

Canada's Immigration & Refugee System: What's wrong & how to fix it Ottawa – October 30, 2010

Speakers Biographies



Bruce Wilson is a Senior Fellow and Board Member at the Canadian Centre for Policy Studies. Over a thirty year career, he has been a registered lobbyist; a senior business policy and business development official in the foreign service of Ontario and of Canada; CEO of international trade associations in corporate strategy, recruiting, economic development and real estate; and an entrepreneurial businessman in NAFTA trade. He has lived and worked in Canada, the USA, Mexico and Guatemala – and is comfortable with cross-border assignments. Bruce Wilson has gained national recognition in Canada and the USA for developing new programs, representing organizations and ideas, strategic positioning work, and for helping organizations identify and respond to new opportunities.



James Bissett is a Distinguished Fellow with the Canadian Centre for Policy Studies. He is the former Canadian Ambassador to Yugoslavia where he served from 1990 – 1992. He was also Ambassador to Bulgaria and Albania. He had diplomatic postings in the Balkans, London and in the Caribbean where he served as Canadian High Commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago from 1985 -1990. He was an Assistant under Secretary for Social Affairs at the Foreign Ministry in Ottawa. From 1985 -1990 Bissett was Director General of the Canadian Immigration Service. Upon leaving the Foreign Service he served from 1992 -1997 as the Chief of Mission for the International Organization for Migration in Moscow helping the government deal with the thousands of Russians returning from the former countries of the Soviet Union.



Joseph C. Ben-Ami is the president of the Canadian Centre for Policy Studies. Before joining the Centre, Ben-Ami was Executive Director of the Institute for Canadian Values and, before that, Director of Government Relations and Diplomatic Affairs for the well known Jewish human rights group B'nai Brith. Prior to this he was a policy aid to Stephen Harper, Canada's current Prime Minister, and Stockwell Day, Harper's predecessor as party leader. He also served as National Director of Operations on Day's 2002 leadership campaign. Ben-Ami writes extensively on current affairs and public policy and is a much sought after public speaker and frequent radio and television commentator. A strong and unapologetic defender of conservatism and conservative values, Ben-Ami is known for his clear and independent thinking on issues.



Julie Taub is an immigration lawyer practicing in Ottawa, the capital of Canada. Taub has more than 10 years of experience in Canadian Immigration Law and her legal practice specializes in the field of Canadian Immigration Law. She is a former Member of the Immigration and Refugee Board ("IRB") Refugee Protection Division ("RPD") (1997-2000 Toronto) which provides her with a unique and in depth understanding of the Immigration process. Ms Taub is also part time duty counsel with Ottawa Legal Aid on the immigration panel.



Pacifique Siryuyumusi is an Ottawa-based immigration lawyer. Originally from Burundi, Siryuyumusi came to Canada as a refugee in 2001. Although a practicing lawyer in his home country, Siryuyumusi was forced to return to school and retrain as a lawyer in Canada.



Salim Mansur is an Associate Professor in the faculty of social sciences, University of Western Ontario, London, and teaches in the department of political science. He is the co-editor of *The Indira-Rajiv Years: the Indian Economy and Polity 1966-1991* and has been published widely in academic journals such as *Jerusalem Quarterly*, *Journal of South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies*, *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences*, *Arab Studies Quarterly*, and *Middle East Quarterly*. Mansur was born in Calcutta, India and moved to Canada where he completed his studies receiving a doctorate in political science from the University of Toronto. Before joining the University of Western Ontario he worked as a Research Fellow at the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security in Ottawa and was a candidate for the Canadian Alliance in the riding of London-West in the Canadian federal election of November 2000. Mansur is a member of the Board of Directors of Center for Islamic Pluralism located in Washington, D.C., and an academic consultant with the Center for Security Policy also based in Washington, D.C.



Naresh Raghubeer is Director of Allenwood Consulting Group, a business consulting firm based in Ottawa. Prior to joining Allenwood Consulting Group, he was National Policy Director for the Canada India Foundation where he was responsible for policy development and implementation. Raghubeer is the former Executive Director of the Canadian Coalition for Democracies (CCD), a national, non-partisan, multi-ethnic, multi-religious, human rights non-governmental organization focused on foreign policy, national security and public safety, and the promotion of democracy at home and abroad. He has appeared on several national radio and television programs in Canada including CTV, CBC, Global Television, TVO, OMNI, CHCH TV, CTS, CBC Radio's Cross Country Check-up with Rex Murphy, and in various newspapers including the Toronto Star, Montreal Gazette, National Post, Ottawa Citizen, Globe and Mail and the Jerusalem Post.