



THE CANADIAN CANCER
RESEARCH **CONFERENCE**

LA **CONFÉRENCE** CANADIENNE
SUR LA RECHERCHE SUR LE CANCER

Final Report: Canadian Cancer Research Conference 2025



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ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report describes the 2025 CCRC and includes conference highlights, attendee demographics, and responses to a post-conference online survey. The post-conference survey received 288 unique responses, an overall response rate of 27%. The conference was overseen by the CCRA Advisory Board and an Executive Planning Committee (EPC) and guided by a Scientific Program Committee (SPC), as well as a PIP Working Committee and a First Nations, Inuit and Métis Working Group.

Photographs from the CCRC used in this report were taken by Dan MacDonald/Purple House Photography.



- CCRC 2025 Entrance

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The first [Pan-Canadian Research Strategy](#) in 2010 reported on the need for the [Canadian Cancer Research Alliance \(CCRA\)](#) to convene a regularly occurring national research conference in Canada to bring together the cancer researcher and trainee communities and showcase Canadian cancer research achievements.

Since its inaugural conference in 2011, the [Canadian Cancer Research Conference \(CCRC\)](#) has brought together the Canadian cancer research community for an agenda spanning the research spectrum. The conference provides an ideal opportunity for researchers, trainees, clinicians, decision-makers, First Nations, Inuit, and Métis partners, and patients to hear the latest developments in Canadian cancer research and network across research disciplines.

The CCRC 2025 was held from November 2 to 4, 2025 at the TELUS Convention Centre and Hyatt Regency Hotel in Calgary, Alberta. This was the eighth CCRC organized by the CCRA and was the first conference held in Alberta. The theme for the conference was “New Horizons in Cancer Research: Opportunities and Challenges.”

Conference Objectives:

- **Showcases the range and excellence of Canadian cancer research, featuring all areas of cancer research and highlighting emerging and relevant findings from top Canadian and international researchers and First Nations, Inuit and Métis-led research**
- **Develops the next generation of cancer researchers through network growth and providing a platform to showcase research from early-career investigators and trainees**
- **Advances reconciliation and equity in cancer research through intentional representation in conference organization and programming**
- **Promotes the engagement of persons affected by cancer in research and integrate patient partners into all aspects of the conference**

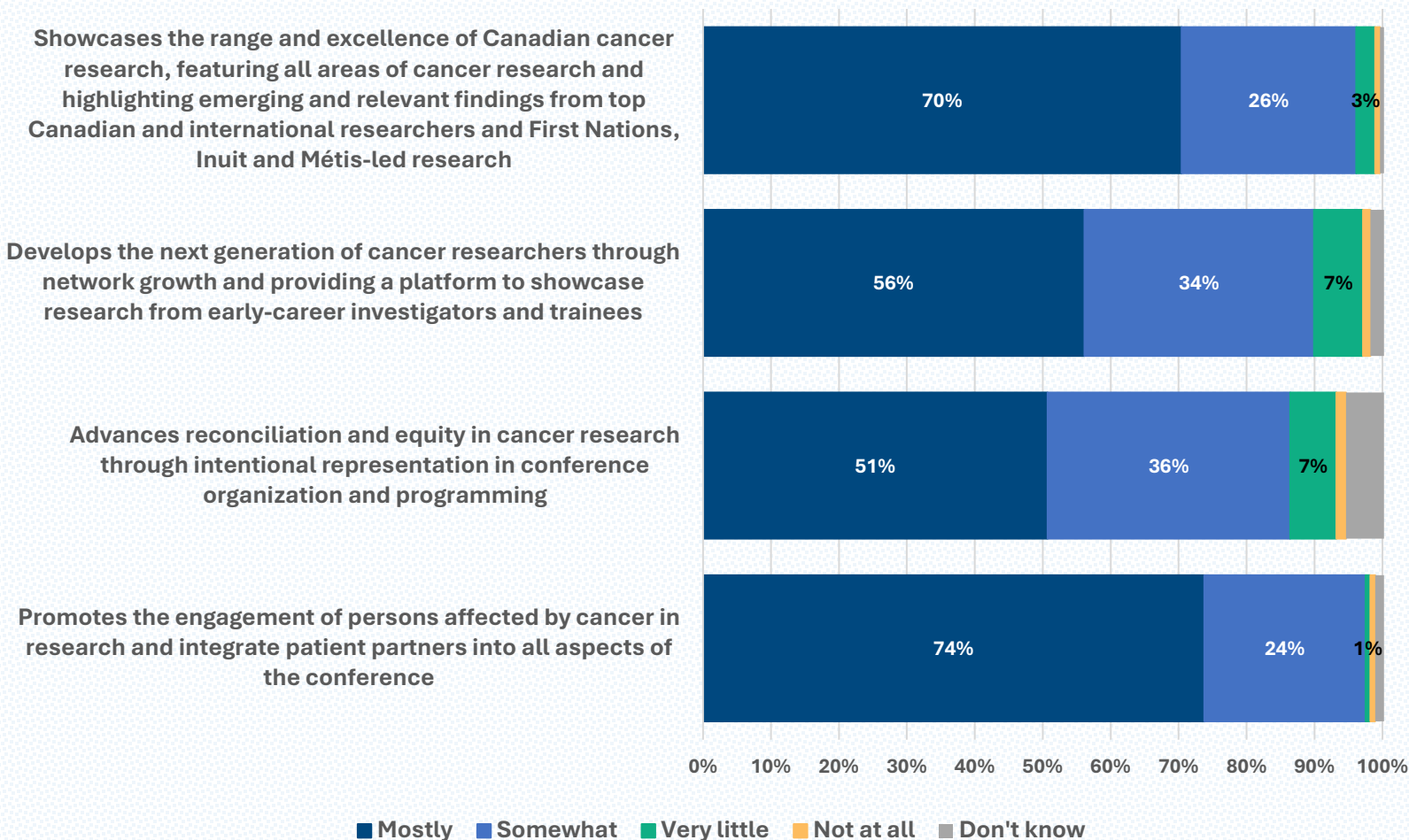


ABOUT THE CONFERENCE



91% of post-conference survey respondents were satisfied with the event and 90% felt that conference objectives were achieved (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Extent to which the conference objectives were achieved (%)



CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

Executive Planning Committee (EPC)

The Executive Planning Committee ensures the organization of a relevant and engaging conference. It is responsible for overseeing the development of support opportunities and logistical aspects of the conference.

<p>Fei-Fei Liu (Co-Chair) <i>CIHR Institute of Cancer Research, University of Toronto, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, University Health Network</i></p>	<p>Spencer B. Gibson <i>Cancer Research Institute of Northern Alberta, University of Alberta, CancerCare Manitoba</i></p>	<p>Cindy Peltier <i>Nipissing University</i></p>
<p>Paula Robson (Co-Chair) <i>Cancer Care Alberta</i></p>	<p>Christy Holtby <i>Alberta Cancer Foundation</i></p>	<p>Louisa Salemi <i>CCRA, Canadian Partnership Against Cancer</i></p>
<p>Harini Aiyer <i>Canadian Partnership Against Cancer</i></p>	<p>Rosilene Kraft <i>Patient Representative</i></p>	<p>Rebecca Tamarchak <i>Ontario Institute for Cancer Research</i></p>
<p>Kimberly Badovinac <i>CCRA, Canadian Partnership Against Cancer</i></p>	<p>Raja Mita <i>Alberta Innovates</i></p>	<p>Chantale Thurston <i>Patient Representative</i></p>
<p>Judy Bray <i>Canadian Cancer Society</i></p>	<p>Paul O’Connell <i>The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Canada</i></p>	<p>Jim Woodgett <i>Terry Fox Research Institute</i></p>
<p>Darren Brenner <i>Arnie Charbonneau Cancer Institute, University of Calgary</i></p>	<p>Dajan O’Donnell <i>Cancer Research Society</i></p>	

CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

Scientific Program Committee (SPC)

The Scientific Program Committee spearheads the development of scientific content by identifying novel session themes, chairs, and speakers, and overseeing abstract review and selection.

