

**DEMOCRACY  
XCHANGE**

# Canada's Democracy Summit

**March 23-25, 2023 | Toronto**

Report Back to 2023 Participants

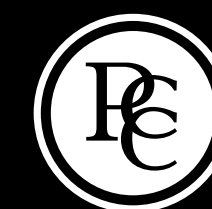
Presented by



[democracyxchange.org](https://democracyxchange.org)

[@dxcs summit](#) [#DXC23](#)

2023 Co-Presenter



**POWER CORPORATION  
OF CANADA**

# DemocracyXChange 2023

DemocracyXChange is the annual summit for Canada's emerging democracy sector to connect, learn and share. The event builds democratic resilience by deepening the practices necessary to protect democratic values and recognize and resist threats.

## **A Space for Changemakers**

The summit offered live talks, hands-on workshops, networking opportunities, and renowned special guests; connecting change-makers who care about defending democratic values, and who also want to help tackle some of the most pressing problems of our generation.

## **Integrity of Information**

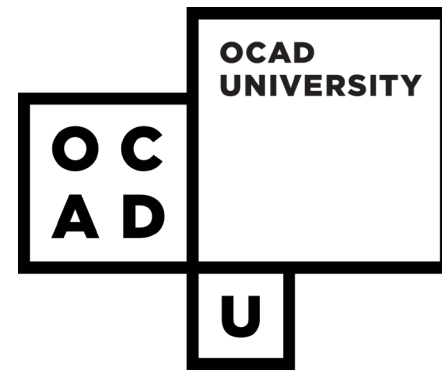
How and where people get their sources of information about civic issues continues to evolve. DXC 23 explored the current tools that people are using, and the resulting policy debates, surrounding this quickly moving issue.

## **Strengthening Society Together**

The fourth DemocracyXChange Summit brought together students, researchers, practitioners, public servants, community organizers, and leaders from the private, public and not-for-profit sector, to learn and engage with new partners, plan, and work towards strengthening democratic institutions and civil society.



# DemocracyXChange is a collaboration of:



**OCAD University (OCAD U)** is Canada's oldest and largest art, design and digital media university.

[OCADU.ca](http://OCADU.ca) | [@OCAD](https://twitter.com/OCAD)



**Toronto Metropolitan University** is Canada's leader in innovative and career-oriented education.

**The Dais** is a public policy and leadership institute at Toronto Metropolitan University – a union of the Brookfield Institute and the Leadership Lab.

[The Dais at TMU](https://www.dais.toronto.edu/) | [@daisTMU](https://twitter.com/daisTMU)



**Open Democracy Project** is working to strengthen and evolve the practice of democracy in Canada through contributing to the growth of Canada's democracy sector.

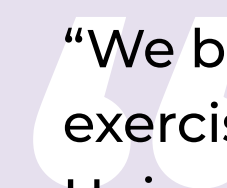
[OpenDemocracy.ca](http://OpenDemocracy.ca) | [@OpenDemocracyCA](https://twitter.com/OpenDemocracyCA)



“We’re at a pivotal moment for democracy in Canada and democracies around the world. It’s time to re-connect pro-democracy voices, confront the corrosive forces that erode public trust, and reignite progress that delivers positive change for people.”

**Karim Bardeesy**

Executive Director of the Dais at TMU



“We believe democracy is a set of practices that needs to be constantly exercised, evaluated, reimagined and tested in multiple spaces... Universities can be places for this practice – from evidence-based problem solving to persuading across divides, to co-creating models for the future with multiple, often competing, stakeholders.”

**Ana Serrano of OCAD U and Mohamed Lachemi of Toronto**

**Metropolitan University** advance the argument that universities, in protecting a space for learning and expression, are helping to preserve the tenets of a democratic society.



## DXC by the Numbers

- ▶ **3** Days
- ▶ **4** Venues
- ▶ **537** attendees
- ▶ **35** Speakers
- ▶ **25** Sessions
- ▶ **22** Community Supporters
- ▶ **17** Program Advisors
- ▶ **12** Sponsors

## Notable Speakers in 2023

**Maria Ressa** - CEO, Rappler, Author and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate  
*How to Stand Up to a Dictator*

**Anand Giridharadas** - Author and Journalist, Publisher of The.Ink newsletter, MSNBC Political Analyst  
*A new “persuaders playbook” for defending democracy and making meaningful change*

**Rajni Perera** - Artist  
*The Role of the Artist in Upholding Democracy*

**Maurice Mitchell** - National Director, Working Families Party  
*Building More Resilient Movements*

**Aliénor (Allie) Rougeot** - Climate and Energy Program Manager, Environmental Defence  
*Creative Climate Action*

**Nadia Urbinati** - Professor, Columbia University in the City of New York, Department of Political Science  
*The Rise of the Italian Far Right - Lessons for Europe and Beyond*

