

RETHINK 2014 PREP MATERIALS ROUND 2

Rethink 2014 is right around the corner and with a jammed packed schedule, there are just a few final pieces of information and thoughtful questions for you to engage with as you prepare for the conference.

This final prep material package contains the following:

- 1. Introduction to the Collaboration Hub
- 2. Building your Rethink 2014 Schedule
- 3. Packing List
- 4. Final Checklist
- 5. Engaging with Social Justice







Introduction to the Collaboration Hub

Rethink is a space being convened by EWB Canada and is a place where collaboration, learning, and partnership building can happen in real time.

To enable this convening to reach its full potential, a space for this collaboration and collective dreaming needed to be created.

This is where the Collaboration Hub comes into play.

To fully dive into the potential of this space, imagine for a moment that you are at Rethink right this moment and have just connected with a delegate. The two of you are deeply enthralled in a conversation that is sparking new ideas. The conversation has you motivated to dig deeper, but the next session is starting or lunch is over... you feel like the space you are in is not conducive to this collective exploration.

The Collaboration Hub is a space specifically designed to host this type of exploration and connecting. The Hub will be set up for the duration of conference in the entrance area of the Toronto Congress Centre.

The space will feature different seating and table arrangements that will enable collisions ranging from small one-to-one interactions to large group conversation.

The Hub is ultimately a space to enable critical friendships to be formed and for ideas and creativity to flourish. All delegates are welcome to use the space **at any time** throughout Rethink and are highly encouraged to take the opportunity to connect with a diversity of people who have come together to rethink leadership, partnership and entrepreneurship for global development.







Building Your Rethink 2014 Schedule

3 days, 138 sessions, 700+ delegates, and endless possibilities. In order to make the most of your Rethink experience it is HIGHLY recommended that you take some time to build your profile and schedule on the sched.org conference app.

The app can be accessed at:

http://rethink2014.sched.org/

You can sign into the app using one of your pre-existing social media accounts such as Twitter, LinkedIn or Facebook, or set up an account with your email address.

Once you've launched you're account you will be able to share a little bit about yourself, what you're passionate about, and why you decided to attend Rethink 2014.

Upon completing your profile you can build your own conference schedule and get connected to your fellow delegates throughout your conference experience.





Packing List

First time coming to an EWB conference and wondering, what do I pack? Here's a list of a few suggested items to being along with you to Toronto.

- Weather appropriate clothing (Toronto's been seeing some crazy cold and snowy weather recently)
- Toiletries
- Any medications you require
- Mobile phone + charger
- Cash + Credit Card
- Photo Identification- Driver's License, Health Card, Passport
- Reusable Coffee Mug
- Water Bottle
- Semi-formal or cultural attire for the Gala Dinner and Dance

Final Checklist

With bags all packed, transportation booked and excitement mounting here are a few final 'to dos' to get you all set for Rethink 2014.

- Build your conference schedule & create a profile on the sched app
- For smartphone users- download the HAILO cab app
 - You get \$10 off one cab ride booked through the app using the promo code: RETHINKEWB14
- If you are coming from outside of Ontario be sure to call your credit card provider to inform them of your travels and prevent service disruptions
- Get excited for an incredible three days of connecting, learning and convening at Rethink







ENGAGING WITH SOCIAL JUSTICE

Rethink 2014 is an immense opportunity to engage with concepts of poverty, equity, and oppression and how these concepts manifest themselves in our communities. The Team has done a significant amount of work to inform our own ability to curate content and make operational decisions in line with deeper understandings of these concepts (and their complexity.)

In advance of the event, we wanted to share some resources with you, too. While working through this resource package, we ask that you engage with an open mind, welcome any level of discomfort, and bring those perspectives and thoughts to the conference delegation this weekend.

This package contains guiding questions and complimenting articles and videos on the following:

- Food Systems
- Gender and sexuality
- Consumption
- Colonialism
- Privilege
- Mental Health
- Environmentalism







Food

The global food system shows that North American regulations and eating habits have an enormous impact on poverty experienced globally. While working to alleviate global poverty, it is necessary to reflect upon the way North American consumption impacts poverty on a global scale.

Guiding questions:

- Where does our food come from?
 - Who produces it?
- Which systems are involved in food production?
- What privileges do I take for granted when eating?
- What is the impact of the food we consume?