<p>Darren Brenner (Co-Chair) <i>Arnie Charbonneau Cancer Institute, University of Calgary</i></p>	<p>John Corriveau <i>Patient Representative</i></p>	<p>Hermann Nabi <i>Centre de recherche du CHU de Québec-Université Laval; Université Laval</i></p>
<p>Spencer B. Gibson (Co-Chair) <i>Cancer Research Institute of Northern Alberta, University of Alberta, CancerCare Manitoba</i></p>	<p>Stephanie Grover <i>ACCESS</i></p>	<p>Hanne Ostergaard <i>University of Alberta</i></p>
<p>Touati Benoukraf <i>Memorial University of Newfoundland</i></p>	<p>Bishal Gyawali <i>Queen's University</i></p>	<p>Joel Pearson <i>University of Manitoba</i></p>
<p>Jennifer Brooks <i>University of Toronto</i></p>	<p>Angeline Letendre <i>Indigenous Cancer Research Network</i></p>	<p>Christian Steidl <i>BC Cancer</i></p>
<p>M. Dean Chamberlain <i>University of Saskatchewan</i></p>	<p>Madeline Li <i>Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, University Health Network, University of Toronto</i></p>	<p>Robin Urquhart <i>Dalhousie University</i></p>
<p>Jennifer Chan <i>University of Calgary</i></p>	<p>Kiven Erique Lukong <i>University of Saskatchewan</i></p>	<p>Josie Ursini-Siegel <i>McGill University</i></p>
<p>Adrienne Co-Dyre <i>Patient Representative</i></p>	<p>Rebecca Mercer <i>Canadian Centre for Applied Research in Cancer Control (ARCC)</i></p>	<p>Linda Watson <i>Cancer Control Alberta</i></p>

CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Working Group

This group promotes and strengthens First Nations, Inuit and Métis participation in cancer research and provides advice on integrating culture, participation of First Nations, Inuit and Métis partners and involving Elders, knowledge keepers, patients, families and traditional healers.

<p>Angeline Letendre (Co-Chair) <i>Indigenous Cancer Research Network</i></p>	<p>Levinia Brown <i>Legislative Assembly of Nunavut</i></p>	<p>KD King <i>Alberta Health Services, MacEwan University, University of Alberta</i></p>
<p>Judy Inugjuag Clark (Co-Chair) <i>Canadian Partnership Against Cancer</i></p>	<p>Lois Edge <i>Athabasca University, MacEwan University, Yorkville University</i></p>	<p>Cindy Peltier <i>Nipissing University</i></p>
<p>Lea Bill <i>The Alberta First Nations Information Governance Centre</i></p>	<p>Peter Hutchinson <i>University of British Columbia</i></p>	<p>Talia Pfefferle <i>Canadian Partnership Against Cancer</i></p>

CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

Patient Involvement in Cancer Research Program (PIP) Working Committee

The PIP Working Committee provides direction on the PIP program format, process and materials and oversees the implementation of the 2025 PIP Program.

Rosilene Kraft (Chair)

*Patient and Family Representative,
CCRA Advisory Board*

John Corriveau

Patient Representative

Adrienne Co-Dyre

*Patient and Family Representative,
CCRA Advisory Board*

Chantale Thurston

*Patient and Family Representative,
CCRA Advisory Board*



SUPPORTERS

CCRC 2025 had 29 supporters including federal research funding programs and agencies, provincial research agencies, provincial cancer care agencies, cancer charities, academic and research institutions, not-for-profit organizations, hospitals, and industry supporters.

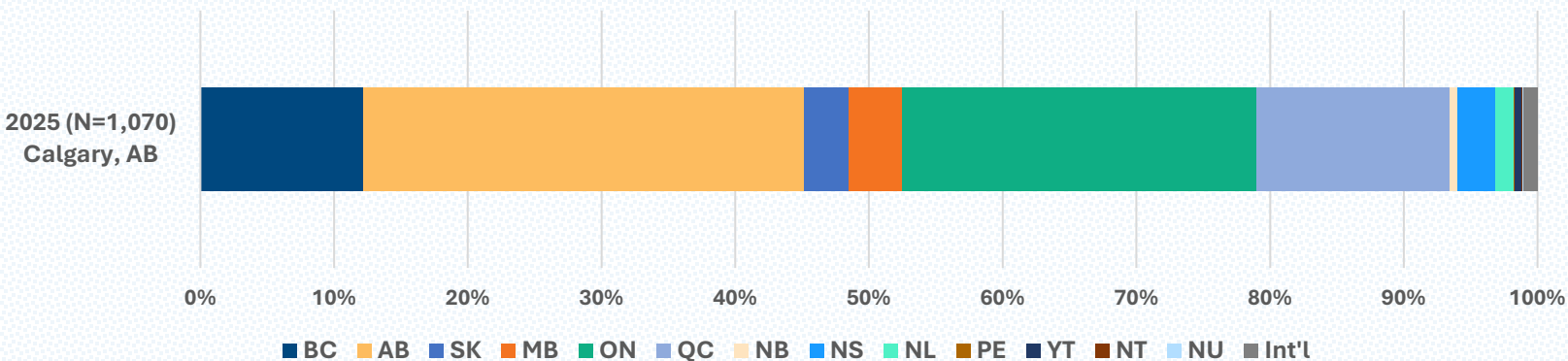


- CCRC 2025 Supporter Signage

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

CCRC 2025 had 1070 attendees, the largest CCRC to date! For the first time, delegates came from all ten provinces and all three territories with the largest number of attendees from Alberta (Figure 2). One day registrations were piloted at CCRC 2025, 5% of attendees registered for one day (3% Sunday one day, 2% Monday one day).

