

## PRESS RELEASE

### 21<sup>st</sup> TCI Network Global Conference (TCI 2018) commences in Toronto



**October 16, 2018, Toronto, ON** – The 21<sup>st</sup> TCI Network Global Conference begins today in Toronto. Hosted by the Institute for Competitiveness and Prosperity, an Ontario-based economic think tank, and presented by the TCI Network, a network of leading global cluster experts and practitioners, the conference will take place over three days (October 16-18, 2018).

The 21<sup>st</sup> TCI Network Global Conference is the leading global clusters event for government, business, and academic leaders to make unexpected connections for economic growth and shared prosperity. This year's conference includes delegates from 37 countries and more than 50 percent of delegates are traveling from abroad to attend.

TCI 2018 will be a forum for knowledge exchange and partnership development between local and international cluster experts and leaders. The theme, *Collaborating to Compete: Cluster Policy in Action*, will lend itself to the conference's four sub-themes of Designing collaborative networks for innovation, Regional economic development and inclusive prosperity, Mobilizing talent and diversity, and Scaling up within cluster ecosystems.

Today, on [Day 1 "Experience"](#) (October 16) delegates will immerse themselves in one of 11 active clusters in the Toronto region, visiting up to three sites that illustrate the story of the cluster. Cluster immersion experiences include advanced manufacturing, design, emerging technology, energy, financial services, food, low-carbon buildings, health, innovation ecosystems, transportation and logistics, and water.

Tomorrow, [Day 2 "Engage"](#) (October 17), will follow a standard conference format and will feature Canadian and global experts in cluster and economic development. In the afternoon a "Superclusters in Canada and European Lessons Learned" panel will take place featuring **The Hon. Navdeep Bains**, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development. Canadian superclusters representatives and European experts will discuss the future of the Canadian cluster landscape including:

- **Peteris Ustubs**, European Union Ambassador to Canada;
- **William (Bill) Greuel**, CEO, Protein Industries Canada
- **Jayson Myers**, CEO, New Generation Manufacturing Canada
- **Bill Tam**, Co-Founder and VP, Business Development and Partnerships, Canada's Digital Technology Supercluster
- **Christine Neuy**, Managing Director, microTEC Südwest eV
- **Werner Pamminger**, CEO, Business Upper Austria

The panel will be introduced by **Meric Gertler**, President of the University of Toronto. **Jan De Silva**, President and CEO of the Toronto Region Board of Trade will moderate.

Other prominent speakers participating in Day 2 include **Roger Martin**, Institute Director of the Martin Prosperity Institute and #1 Management Thinker according to Thinkers50; **Mercedes Delgado**, Senior Lecturer at the MIT Sloan School of Management; **Zabeen Hirji**, Global Advisor, Future of Work at Deloitte Canada; **Christian Ketels**, Chief Economist at the Boston Consulting Group and TCI Network board member; and **Marek Gootman**, Director, Strategic Partnerships and Global Initiatives at the Brookings Institute.

[Day 3 "Exchange,"](#) which will feature interactive breakout sessions led by speakers from over 20 countries on each of the conference sub-themes.

To learn more about the conference, please visit [www.tci2018.org](http://www.tci2018.org).

### About the host

The Institute for Competitiveness & Prosperity is an independent, not-for-profit organization that deepens public understanding of macro and microeconomic factors behind Ontario's economic progress. It is funded by the Government of Ontario and are mandated to share our research findings directly with the public.

For nearly 18 years, the Institute has advocated for the development of strong clusters in the province of Ontario to close the prosperity gap between the province and its peer jurisdictions. It remains the only source for Canadian cluster data and is recognized for its focused work on clusters.

More information can be found on the Institute's website: <http://www.competeprosper.ca>.

### TCI Global Conferences

For two decades, the annual TCI Global Conference brings together experts in the field from around the globe and aim to be a forum to create progress in the practice of cluster development, regional competitiveness, and innovation support. The conferences are the meeting point for the TCI community and are open to members and non-members of TCI.

Since 1998, TCI has been received in outstanding cities and regions from the five continents, renowned for building competitiveness strategies from the strengths of their clusters and people: Barcelona (Spain), Varese (Italy), Glasgow (UK), Tucson (USA), Cairns (Australia), Gothenburg (Sweden), Ottawa (Canada), Hong Kong (China), Lyon (France), Portland (USA), Cape Town (South Africa), Jyväskylä (Finland), Delhi (India), Auckland (New Zealand), Basque Country (Spain), Kolding (Denmark), Monterrey (Mexico), Daegu (South Korea), Eindhoven (Netherlands), and Bogotá (Colombia).

For more information on the TCI Network's conferences, please visit <http://www.tci-network.org/conferences>.

### About TCI Network

TCI Network is the leading global network of more than 9,000+ main organizations and practitioners with deep expertise in clusters and competitiveness, who collaborate in a unique open, flexible and practical context to advance in the practice of competitiveness, innovation and cluster development. For more information on the TCI Network, please visit [www.tci-network.org](http://www.tci-network.org).

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