



International Council on Canadian, Chinese and African Sustainable Urbanization



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CARING FOR INDIVIDUALS SEEKING ASSISTANCE AT URBAN INTERSECTIONS



Thursday, **April 30**, 2026
1:00 PM (ET)



Room **FSS4004**
Faculty of Social Sciences
University of Ottawa
Ottawa, Ontario

ROUNDTABLE

Bilingual Event | Hybrid (In-person & Virtual)
University of Ottawa | ICCCASU Initiative
"Global Ideas – Local Solutions"



Objective

This roundtable aims to identify coordinated and evidence-based responses to visible homelessness and panhandling at urban intersections while balancing public safety, human dignity, and long-term prevention. Bringing together policymakers, researchers, community organizations, and practitioners, the discussion will explore panhandling as part of broader structural challenges – including housing affordability, poverty, mental health, and addiction – while also addressing intersection safety, public perception, and public-space governance.



JOIN ONLINE VIA ZOOM

Meeting Link: uottawa-ca.zoom.us/j/99030379465

Scan QR code to register



OPENING REMARKS

Cintia Quiroga

Research and Innovation, University of Ottawa

Dr. Ian Cooper

Director, Housing Policy Operations, Infrastructure Canada

Stéphanie Plante

City Councillor, Rideau-Vanier Ward, Ottawa

Professor Huhua Cao

Co-President, ICCCASU, Professor, University of Ottawa

SETTING THE CONTEXT

Professor Benjamin Gianni

Vice-President, ICCCASU, Professor, Carleton University

Dr. Ian Cooper

Director, Housing Policy Operations, Infrastructure Canada

Introduction of homelessness statistics in Canada

Douglas Ragan

Managing Director, Turning Tides, Garden Bay, British Columbia

Introduction of homelessness in the Global South, particular focus in Nairobi



MODERATOR & SPEAKERS

Moderator:

Mr. Mathieu Fleury

Professional in Residence on Housing Innovation Alex Trebek Forum for Dialogue, University of Ottawa Former Ottawa City Councillor

PANEL SPEAKERS (2:25 PM SESSION):

Dr. Ian Cooper, Director, Housing Policy Operations, Infrastructure Canada

Kaite Burkholder Harris, Executive Director, Alliance to End Homelessness Ottawa

Sandra Clarkson, President and CEO, Calgary Drop-In Centre

John Heckbert, Executive Director, Operation Come Home Ottawa

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<https://icccasu.org/>