Figure 2. Distribution of CCRC 2025 Attendees by Province



- Attendees at conference registration desk

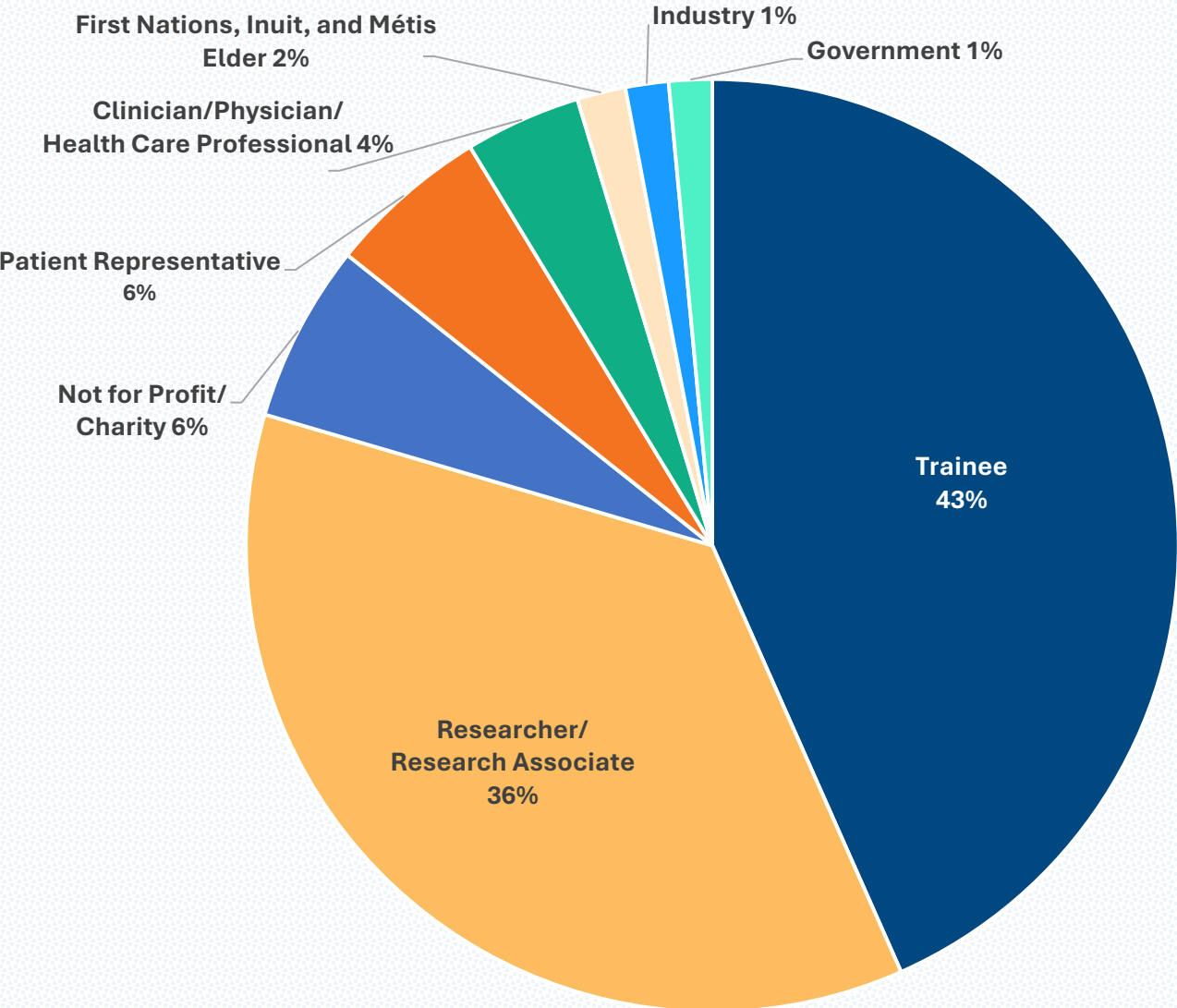


- Attendees heading to concurrent sessions

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

Most conference attendees identified as trainees (Figure 3), which includes undergraduate, graduate, or medical students and post-doctoral fellows. CCRC 2025 saw the introduction of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Elder registration category.

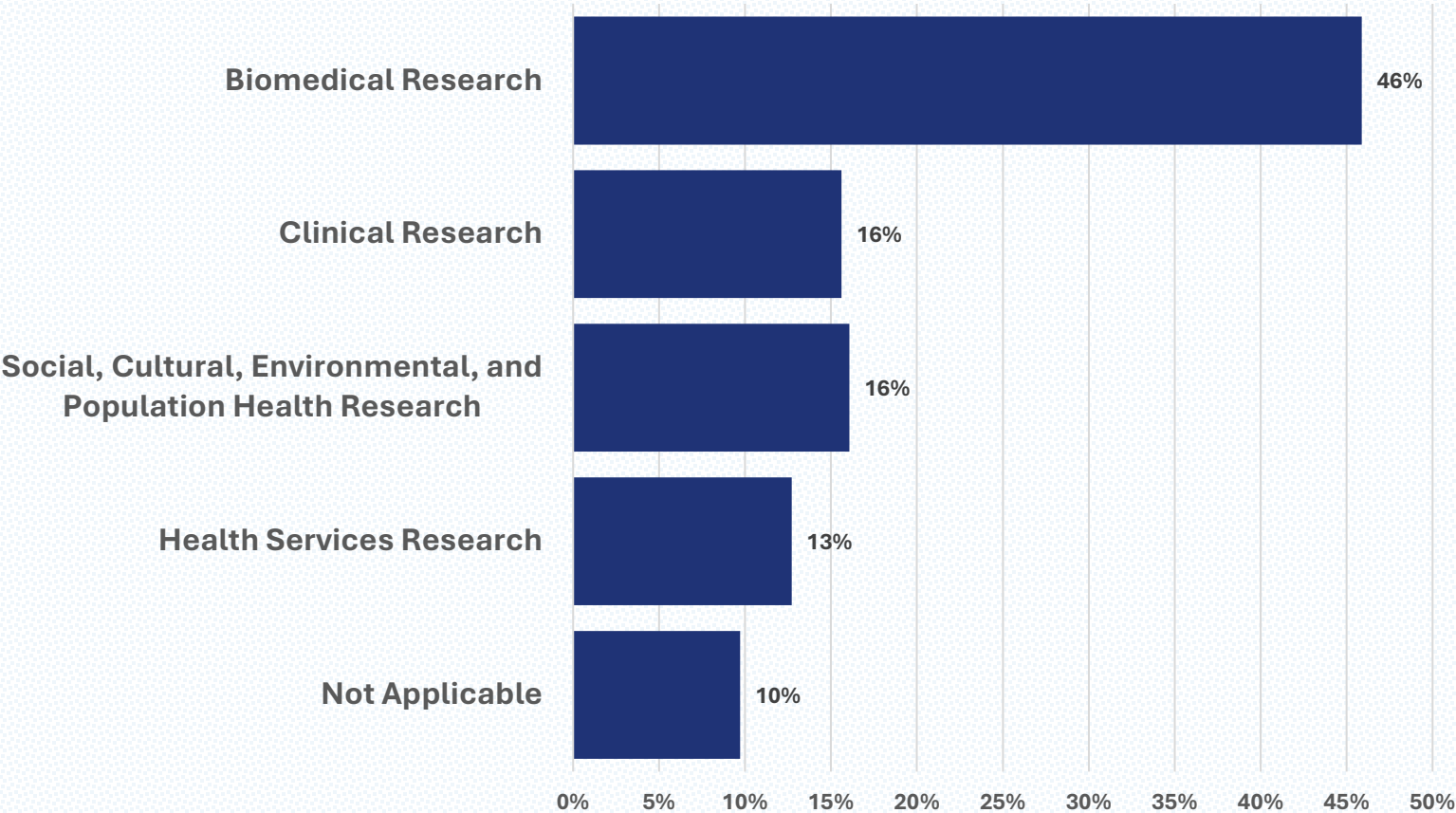
Figure 3. Distribution of CCRC 2025 Attendees by Registration Category



CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

Biomedical research was once again identified as the primary research focus during registration of 46% CCRC 2025 attendees (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Distribution of CCRC 2025 Attendees by Primary Research Focus



Survey respondents indicated that opportunities for networking and opportunities to hear about the entire spectrum of cancer research were the top reasons they chose to attend the CCRC.

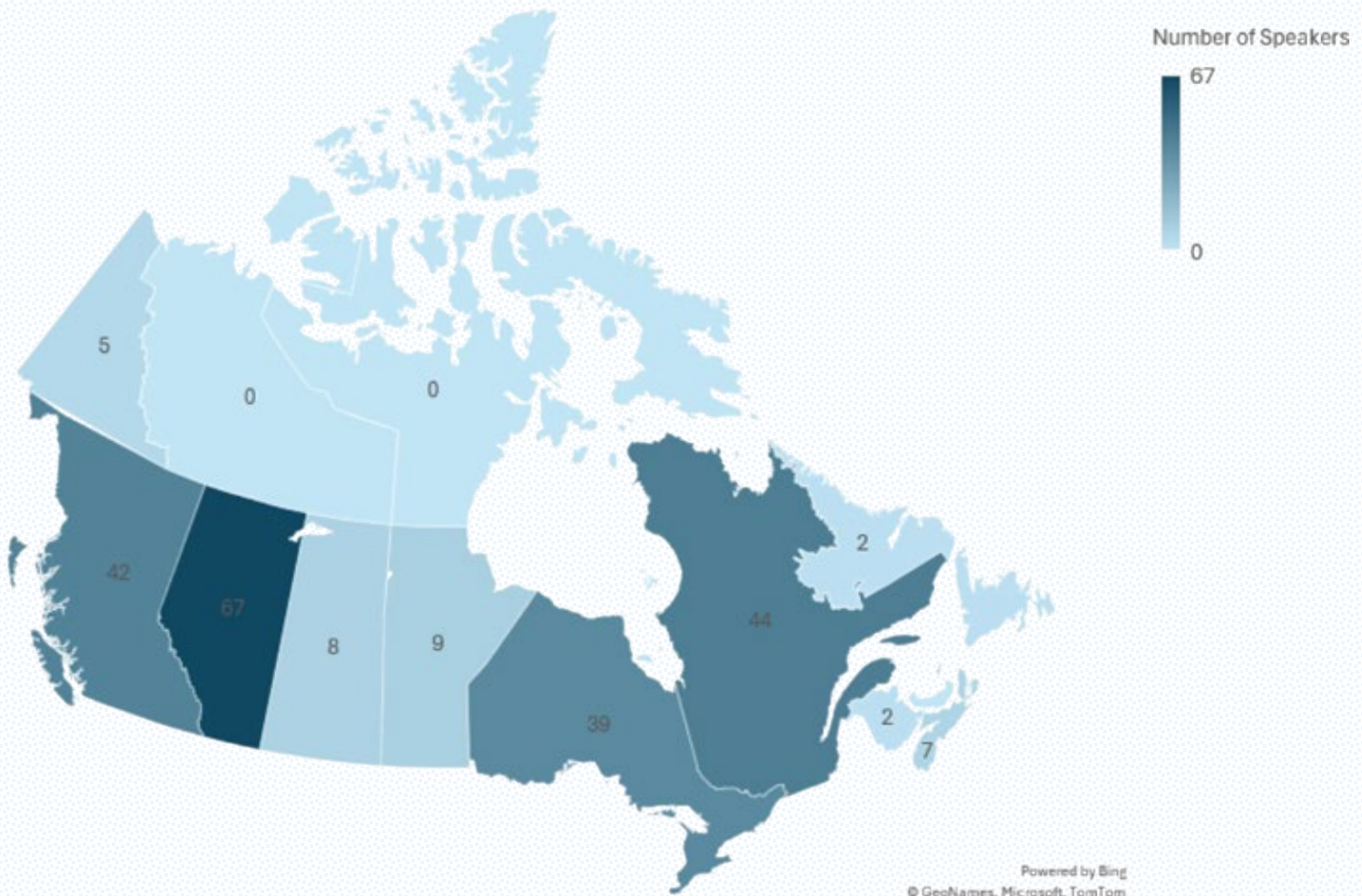
SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

