

14TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1-5 September 2023



IMPORTANT CONFERENCE INFORMATION

The following information is NOT listed by priority, but alphabetically

AIRPORTS

- Toronto Pearson International Airport (Distance from Property: 27,4 km)
- Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport (Distance from Property: 3,1 km)

TRANSPORTATION TO THE SHERATON CENTRE TORONTO HOTEL

- Alternate Airport Transportation: Bloomingdale Limousine Service
- Alternate Airport Transportation: Aerofleet Services
- Taxi

ATMS/BANKS/CURRENCY

There are thousands of ATMs (also known as ABMs, or automatic banking machines) in Canada - over 65,000 to be exact. You'll find them in bank lobbies and next to bank branches, but also in other places, including shopping malls, supermarkets, petrol stations, bars and restaurants.

Remember to always perform ATM transactions in the local currency, i.e. Canadian Dollars. That way, you'll get the mid-market rate, which is the fairest CAD exchange rate possible. If you choose to be charged in your home currency, the ATM will make up an exchange rate, which often means more for the bank and less for you.

The country's five largest banks - Royal Bank of Canada, Toronto-Dominion Bank, Scotiabank, Bank of Montreal and Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce - operate their own branded ATMs. They also form part of several interbank networks, including The Exchange.



CREDIT CARDS

You should check if your card will work in Canada by asking your bank ahead of time. You should also let them know when you'll be away. Otherwise, your Canadian transactions may be considered suspicious and your card blocked for security reasons.

Canada has its own local card network, called Interac. However, most ATMs will also be compatible with Cirrus and Maestro, Plus or both. Look out for your card network's logo on an ATM before you try using it. You can also find the nearest compatible ATM through Visa's online locator (for Plus cards) and MasterCard's ATM locator (for Cirrus and Maestro cards)

You don't need a chip-and-pin card to use a Canadian ATM. Cards with just a magnetic stripe on the back work too. Most ATMs accept four-digit numeric PINs. Some ATMs (primarily those operated by Royal Bank of Canada and Toronto Dominion Bank) also accept six-digit PINs.

CHANGING MONEY

One of the best ways to exchange your money conveniently is to use a Canadian ATM. It's generally best to avoid exchanging money at airports and hotels if you can. Due to reduced competition and frazzled travellers, they normally charge higher fees (hidden or declared). If you need to change cash when you arrive, only change what you need and then wait until you get to a more central location before changing the rest. Similarly, plan ahead and try to spend all your Canadian dollars before you leave, this will ensure you avoid being hit twice for conversion costs.

BARS/NIGHTCLUBS/CASINOS

Most of the best bars are open until 02:00 am.

CASINOS

If you plan to play at one of the Casinos, ensure you have your passport with you. Dress appropriately, no vest tops, or shorts. Some of them are open 24/7.

BUSINESS CARDS

Ensure you remember to take your **MPL Business Cards** with you. Please use them generously as it helps to promote the Group.

DRESS CODE

For evening events, clothing is semi-casual.

Ensure too, you have your best dance shoes, you are going to dance for the whole night!

Meetings: 2nd and 3rd of September, attire should be suitable for any business environment, but neckties are not compulsory.

Optional Extra/Excursion: 4th of September. The priority is comfort, particularly your shoes, as we will be sightseeing. A rainy jacket could be useful during the Niagara Falls Excursion





HEALTH CONCERNS

[COVID-19: Travel, testing and borders - Travel.gc.ca](https://travel.gc.ca)

Proof of Covid-19 vaccination is NOT required

Pre-board testing is NOT required

Pre-entry and arrival testing is NOT required

Quarantine after arrival is NOT required.

Health checks to board planes and trains are NOT required

Wearing masks on planes and trains is NOT required

HOTEL CHECK-IN

Is officially from 15:00. If your room is not available in advance, suggest you ask to leave your luggage with reception. You would then be free to relax in the grounds of the hotel or stroll around the city.