More resources:

- The Impact of Factory Farming of Animal Products on the Environment
- Food Security
- Toronto Youth Food Policy Council
- Vandana Shiva on Seeds (video)
- Food Deserts
- Agriculture in Canada (video)





Gender and Sexuality

All over the world, patriarchal systems prescribe certain norms and mores with relation to gender roles -- and often, these prescriptions are oppressive for women and LGBTQ individuals.

In addition, it is important to recognize that globally, women perform the majority of the unpaid labour: child care, cooking, cleaning. Generally, this means that women generally have lower social status within communities, work longer hours, and have little-to-no monetary independence. We must also recognize that homophobia and transphobia has become one of the global leading causes of poverty. Together, women and men have roles to play in creating more equal and thriving communities.

In this section we will explore ways to navigate gender and sexuality inclusion, oppression, and complex dynamics.

Guiding questions:

- Who does what kinds of work in Canada and globally?
- How are different roles in the workplace (formal and informal) valued and supported?
- How is gender and sexuality defined and treated in different cultures?
- How do we create safe spaces for everyone to express themselves?
- What gender and sexual norms do you feel, for yourself?

More resources:

- How do you identify?
- <u>Gender and Development</u>
- <u>Homophobia</u>





Consumption

Globalization means that the products we buy come from all over the world. The production process to manufacture consumer goods is often labour intensive, and environmentally destructive. This is why it is necessary to question where products come from, who produces them, and why we consume these products.

Guiding questions:

- What are the true costs of consumption?
- Are our general consumption habits as North Americans sustainable?

The Story of Stuff

This video goes through how products are produced and the impact of all the consumption.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9GorqroigqM







Colonialism

Colonialism is often perceived as something from the 1800s that no longer exists. However, it is important to recognize that initial colonization continues to have an impact on perpetuating poverty and exploiting populations all over the world.

Guiding questions:

- What are current examples of colonialism?
- As Westerners going into other countries in an international development context, what could we learn from studying colonialism?
 - What are the similarities and differences between the two concepts?
 - How does partnership play a role in development? What does it mean to you?

Resources:

- Scramble for Africa (video)
 TRIGGER WARNING: This video contains graphic images.
- Intersectionality between colonialism and capitalism
 TRIGGER WARNING: Strong language and graphic images are in the video.





Privilege

Moving forward for a global, thriving community calls us to understand our own identities, behaviors, and the privilege we were born into. Unfortunately, throughout the world, many identities are valued at the expense of many others being oppressed.

Guiding questions:

- How do you identify? (Race, gender, class, sexual orientation, ability, mental health, education, other?)
- How have you been privileged or oppressed based on these labels?
- What is important, or unimportant, about these labels?
- How do we individually and collectively counter these oppressions?

Resources:

On being an Ally







Mental Health

Mental illness makes it difficult for many to function fully and effectively in the world around them. As a result, people with mental illness are statistically more likely to live in poverty. Furthermore, due to misunderstandings of mental health, people with mental illness are often ignored and dismissed. We strive to keep in mind that working towards a more just and inclusive world includes understanding the impacts of mental illness.

Guiding questions:

- What stigmas exists against people with mental health illnesses?
- How could mental health illnesses connected to poverty?

Resources:

- What is depression?
 TRIGGER WARNING: This blog uses strong language and is very emotional.
- Mental Health and poverty
- Mental Health and NGOs







Environmentalism

Addressing changes in the global environment and the associated challenges is being regarded as one of the most pressing challenges of our time. Placing global development in the context of environmentalism is immensely important as our planet starts reaching resource and capacity limitations.

Guiding Questions:

- How do human systems currently contribute to environmental degradation?
- What actions could humans be taking to address environmental challenges?
- To what extent should environmental protection be integrated into global development practices?

Resources:

• Carbon Footprints

This article is from the Carbon Account and explains carbon emissions and aims to clear up confusion around carbon.

Carbon Footprint Calculators:

- Carbonzero Calculator
- The Nature Conservancy

Environmental Refugees:

- http://thetyee.ca/Opinion/2012/08/20/Environmental-Refugees/
- http://www.unhcr.org/4b2910239.html