The CCRC 2025 Scientific Program consisted of plenary sessions, concurrent sessions, lightning sessions, and poster presentation sessions. Collectively, the program featured 227 speakers from all over Canada (Figure 5) and provided attendees with opportunities to learn about cutting-edge research in Canada and present results to colleagues from across the country. [The full scientific program can be downloaded here.](#)

“ Proud to present my poster at CCRC 2025. Grateful for the opportunity to connect, learn, and exchange ideas with researchers driving innovation in cancer science across Canada. ”

- CCRC 2025 Conference Attendee on LinkedIn

Figure 5. Distribution of Speakers by Location



85% of survey respondents found the program well-balanced between basic, clinical, translational, health services, and population health research.

PLENARY SESSIONS

Each of the four plenary sessions of the 2025 CCRC was crafted to span the four pillars of health research and facilitate cross-disciplinary discussions. The sessions were:

- Immune system and cancer: What's next on the horizon?
- BIG data in cancer research: Too BIG to fail?
- Metabolic health and cancer
- Rising cancer rates in adults under 50 years: What do we need to know?



- Plenary Session

87% of survey respondents were satisfied with the plenary sessions.



- Plenary Session

ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS

There were 981 abstracts submitted for the 2025 CCRC, a record high! Each abstract was reviewed twice by independent reviewers. 97% of survey respondents were satisfied with the abstract submission process.

This year there was public call for reviewers, and we had 219 reviewers participating in abstract review. Thank you to all those who volunteered!

The graphic features a dark blue background with a blurred image of a conference audience. On the left, the CCRC 2025 logo is displayed vertically, including the text 'THE CANADIAN CANCER RESEARCH CONFERENCE | LA CONFÉRENCE CANADIENNE SUR LA RECHERCHE SUR LE CANCER'. A central blue banner contains the text 'Abstract & Knowledge Product Submission Deadline Extended!' above a calendar icon and the dates 'June 6, 2025' and 'June 9, 2025'. A blue 'SUBMIT' button with a mouse cursor is located in the bottom right corner.

- CCRA Abstract and Knowledge Product Submissions Instagram Post

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

The 2025 CCRC featured 24 concurrent sessions that provided a focused look at a variety of topics across the research spectrum. New for the CCRC 2025, all presentations in concurrent sessions were selected from the submitted abstracts. Of the 122 presentations, 42% were presented by Researchers/Research Associates and 28% by Trainees, 11% by Clinicians/Physicians/Health Care Professionals and 10% by First Nations, Inuit and Métis Elders.

Nearly 80% of survey respondents indicated that they attended a concurrent session outside their primary research focus and 90% of survey respondents were satisfied with the concurrent sessions. Survey respondents indicated that the top three concurrent sessions were: Health Equity, Patient Centred Research/Patient Engagement and Environmental Impacts on Cancer.



- Concurrent Session



- Concurrent Session

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Under the guidance of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Working Group, a stream of First Nations, Inuit and Métis concurrent sessions was developed. Session topics were:

- Indigenous Knowledge and Methodologies in Cancer Research
- Indigenous Cancer Care Across the Continuum
- First Nations, Inuit and Métis Cancer Prevention and Screening
- First Nations, Inuit and Métis Stories

Presentations in these sessions were selected from First Nations, Inuit and Métis submitted abstracts. 37 abstracts were reviewed by First Nations, Inuit and Métis Working Group members paired with a volunteer reviewer who self-identified as First Nations, Inuit or Métis.



- First Nations, Inuit and Métis Concurrent Session



- First Nations, Inuit and Métis Concurrent Session


92% of survey respondents were satisfied with the First Nations, Inuit and Métis research stream.

LIGHTNING SESSIONS

A total of 84 abstracts were selected to participate in 14 lightning sessions included in the scientific program. To further support the conference objective of developing the next generation of cancer researchers, this year there was a concerted effort to highlight trainees in lightning sessions and over 90% of lightning presentations were done by individuals who self-identified as trainees which includes undergraduate, graduate, or medical students and post-doctoral fellows.



