

"Vancouver. Spectacular by Nature." This neatly sums up the unique blend of cosmopolitan amenities, natural splendours, and cultural attractions that define the host city for "Bridging the Gap." Vancouver's location on the Pacific Rim makes it ideally suited for an international conference. The city is well connected to the major North American and international centres by most major airlines. Hundreds of flights arrive here daily from around the world. Linger for a few days, or weeks, after the conference and savour all the city has to offer. Or, use Vancouver as a point of departure for a cruise to Alaska, a train trip through the magnificent Rocky Mountains, a ferry ride to Victoria or Vancouver Island, or a tour of the wine country in BC, or Washington State. Vancouver is the gateway to Western Canada—indeed to all of the Pacific Northwest.

The theme of "Bridging the Gap" for Conference '97 truly reflects its host city as a gateway. Six distinct, yet intertwined, themes link the conference together:

Thinking Skills: The Bridge Between Data and Knowledge

Transforming unconnected bits of data into related pieces of information, then integrating it into prior knowledge and adjusting their own beliefs and values is central to students' educational success. This process has become increasingly complex due to the explosion in both the quantity of information and the range of sources of information.

From Today to Tomorrow: Bridging the Future

Societal changes and expectations, as well as expanding technologies, are producing major changes in education. The skills and abilities teacher-librarians will require to fulfill their mandate of teaching students to access, process and use information independently must be upgraded and expanded to serve the future needs of students.

Travelling to and Arriving in Vancouver

Location

Vancouver is located on Canada's pristine westcoast, just 250 km (155 miles) north of Seattle, USA, and a day's drive west of the Rocky Mountains.

Travelling to Vancouver

Vancouver is very accessible from many parts of the world as it is an equal distance from Europe and the Pacific Rim countries. The Vancouver International Airport serves most major international airlines. Delegates are advised to book their air travel early as flights fill up quickly for this popular summer destination.

Entering Canada: Passport, Visa, and Border-Crossing Information

To enter Canada a valid passport is required for citizens of all countries except the United States. Visas are required for residents of certain countries; please contact your local Canadian Embassy, Consulate or High Commission Office for the specific requirements for your country of origin.

Cultural Understanding: Bridging Diverse Cultures

What makes a culture unique is a set of shared experiences, history, language, beliefs and values. While we may not be able to completely understand another culture, we can move beyond the study of food, folk tales, festivals, and faiths to examine why people think and act as they do.

Cultural Expression: Creating Bridges of Meaning

The creative voices of different cultural and ethnic communities open the world to young people, enhancing their understanding and empathy for others, and assisting them to develop an appreciation of the richness of their own and other peoples' cultures encouraging student writers to explore their own cultures for inspiration building literature programs that focus on both individual and cultural voices

Access to Information: Narrowing the Gap

Some regard information as the most valuable commodity in the world today. Others argue that free access to information is critical for equal opportunity for all members of society—including students—no matter what their economic or social background.

Mass Media: Spanning the Globe

The power of mass media to deliver a mediated experience to millions is such that we both love it and fear it, particularly for its impact on our youth. Questions like, "Who controls the news?" and "How can we use media while preventing it from using us?" are critical questions in a time of increasing centralization of mass media ownership.



For citizens of the United States, a passport is the ideal identification for travelling to Canada. However, American citizens travelling to Canada may be able to satisfy claims to US citizenship by presenting identification documents such as a birth certificate, naturalization papers, or a voters card and one other piece of identification with a picture, such as a driver's license.

For return entry, US immigration suggests similar identification. Permanent residents of the US (registered aliens coming directly to Canada from the US are also exempted from the passport requirement. However, they must be in possession of their Alien Registration Card. All visitors must be able to provide proof that they can support themselves and their accompanying dependents while sojourning in Canada.

Ground Transport from the Airport

Conference delegates are responsible for their own transportation from the airport to their accommodation. The following are some options.

Taxis

Taxis are available from stands located at both the International and Domestic Arrivals. The fare is approximately \$20.00-\$25.00 to the downtown area or to the UBC campus (maximum of four people per taxi). The ride to either destination takes approximately 20 minutes to half an hour depending on traffic.

Airport Limousines

Limousines, seating up to six people, are available from the stands located at both the International and Domestic Arrivals. The fare is approximately \$30.00 to the downtown area or to the UBC campus and is subject to GST.

Airport Express (Vancouver Airporter)

Express buses depart from the airport every 30 minutes between 06:30 and 24:00 and stop at many downtown hotels. Ticket office personnel or customer service representatives will direct passengers to the bus. The ride downtown

General Information for your Stay in Vancouver

Climate and Clothing

July in Vancouver is typically warm with temperatures ranging from a daytime high of 23 degrees Celsius (74 Fahrenheit) to an overnight low of 13 degrees Celsius (55 Fahrenheit). The average precipitation level is approximately 36 mm. (1.4 inches), so delegates should bring a sweater, a lightweight jacket, and umbrella as a precaution. Walking shoes are also recommended. Vancouver is developing a reputation for being a casual city, making most forms of dress acceptable for almost any occasion.

Airport Improvement Fee (AIF)

Passengers departing Vancouver International Airport are required to purchase an AIF ticket. AIF tickets can be purchased from automatic ticket sales machines or AIF Passenger Booths located throughout the airport terminal. Payment can be made in cash (Canadian or American), or by Visa or MasterCard, or by some bank debit cards. AIF tickets must be presented at security points along with airline tickets and boarding passes. Travelers are charged \$5.00 for travel within British Columbia, \$10.00 for travel to other North American destinations including Mexico and Hawaii, and \$15.00 for travel outside North America.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

The GST is a 7% tax charged on most goods and services sold or provided in Canada. Visitors to Canada will pay the tax on most purchases. Under the Visitor Rebate Program, non-resident visitors may qualify for a foreign tourist rebate of the tax for short term accommodation and goods that are taken out of the country (up to \$500.00 CAD). Refund application forms are available at most tourism information centers, some hotels and retail sites, and Canada Customs Offices.

Currency

The Canadian money system is based on the decimal system, 100 cents constitutes one dollar. Visitors to Canada are

takes approximately 40 minutes to one hour, depending on traffic and destination. The current fare is \$9.00 per passenger one-way and \$15.00 return. The bus stops at 41st Avenue and Granville Street and at Broadway and Granville on its way into downtown Vancouver. City buses going to the UBC campus or the conference hotels can be caught at all three locations. This method makes for a more reasonably priced trip than taking a taxi from the airport for those individual delegates who are travelling light. The Airport Express also stops at some major downtown hotels to pick up passengers returning to the airport. Call 604-244-9888 for more information.

Car Rentals

Car rentals are available at the airport from a variety of suppliers including AVIS, Budget, Hertz, Thrifty, and Tilden. Advance reservations are recommended as July is one of Vancouver's busiest months for tourists.



Contents

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Bridging the Gap | 2 |
| Travelling to and Arriving in Vancouver..... | 2 |
| General Information for your Stay..... | 3 |
| Venues & Facilities | 4 |
| Registration | 5 |
| Exhibits Day..... | 5 |
| Pre-Conference Institute..... | 6 |
| Accommodations..... | 7 |
| Keynote Speakers | 8 |
| Professional Papers | 9 |
| Research Forum..... | 10-11 |
| Registration Form | Centre Pull-out |
| Registration Check list | Centre Pull-out |
| Accommodation Form | Centre Pull-out |
| School Tours | 12 |
| Local Learning Tours..... | 13 |
| Post-Conference Tours..... | 13 |
| Social Events..... | 14 |
| The IASL Auction..... | 14 |
| Program | 15-19 |