

## PRESS RELEASE

### The Honourable Navdeep Bains to participate in a superclusters panel at the 21<sup>st</sup> TCI Network Global Conference (TCI 2018) in Toronto



**September 10, 2018, Toronto, ON** – The Institute for Competitiveness and Prosperity is pleased to announce that **The Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development** will participate in a superclusters panel at the 21<sup>st</sup> TCI Network Global Conference, which will be held in Toronto, Ontario on October 16-18, 2018.

Minister Bains will participate in the “Superclusters in Canada and European Lessons Learned” panel on [Day 2 “Engage” \(October 17\) of the conference](#). The Canadian government’s bold \$950-million investment in five superclusters is expected to generate significant economic returns over the next decade. Each supercluster will be focused on one main challenge over the next five years: building a world-leading innovation ecosystem.

In addition to the participation of the **Honourable Navdeep Bains**, Canada’s Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, and representatives of Canada’s superclusters, the panel will be moderated by **Jan De Silva**, President and CEO of the Toronto Region Board of Trade. It will also feature cluster experts from the European Union including:

- **Ulla Engelmann**, Head of Unit, Clusters, Social Economy and Entrepreneurship, DG GROW, European Commission;
- **Christine Neuy**, Manager, microTEC Südwest eV; and
- **Werner Pamminger**, CEO, Business Upper Austria.

**Christian Ketels**, Chief Economist at the Boston Consulting Group, and current President, TCI Network, and **Marek Gootman**, Fellow and Director of Strategic Partnerships and Global Initiatives at the Brookings Institute Metropolitan Policy Program, are also confirmed to deliver keynote addresses. Day 2 will feature a series of keynotes and panels of experts sharing best practices, stories, and experiences along the conference theme, *Collaborating to Compete: Clusters in Action*.

**Peteris Ustubs**, European Union Ambassador to Canada, is also confirmed to speak on Day 2, participating in the Mobilizing Talent and Diversity panel.

For a full list of Day 2 speakers, please visit [www.tci2018.org/speakers](http://www.tci2018.org/speakers).

#### About TCI 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. It is hosted by the Institute for Competitiveness & Prosperity, a Canadian-based think tank and presented by the TCI Network, a global network of leading global cluster experts and practitioners. It 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 conferences 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.

[Day 1 “Experience”](#) (October 16) will provide delegates with the opportunity to immerse themselves in one of 11 active clusters in the Toronto region. Attendees will visit up to three sites that illustrate the story of the cluster and then participate in a mini-charrette that uses design thinking to brainstorm challenges faced by the cluster. The cluster immersion experiences are:

advanced manufacturing, design, emerging technology, energy, financial services, food, low-carbon buildings, health, innovation ecosystems, transportation and logistics, and water. Full agendas for each experience can be accessed at: <https://www.tci2018.org/day-1/>

**Day 3 "Exchange,"** will feature interactive breakout sessions led by speakers from over 20 countries on each of the conference sub-themes. **Global matchmaking** will also take place on Day 3 for participating delegates. Global matchmaking will allow delegates to book 20-minute, one-on-one meetings with other delegates including cluster practitioners, policymakers, and business leaders, in order to strengthen and expand their global network.

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 17 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).

### **For more information contact:**

Dorinda So, Conference Director, TCI2018  
[d.so@competeprosper.ca](mailto:d.so@competeprosper.ca)  
416.946.5325