- Lightning session

 92% of survey respondents were satisfied with the lightning sessions

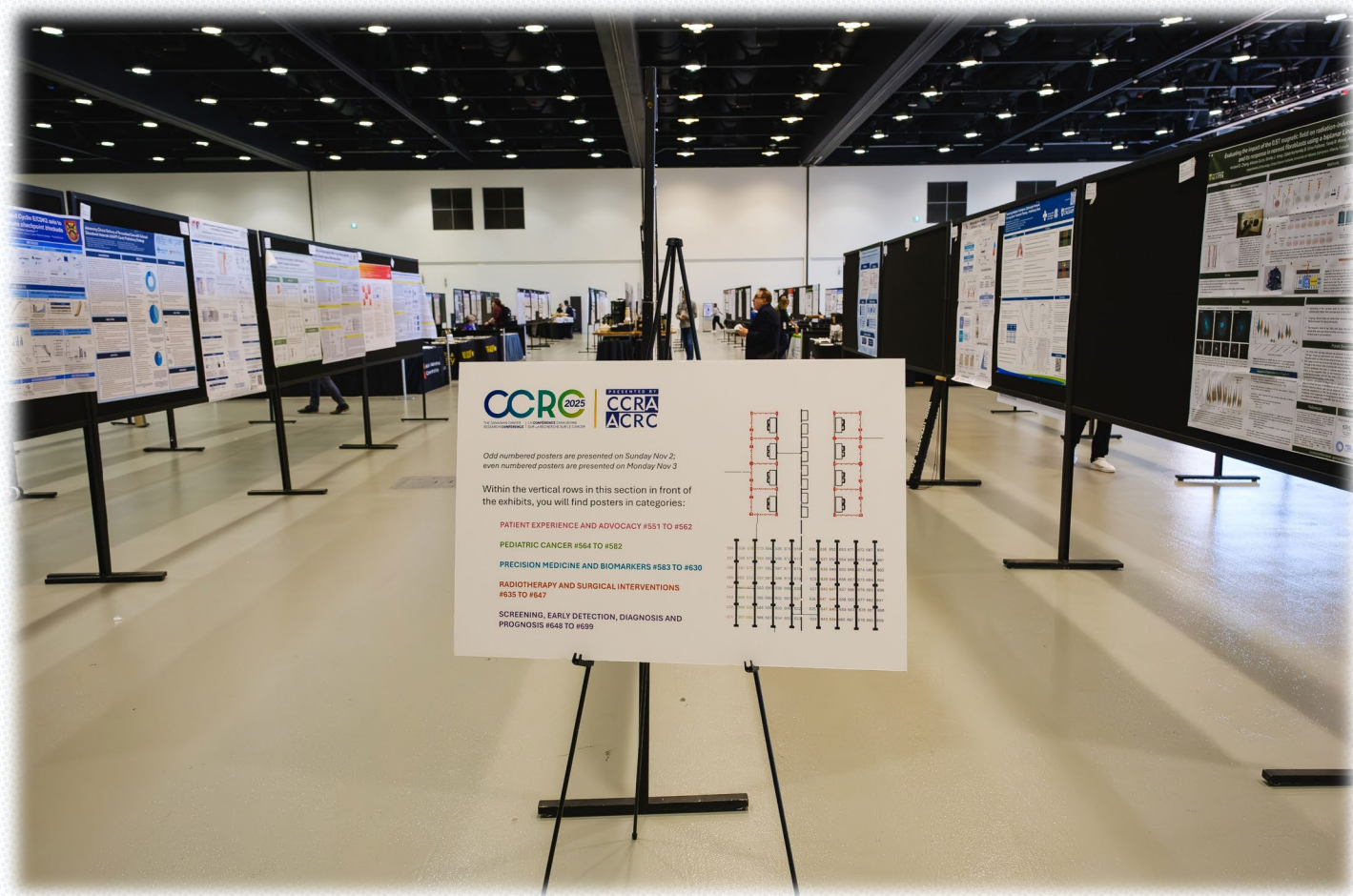


- Lightning session

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

There were 763 poster presentations in our poster hall. Posters were grouped into the following 23 categories:

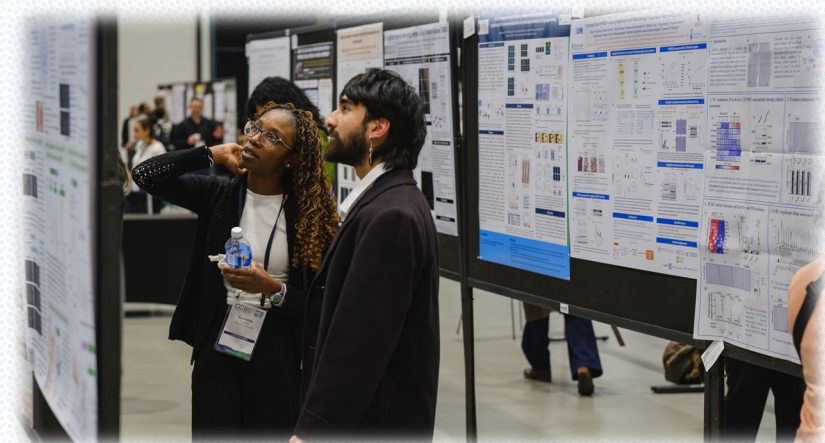
- Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer
- Bioinformatics, Big Data, AI, and Technology
- Cancer Clinical Research and Trials
- Cancer Risk and Prevention
- Comparative Oncology and Model Systems
- Drug Discovery, Design, Delivery and Resistance
- First Nations, Inuit and Métis Cancer Research
- Genetics and Epigenetics
- Health Disparities and Equity
- Health Services Research, Health Economics, and Implementation Science
- Immunotherapy
- Microbiology and Microbiome
- Molecular and Cellular Biology
- Patient Experience and Advocacy
- Pediatric Cancer
- Precision Medicine and Biomarkers
- Radiotherapy and Surgical Interventions
- Screening, Early Detection, Diagnosis and Prognosis
- Supportive, Palliative and End of Life Care
- Survivorship
- Systems Biology, Genomics and Proteomics
- Tumour Biology, Immunology and Microenvironment



POSTER PRESENTATIONS



81% of survey respondents were satisfied with the poster presentations.



KNOWLEDGE PRODUCT PRESENTATIONS

Building on the success of the CCRC 2023 invitation for First Nations, Inuit and Métis knowledge products, the CCRC 2025 featured the first ever public call for knowledge product submission. Ten submissions were received and reviewed by the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Working Group members and were presented in the Knowledge Product Presentations Session.

This session also featured presentations by the recipient of the inaugural CCRA Award for Excellence in First Nations, Inuit and Métis Research, Dr. Lana Ray.



- Knowledge Product Presentation

PATIENT INVOLVEMENT IN CANCER RESEARCH PROGRAM

The fifth Patient Involvement in Cancer Research Program (PIP) was held in coordination with the 2025 CCRC. The program was attended by 25 patient partners. This year's program was supported by 12 CCRA members and affiliated organizations.

PIP Working Committee members were cross-appointed to either the EPC or SPC. All patient partners were engaged as co-chairs for plenary or concurrent sessions in the scientific program.



- CCRC 2025 PIP Participants

PATIENT INVOLVEMENT IN CANCER RESEARCH PROGRAM



- CCRC 2025 PIP Participants

This has been the most patient-centered conference that I have been to. I felt honored and inspired by patients' talks and speeches. Their words sharing their experience during cancer diagnosis and treatment remind you why you do research in cancer treatment.

I was happy to learn from the different research, knowledge, and insights about current cancer situation in Canada. Cancer is reaching younger people every year.

- CCRC 2025 Attendee on LinkedIn

Last week I attended the CCRC 2025 as part of the PIP program.

I had the privilege of presenting an abstract, co-chairing a panel, and speaking at the CIHR Early Career Researcher Workshop.

It was wonderful to reconnect with fellow advocates, and to meet so many new and passionate advocates and researchers who are driving change in cancer research and patient partnership.

The conference was inspiring and left me feeling hopeful for the future of cancer research and collaboration. I'm already looking forward to the next CCRC in Montreal!

- CCRC 2025 PIP on LinkedIn

Please refer to the [Evaluation of the 2025 PIP and Recommendations for Future Programs Report](#) for more information

CCRA AWARDS

During the 2025 CCRC, the CCRA announced the recipients of its biennial awards, recognizing significant contributions to cancer research in Canada. Initiated in 2011, the CCRA Awards acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of individuals who have had a remarkable impact on cancer research and the cancer research community as well as those who have shown exceptional leadership in patient involvement in cancer research. 2025 marked the introduction of the CCRA Award for Excellence in a First Nations, Inuit and Métis Community Project and the CCRA Award for Excellence in First Nations, Inuit and Métis Cancer Research.



- CCRA 2025 Award Recipients with CCRA chair and CPAC CEO

CCRA AWARDS

The 2025 CCRA Award winners were:

- Sherry Parsons on behalf of Sitansisk Wolastoqey (St. Mary's First Nation) for Excellence in a First Nations, Inuit and Métis Community Project
- Christine M. Friedenreich for Philip E. Branton Exceptional Leadership in Cancer Research
- Nada Jabado for Outstanding Achievements in Cancer Research
- Lana Ray for Excellence in First Nations, Inuit and Métis Cancer Research
- Sevtap Savas for Exceptional Leadership in Patient Involvement in Cancer Research
- Barbara C. Vanderhyden for Distinguished Service to Cancer Research



- CCRA 2025 Award Recipient Posters at conference

For more information on the CCRA Awards and the 2025 recipients, please visit the [CCRA Awards webpage](#).