**Armine Yalnizyan** - Economist and Atkinson Fellow on the Future of Workers  
*Opening Plenary on Inequality*

**Martin Regg Cohn** - Political Columnist, Toronto Star  
*Opening Plenary Moderator of the Democracy Futures Workshop*

**Akaash Maharaj** - Ambassador-at-Large, Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption  
*The Truckers’ Convoy - Lessons for Canadian Democracy*



## New in 2023

# Democracy Futures Workshop - Sold Out in its First Year!

The inaugural Democracy Futures Workshop was a full-day session facilitated in-person and online by the Super Ordinary Lab and OCAD U Co at OCAD University. The 2023 Summit brought together more than 80 attendees to collaboratively consider how we might create a resilient, successful, and sustainable democracy.

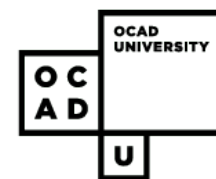
The workshop was structured around three critical factors that are considered to be foundational and powerful in shaping democracy today, and into the future, namely: trust in governance, social equity, and integrity of information.

Participants developed a prioritized list of possible actions that we might take to mitigate emerging threats for democracy as well as how we might optimize for possible areas of opportunity.

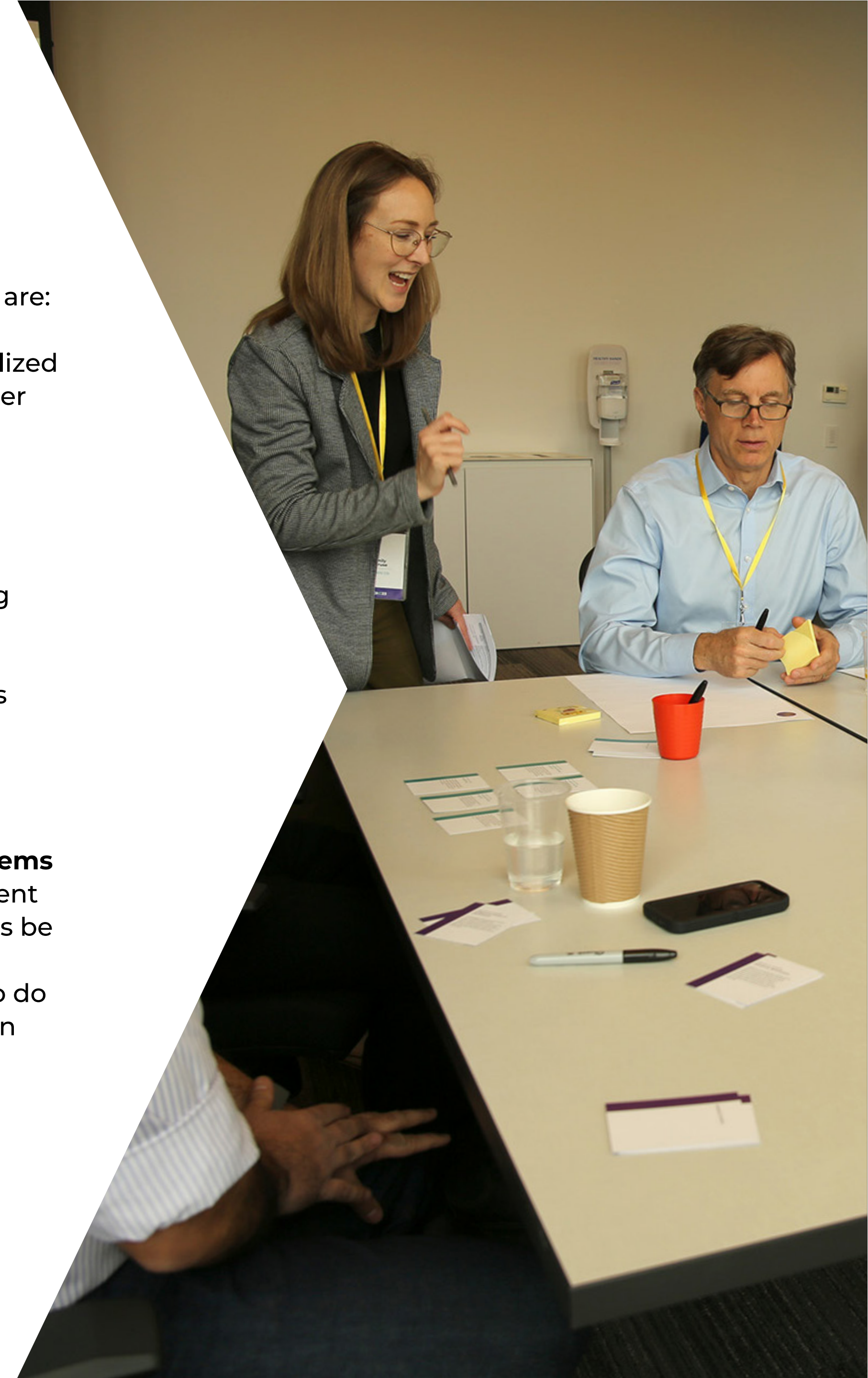
Read the full [Democracy Futures Report](#) which outlines the themes and findings from the full-day workshop, in detail.

