and belonging. So it’s fitting that our country’s newest citizens will be celebrating their citizenship today in Canada’s biggest public reference library,” said Yasir Naqvi, CEO, Institute for Canadian Citizenship.

Citizenship ceremonies held in collaboration with the ICC are a celebration of Canada’s newest citizens, and offer unique opportunities for new citizens and community members to reflect on the meaning of active, engaged citizenship. Each citizenship ceremony held in collaboration with the ICC includes signature roundtable discussions, a citizenship ceremony, and a reception. Everyone is not only welcome but also encouraged to attend today’s citizenship ceremony, which starts at 11:45 a.m. in the Atrium of the Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario, M4W 2G8. Celebrating new citizens and their stories offers a unique opportunity for all of us to reflect on the rights, duties, and privileges of Canadian citizenship.

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ABOUT THE INSTITUTE FOR CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP

Powered by a passionate and committed national network, the Institute for Canadian Citizenship (ICC) delivers programs and special projects that inspire Canadians to be inclusive, create opportunities to connect, and encourage active citizenship. The ICC is a national charity co-founded by The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson and John Ralston Saul. For more information, visit icc-icc.ca.

ABOUT THE TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Toronto Public Library is the world’s busiest urban public library system. Last year, we had 17 million visits to our branches and 27 million virtual visits. Torontonians borrowed 30 million items in branches and online. To learn more, visit tpl.ca, call Answerline at 416-393-7131 or follow us on Twitter and Instagram @torontolibrary, Facebook @TorontoPublicLibrary, and subscribe to our e-newsletter tpl.ca/e-news.

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