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

There were several meetings and events organized in coordination with the CCRC including:

- **CIHR Institute of Cancer Research Advisory Board Meeting** – Closed meeting
- **Early Career Researcher (ECR) Workshop** - Hosted by the CIHR-Institute of Cancer Research in partnership with the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research, the Canadian Cancer Society, the Cancer Research Society, and the Terry Fox Research Institute to promote professional development and success of ECRs within the Canadian cancer research landscape. ECRs had the opportunity to engage with patient partners during the 2025 ECR Workshop and CCRC through the CCRA-led Patient Involvement in Cancer Research Program (PIP).
- **Canadian Indigenous Nurses' Association and Indigenous Cancer Research Network Meeting** – Closed meeting
- **Tours of the Arthur J.E. Child Comprehensive Cancer Centre** - Hosted by the Alberta Cancer Foundation and centre staff, the tour highlighted the unique features of the new and largest cancer treatment and research facility in Canada and the second largest in North America
- **Reimagining Cancer Clinical Trials and Prevention: Strategies to Improve Access and Inclusion** – Hosted by the Cancer Prevention Research Network (CPRN), an initiative of the Canadian Cancer Society. This event engaged participants in a discussion on improving access to cancer related clinical trials in Canada.
- **RRCancer's Quebec General Assembly** - Closed meeting
- **Interactive Session: Collaborating for Impact in Cancer Research** – Hosted by Dr. Fei-Fei Liu and Ms. Paula Kirton with a recorded message from Dr. Paul Hébert, an overview of CIHR's strategic priorities with some thought-provoking questions designed to solicit input from the audience.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

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- **Interactive Session: Collaborating for Impact in Cancer Research** – Hosted by Dr. Fei-Fei Liu and Dr. Paula Kirton with a recorded message from Dr. Paul Hébert, an overview of CIHR's strategic priorities with some thought-provoking questions designed to solicit input from the audience.
- **Anew Research Collaborative, Imagine....Film Screening and Panel Discussion** - A special screening of the Imagine film followed by a panel discussion with members of the Adolescents and Young Adults (AYA) co-development team who supported the development of this creative and powerful immersive performance.
- **Open Event: From Priorities to Progress: Catalyzing Action on Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Research in Canada** – This session explored how priorities from the AYA Cancer Research Priority Setting Partnership can drive the next phase of action shaping funding strategies, guiding collaborative research, and inspiring early adopters to lead the way. The session highlighted opportunities to align efforts, attract new partners, and accelerate progress toward filling critical evidence gaps in AYA cancer care and survivorship.
- **VIP Lunch** – by invitation only
- **Canadian Association of Provincial Cancer Agencies (CAPCA)** – Closed meeting
- **Canadian Partnership Against Cancer Partnership Council** – Closed meeting

Over 50% of survey respondents indicated they attended one or more of these events

WORKSHOPS

The CCRC 2025 also featured five workshop sessions. Pre-registration was required to participate in workshops and all workshops reached capacity prior to the conference.

Topics included:

- Introduction to Machine Learning, hosted by Precision Analytics, Cancer Advanced Analytics, Cancer Research & Analytics, Cancer Care Alberta
- Care for First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children with Cancer in Canada, presented by the ACCESS Indigenous Research Circle
- Introduction to Oncology-focused Startups, provided by the Creative Destruction Lab
- Navigating the Path to Publication, provided by the Canadian Science Publishing
- CanPath Synthetic Dataset Workshop, Parts 1 and 2, provided by staff from CanPath and Lifebit



- CCRC 2025 Workshop Signage



- CCRC 2025 Workshop



- CCRC 2025 Workshop

TECH TALKS

In addition to the scientific sessions, two tech talks were held over lunch:

Canada's Lung Cancer Action Plan, hosted by the Canadian Cancer Society. A fireside chat with experts involved in the development of the 2026-2035 Pan-Canadian Lung Cancer Action Plan to gain insights on how this movement started, what some of the biggest challenges and opportunities are today in lung cancer and why it's more important now than ever to have focused collective action across Canada.



- Canada's Lung Cancer Action Plan Tech Talk



- Beyond the Silos: Uniting Health Data for Real Impact Tech Talk

Beyond the Silos: Uniting Health Data for Real Impact, hosted by CIHR ICR and Genome Canada. This session brought together leaders to explore how uniting health data across platforms, institutions, and jurisdictions can accelerate breakthroughs in drug discovery, improve patient outcomes, and drive system-wide innovation. Attendees had the opportunity to engage in discussion and provide input on how best to shape the national agenda on data.

NETWORKING

The RRCancer Networking Event was scheduled in coordination with CCRC 2025. The event organized for fellow associate and student members of the FRQ Cancer Research Network from across Quebec was held on Sunday evening.



- Conference Attendees Networking

78% of survey respondents were satisfied with opportunities for networking with other researchers.



- Conference Attendees Networking



- Conference Attendees Networking

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION INITIATIVES

The 2025 CCRC strived to be an inclusive and diverse event and will continue to ensure that diversity, equity and inclusion are actively integrated and considered in future conference planning. CCRC 2025 included a Health Equity concurrent session and presentations on health disparities and equity integrated into other concurrent and lightning sessions.

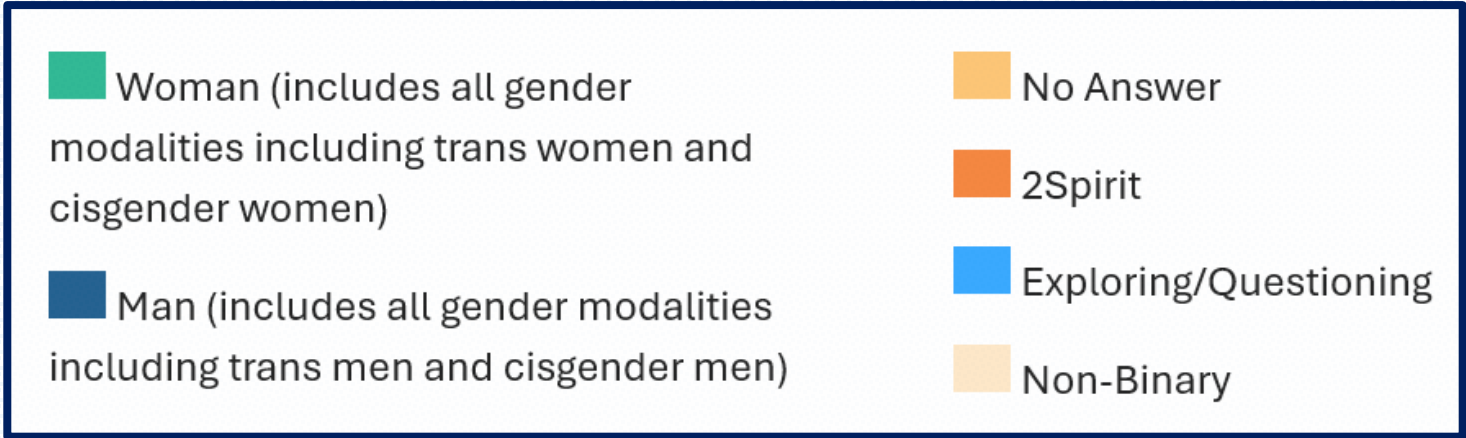
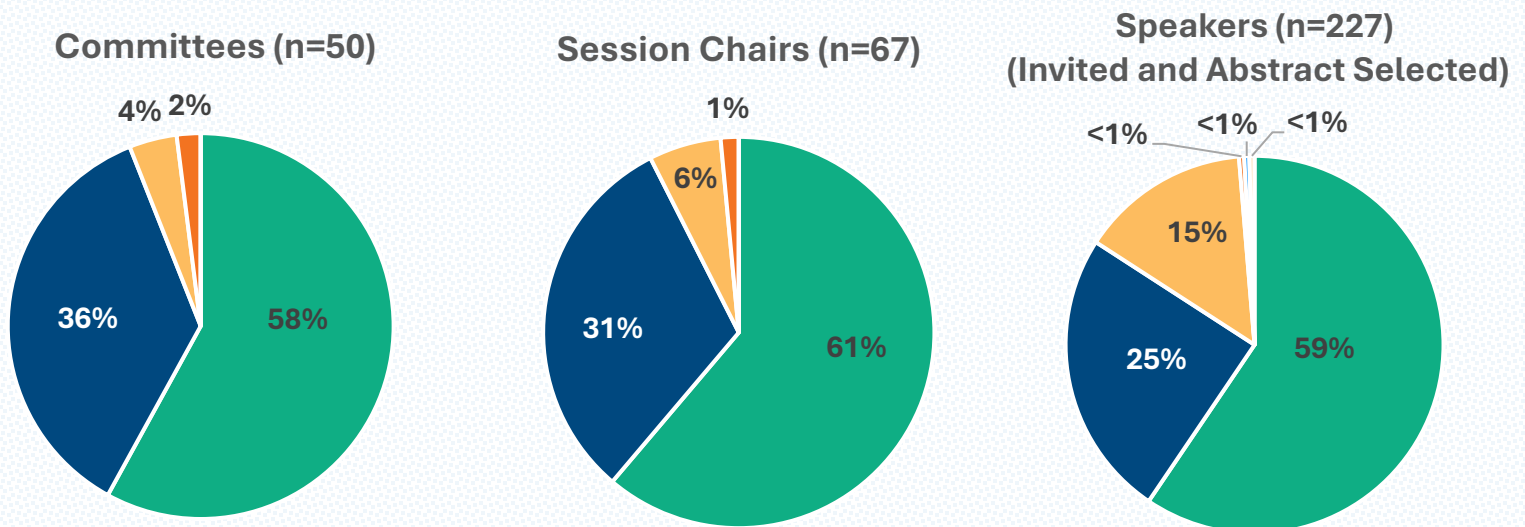
The 2025 CCRC continued application of the CCRC's Gender Equity Policy, which states that the CCRA and CCRC committees will undertake the necessary measures to achieve gender balance in all organized aspects of the conference. This includes equitable representation among committee members, session chairs, and speakers (invited and abstract selected) (Figure 6).

