



## PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2021	
9:00 a.m. – 9:05 a.m.	<b>Welcome</b>
9:05 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.	<p><b>Keynote Presentation: A Conversation with Janice Stein</b></p> <p>Start the EDCO Conference series off on the right foot! Relax and enjoy a lively and interactive fireside conversation with Janice Stein, Belzberg Professor of Conflict Management in the Department of Political Science and the Founding Director of the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Toronto, and Lidy Romanuk, Manager, Economic Development and Tourism, Haldimand County and EDCO 2021 President.</p> <p>Ms. Stein will share her insights on the current state of affairs, and what the future holds for us. How will the pandemic, innovation, diversity, and global politics thread through economic development as we recover from this notable time in history? What are the areas of caution for economic developers? What will the changing landscape look like and how can your community evolve to take advantage.</p> <p>You'll also have the opportunity to ask Ms. Stein your questions on resetting the economy and to share your views on these and other critical issues of the day through a series of interactive polls.</p> <p>This is a perfect way to kick-off EDCO's exciting conference series with your fellow EDCO members.</p>
10:05 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	<b>Health Break</b>
10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	<b>Bright Ideas Competition</b>
11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<b>Annual General Meeting of EDCO Members</b>

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2021**

9:00 a.m. – 9:05 a.m.	<b>Welcome</b>
9:05 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.	<b>Tourism</b>
10:05 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	<b>Health Break</b>
10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	<p><b>Bandwidth Wars: “What’s your Wi-Fi Password?”</b></p> <p>Broadband capacity has always been an important matter and COVID-19 has only exacerbated this problem. This session examines what initiatives and programs community leaders have established in their community to overcome some of the trials and tribulations of bad internet connectivity.</p> <p>Economic developers are aware that having strong internet connectivity is vital for any community’s success. It determines the following things: whether you will land that investment opportunity with a company looking to locate in your community; if homeschooling and remote learning is an option in your community; the possibility of working remotely and helping smaller businesses go online. In some cases bad internet connection can deter tourists from wanting to visit and stay.</p> <p>Come out to this session and learn about some of the initiatives and programs put in by top community leaders to address bandwidth.</p>

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2021**

9:00 a.m. – 9:05 a.m.	<b>Welcome</b>
9:05 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.	<p><b>Looking over the Border: Opportunities to EvolveON with CUSMA</b></p> <p>This session will examine how Ontario can leverage itself from the opportunities presented by CUSMA. Learn more about what CUSMA and the impacts of COVID-19 on cross border trade.</p>
10:05 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	<b>Health Break</b>
10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	<p><b>Evolution in Diversity and Inclusion in the Workplace</b></p> <p>The 2020 Virtual EDCO Conference invites you to take part in the Diversity and Inclusion workplace session.</p> <p>Join our experts for an engaging conversation and gain a better understanding of what diversity and inclusion is in the workplace as well as ways in which we can become more aware of our surroundings. Workplace diversity is a goal that all organizations strive to achieve. Learn how diversity can benefit an organization and how inclusion can make all employees more comfortable and productive in the workplace.</p>

	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Heather Madden, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator, County of Brant</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rajbir Sian, Senior Economic Development Officer, Town of Oakville</li> <li>• Jason Felix, Trade and Investment Specialist, Ontario Ministry of Energy, Northern Development &amp; Mines</li> </ul>
<b>WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2021</b>	
9:00 a.m. – 9:05 a.m.	<b>Welcome</b>
9:05 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.	<p><b>Is Real Estate Still King???</b></p> <p>Location, location, location has long been the real estate mantra driving property investment around the world.</p> <p>One of the key aspects of a desirable location is the traffic, both pedestrian and vehicular, that is in proximity to the property. However, the current <i>Work From Home</i> mandate being driven by pandemic-induced public health measures has resulted in substantial shifts in where people work and, perhaps more importantly, where they spend. Pandemic restrictions have increased the amount of online purchases that are being made, accelerating a trend that was already well underway.</p> <p>With increasing costs and decreasing revenues being experienced in <i>brick and mortar</i> locations, closures are starting to increase. Office real estate is sure to be affected by the increasing amount of companies that are going virtual or reducing requirements to work from the office.</p> <p>What do these changes mean for office, retail and industrial space and investments in a post-pandemic world? What are the opportunities nestled within these changes?</p> <p>This session will explore these questions and more, including potential impacts on communities, both large and small, as well as on community building efforts of Economic Developers.</p>
10:05 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	<b>Health Break</b>
10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	<p><b>Positioning Ontario’s Workforce for Recovery in Evolving Times</b></p> <p>How can the labour force keep pace with rapidly changing trends in the workplace? Labour market gaps have been both accelerated and created by the recent pandemic. A lack of skilled trades, decline of service and retail industry and the disproportionate impact of COVID on women in the workplace forces us to reconsider how LED professionals and policy makers can facilitate equitable participation in a labour market that fits within the needs of a transforming and recovering economy.</p>

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2021

9:00 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.	<b>Welcome</b>
9:05 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.	<b>Throwing out the rule book: Policy development for the “new normal”</b> If COVID has taught us anything, it’s that the rigidity of our corporate policies, procedures and rules is unnecessary and no longer representative of our evolving nature. In government, we’ve seen a number of creative policy amendments initiated to support businesses as they struggle to survive the impacts of COVID. This panel will highlight the innovative ways in which government and business development professionals have either maximized flexibility or completely rewritten the rulebook during COVID, and examine how we can continue to leverage this flexibility to reduce red-tape and create more innovative and flexible policy frameworks.
10:05 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	<b>Health Break</b>
10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	<b>To be confirmed.</b>

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021

**Presented by**



9:00 a.m. – 9:05 a.m.	<b>Welcome</b>
9:05 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.	<b>Leadership in Times of Disaster – Mayor’s Panel</b> There is no playbook for leadership when the stakes are high, and there’s certainly no playbook for what to do in the face of a global pandemic. The current situation poses an enormous challenge for leaders across our province. Leadership in action and the impact that the presence of leadership in situations like these can make is critical to our recovery.
10:05 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	<b>Health Break</b>
10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	<b>Personal Leadership Strategies</b> Ideas and inspiration about mental health, personal growth and best business practices to build confidence and develop leadership skills.