The top six actions that emerged out of the workshop are:

- 1. Regulating Capitalism** - Concerned with decentralized capital, competition laws, limiting lobbying and better regulations that don't preclude innovation.
- 2. Better Labour Laws & Organizing Workers** - Promoting better collective action, portable pension plans, and moving from a minimum wage towards a thriving wage.
- 3. Combating Misinformation** - This includes funding and supporting local and non-profit media, and pursuing information and data literacy.
- 4. Meaningful Action on Climate** - Two areas of focus included: introducing more powerful incentives for climate action; and lowering the voting age and increasing media and information literacy training across all ages.
- 5. Creating More Responsive & Representative Systems of Power** - Having to do with education about different systems of power and having decision-making tables be representative of electoral reform.
- 6. Holding Tech Companies Accountable** - Having to do with incentivizing more transparency, breaking down monopolies, shifting business models, and, overall, making tech companies more accountable.



OCAD U CO





## 2023 Media Impact

Reach  
**20,542,310**

Media Mentions  
**742** (including social media)

Media Value  
**\$190,016**  
(earned and owned media coverage)

## Highlights

**toronto.com**

Toronto Star Events Page  
Reach = **5.41 million**

**TORONTO STAR**

Toronto Star Op Ed  
Reach = **5.41 million**

TORONTO  
**ARTS**  
COUNCIL

FUNDED BY  
THE CITY OF  
TORONTO

Toronto Arts Council Tweet  
Reach = **37.1 K**

## What People Are Saying...

“

Congratulations on an absolutely excellent summit. I came back to work on Monday energized and spreading the word... [about] the **amazing sessions, keynotes, and sense of community.** ...The whole thing felt smooth, seamless and easy, both as a speaker and an attendee.

**Sarah Yaffe**

*Director, MASS LBP*

”

“

“We have heard only great things about the event and the City staff who attended found it a **very rewarding experience.**”

**Pat Tobin**

*General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, City of Toronto*

”

“

Congratulations again on the resounding success of DXC23! **What a fantastic coming together of diverse backgrounds and expertise on the common ground of upholding democracies.** I'm confident that new ideas and solutions have surfaced through the event, and that the effects of those will be felt in the months, years to come...

**Mia Gaviola**

*TheNerve, COO*

”

“

The panels and workshops were very engaging, and I have a sense that they helped everyone recharge [their] democratic batteries.

[Along with] ...an impressive lineup of speakers, you also...[set] a **tone of thoughtful optimism, which I find is all too rare these days.**

**Akaash Maharaj**

*Ambassador-at-Large, Global Organization of Parliamentarians  
Against Corruption*

”

# Partners

## Co-Presenting Sponsor

---



**POWER CORPORATION  
OF CANADA**

## Gold

---

*The* **PHILANTHROPIST** *Journal*

## Silver

---



## Bronze

---





# Community Partners



# DemocracyXChange 2024

Mark your calendar for **DXC24**, taking place in Toronto in **Spring 2024**.

## Stay in touch!

Follow us on social and sign up for DemocracyXChange updates, including info on 2024 themes, confirmed speakers, partnership opportunities and early bird pricing.

Have an idea for a timely topic?  
Looking to workshop specific ideas?

Send an email to: [info@democracyxchange.org](mailto:info@democracyxchange.org)

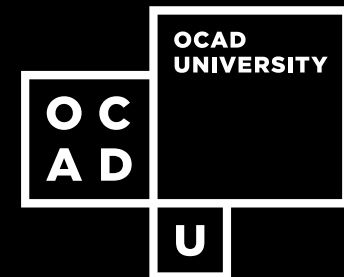


# DEMOCRACY XCHANGE

## Canada's Democracy Summit

THANK YOU!

Presented by



[democracyxchange.org](https://democracyxchange.org)

[@dxcsummit](https://twitter.com/dxcsummit) [#DXC23](https://twitter.com/DXC23)