**CCRC2025 is amazing. It's
engaging and I can feel belonging**

- CCRC 2025 Survey Respondent

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION INITIATIVES

Figure 6. Gender Breakdown of Conference Groups



CCRC 2025 introduced the use of different lanyard colours for conference delegates to opt out of photography. Again, CCRC offered He/Him/His, She/Her/Hers, and They/Them/Theirs pronoun pins for conference delegates to use on their conference lanyards.

92% of survey respondents agreed that the CCRC values diversity and inclusion, 83% of respondents felt the CCRC was an inclusive and equitable event. 75% of survey respondents felt a sense of belonging at the CCRC and 66% of respondents felt their unique background and identity were represented at the CCRC.

RECONCILIATION INITIATIVES

A First Nations, Inuit and Métis Working Group was engaged to continue to build on reconciliation initiatives and increase engagement and inclusion of Indigenous communities within the conference program.

The Working Group also guided the inclusion of culture within the conference. This included a traditional opening and closing of the conference, a dedicated wellness space, Elder and Traditional Healer engagement, a storytelling circle and a cultural celebration featuring a Métis Elder and family sharing traditional drumming and singing, followed by a performance by Violet's Michif Dancers accompanied by a fiddler. Elders wore specialized badges that identified them as First Nations, Inuit, or Métis elders. Additionally, Indigenous art was used throughout the conference to identify Indigenous components of the conference.

The knowledge product submission stream, where individuals were invited to submit published reports, videos, short summaries, strategies, and other products, piloted in 2023 was expanded to an open call. Ten knowledge products were received and reviewed by the Working Group. Knowledge products were presented in a dedicated Knowledge Product Presentation session. Knowledge product presenters from the 2023 event were invited for a social media spotlight to raise the profile of knowledge product presentations at the CCRC.



- Métis Elder and family sharing traditional drumming and singing



- CCRC 2025 Attendees Dancing to traditional drumming and singing

RECONCILIATION INITIATIVES

Additionally, Working Group members, together with a volunteer abstract reviewer that self-identified as First Nations, Inuit or Métis reviewed 37 submitted abstracts in the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Cancer Research submission category. The Working Group determined the themes of the four concurrent sessions making up the First Nations, Inuit and Métis program stream and selected 20 abstracts to present in these sessions. The Working Group also recommended the presentation of a submitted abstract in another concurrent session and a plenary speaker for the “Rising Cancer Rates in Adults Under 50: What do we need to know?” plenary session.

The First Nations, Inuit and Métis Working Group was also engaged on the development of the inaugural CCRA Award for Excellence in a First Nations, Inuit and Métis Community Project and CCRA Award for Excellence in First Nations, Inuit and Métis Cancer Research. The Working Group identified the criteria for the award as well as promoted nominations and guided the adjudication process. Awardees also received handmade cedar pins from a First Nations artist based in BC.



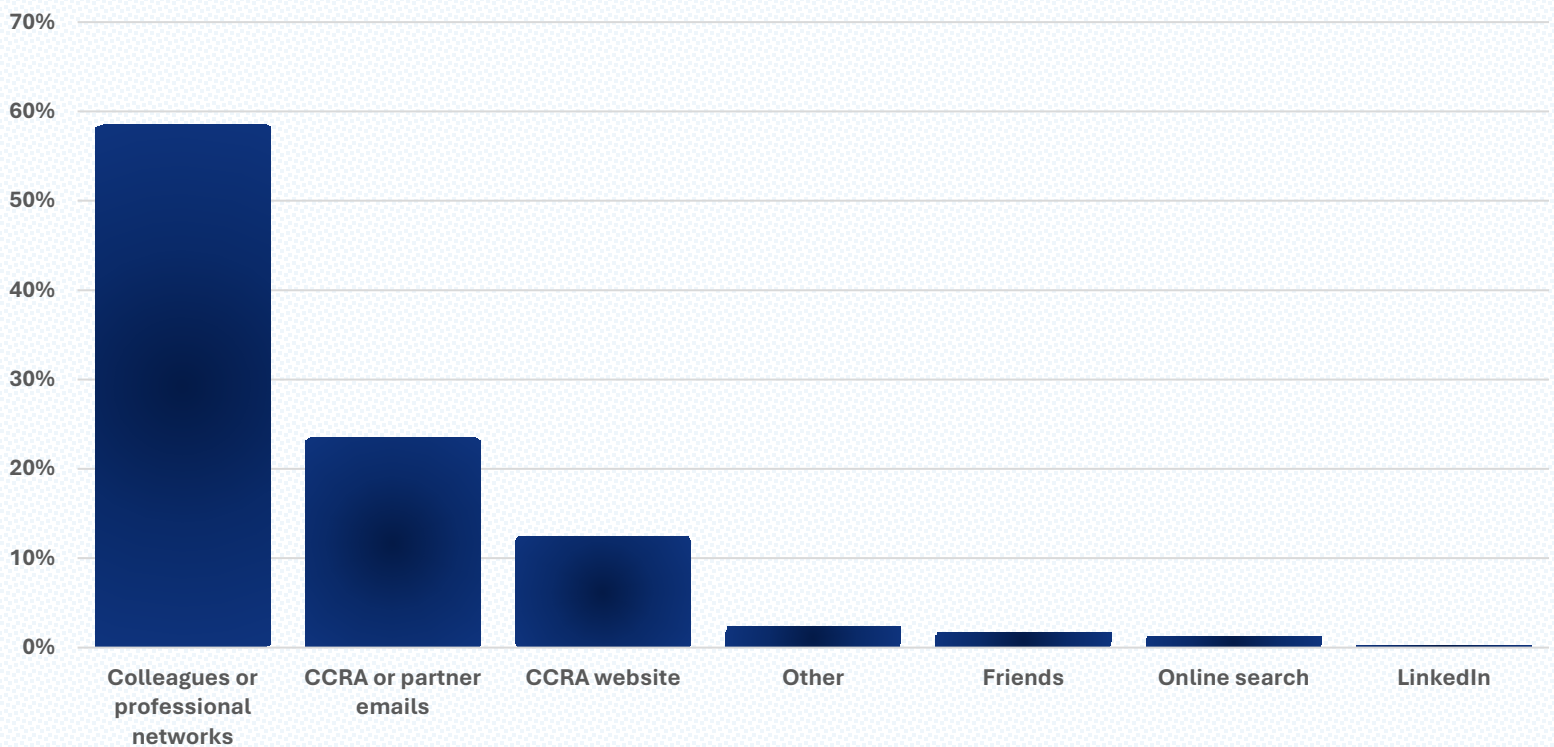
- Violet's Michif Dancers Performance

88% of survey respondents felt that the CCRC values First Nations, Inuit and Métis perspectives.

COMMUNICATIONS

Over half of conference attendees heard about the CCRC 2025 through colleagues or professional networks followed by CCRA or partner emails (Figure 7). Leading up to the CCRC 2025 the email subscription list had over 4000 subscribers. Additionally, as in previous years, communications toolkits were shared with nearly 200 partner organizations. Toolkits included prewritten bilingual content and images for newsletters, website postings, and social media.

Figure 7. Distribution of attendees by how they heard about the CCRC 2025



83% of survey respondents were satisfied with conference communications; 90% of survey respondents were satisfied with the conference website.



COMMUNICATIONS

In addition to Twitter/X and LinkedIn, CCRA established a presence on BlueSky and Instagram. We also increased the use of images, carousels, and reels on these platforms, different from the previous text-based messaging approach.



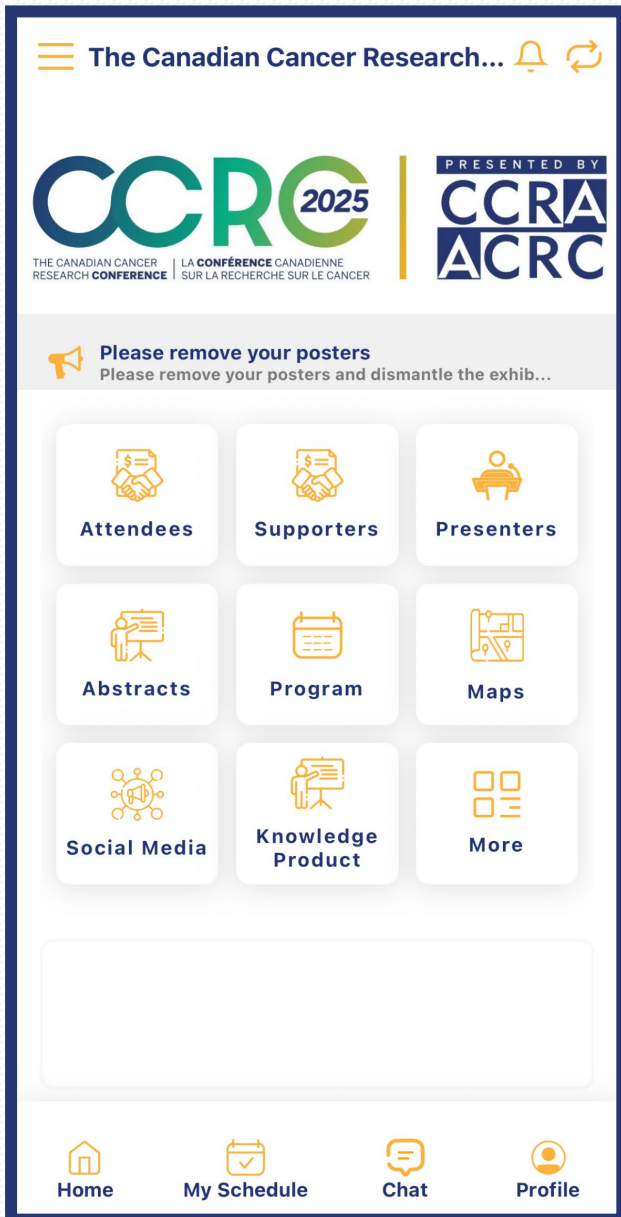
- CCRA Instagram feed leading up to conference



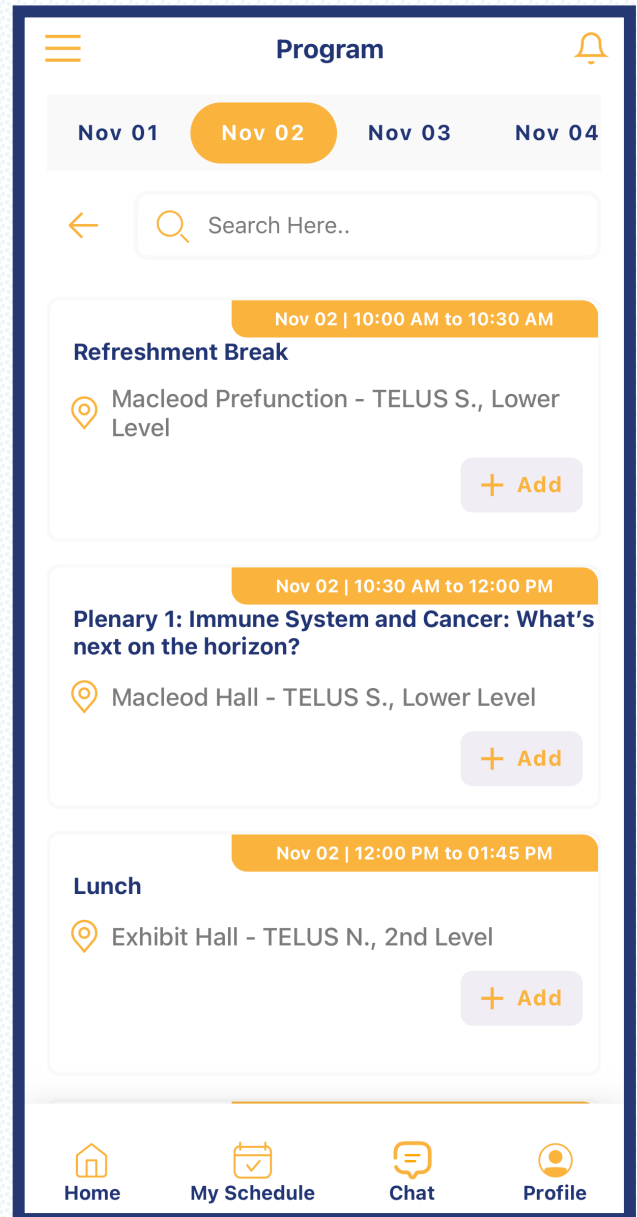
- CCRA Instagram feed during conference

CONFERENCE APP

A custom app for the conference was developed by Exposoft Solutions. The app had 873 active users with the program list and dashboard being the most viewed pages.



- Conference App Home Page



- Conference App Program List

68% of survey respondents were satisfied with the conference app.

FUTURE CCRCs

The CCRC 2027 will take place from
November 7-9, 2027, in Montréal, Quebec



- CCRC 2027 Save the Date Announcement

FUTURE CCRCs

Location (31%), registration fee (26%), and scientific content (24%) are the top factors that will influence attendance at future CCRCs.

Had an incredible time at CCRC 2025 last week in Calgary. The insightful talks, posters and meaningful discussions sparked new ideas and potential collaborations. Came back motivated and excited to apply new knowledge in my research

- CCRC 2025 Attendee on LinkedIn

This week we spoke with three bright minds in Alberta's cancer research community who shared why having the CCRC 2025 in Calgary matters.

This conference is a hub for collaboration and momentum, and seeing Alberta highlighted in its role of advancing tomorrow's cancer care was inspiring.

The conference may have wrapped, but the ideas, connections, and momentum created here will continue to transform cancer care for years to come.

- CCRC 2025 Attendee on LinkedIn

84% of survey respondents are likely to recommend the CCRC to a colleague.

Feeling inspired and hopeful after the Canadian Cancer Research Conference 2025

This conference was more than an event. It was a gathering of people who believe in a future where compassion, equity, and innovation guide every decision in cancer care. I left feeling energized, hopeful, and deeply grateful.

- CCRC 2025 Attendee on LinkedIn

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks to conference supporters, committee members, speakers and session chairs as well as all conference vendors.

Special Thanks to Canadian Partnership Against Cancer Staff (listed alphabetically):

Harini Aiyer, Kimberly Badovinac, Corinne Daly, Neda Didani, Lesley Frey, Kirk Graff, Sara Goncalves, Hyejun Kim, Naiomi Lu, Greg Mitchell, Talia Pfefferle, Nadia Scott, Kendall Tisdale, Josh Tobias

With special thanks to the Strategic Communications and Digital Marketing Team and Finance and Corporate Services.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank You to our Volunteers!

Shirley Chung, Lucille Dupuis, Malak Ibrahim, Lu Kuang, Rebecca Mercer, Céline Schoot, and Naseem Shaikh

“The Canadian Cancer Research Conference held last week in Calgary was an outstanding showcase of the positive impact, and promise, of cancer research in our country. Congratulations and thank you to everyone who played a role in organizing this fantastic conference! We are proud to have supported CCRC 2025 and look forward to continuing to work with our partners across Canada.

- CCRC 2025 Attendee on LinkedIn”

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

PLATINUM SUPPORTERS



SILVER SUPPORTERS



BRONZE SUPPORTERS



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