HOTEL CHECK-OUT

Is 12:00 noon. If your flight is much later than this, recommend you ask if you can leave your luggage in reception until you are due to depart.

MPL SPORTS EVENTS

Golf Tournament

The annual MPL Golf tournament will take place in the morning of the 1st of May.

Transportation to the Golf Course and return to the hotel will be provided, plus lunch at the facilities. If you have any questions, please contact Alfons Freriks

alfons@marcopololine.com

TENNIS TOURNAMENT

The annual MPL Tennis tournament will take place in the morning of the 1st of May.

Transportation to the Tennis Course and return to the hotel will be provided, plus lunch at the facilities. If you have any questions, please contact Sophie Cappa

sophie@marcopololine.com

FOOTBALL (Soccer)

An informal match will be held on the 3rd of September. For both those playing and spectators, please meet in the Hotel foyer at 16:30. A minibus will pick players up at the soccer field. Ensure you bring with you a pair of shorts and appropriate shoes.

OFFICE HOURS

Should you wish to contact or visit a client whilst, in Canada, we suggest you do so between 08.00 am to 5.00 pm.

ONE-TO-ONE APPOINTMENTS

The link on our website will be opened well in advance of the event. These appointments are IMPORTANT and you must confirm them!! Please, subsequently respect your commitment by ENSURING YOU ARE PUNCTUAL.



OPTIONAL EXTRA

This will be a day's excursion to Niagara Falls on the 4th of September.

Departure from the hotel at 8.30 am, to arrive at Niagara Falls at 10.30.

A boat ride, lunch on-site, and a winery visit are planned. Departure at 16.30, arrival at the Sheraton Hotel around 18.30.

PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL

Space will be available in the Conference room on the 2nd and 3rd of September, for your promotional and sales literature.

SHOPPING

The majority of store shopping hours are 10.00 am to 9.00 pm Monday to Saturday and noon to 6.00 pm on Sunday. Because the Monday after the conference is a holiday most stores will operate on Sunday hours. Some convenience stores and select grocery stores are open 24/7 and some small stores might choose to be closed on Sunday and holiday Monday but they are the exceptions.

SMOKING

Canada is very much hard on smoking. There is no smoking inside buildings at all. Even, if you can believe this, you cannot smoke in restaurant patios that are outside. When smoking outside you must be at least 9 meters (30 ft) from the building entrance. And all smoking regulations also pertain to vaping as well.

Cannabis is completely legal in Canada. The regulations regarding smoking are the same regulations as normal smoking and vaping. You must be 19 years or older to buy from a registered cannabis store and you cannot have more than 30 grams in your possession at one time. They also sell edibles if people don't like smoking. However, the cautionary point on cannabis relates to whether you intend to go to the US in the future. While several US states have legalized cannabis, from a Federal perspective it is still considered illegal and US CBP might ask visitors entering the USA if they have ever used illegal drugs. The use of cannabis legally in Canada is no excuse and if you answer "Yes" to this question by US CBP then technically it might result in you not being allowed into the US. Answering "No" to the question and you have lied can also result in US CBP thinking you are hiding something from your past and they can choose to not allow you in. It's a very small chance this would ever happen but people should know the risk.

VISAS FOR CANADA

[Find out about Electronic Travel Authorization \(eTA\) - Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/visit-canada/electronic-travel-authorisation-eta.aspx)

Please, click above to get the full information you need from the Canadian government regarding your entrance there

- You must have a passport with an expiry date, at least six months prior to the Conference.

If you have any doubts as to whether you need a visa or not, contact your travel agent, or the Canadian Embassy or Consulate in your country.



Please remember to NOT to wait until the last minute and thereby jeopardize your trip to the Conference. Apply for your Visa 8 to 12 weeks in advance of the start of our event.

MPL will always provide you with support by arranging a 'Letter of Invitation' from one of our hosts in Canada and the hotel's evidence of your reservation. Both these services are available upon request to sophie@marcopololine.com

WEATHER

In September, Toronto is in for some beautiful weather as the city tries to hold onto the last days of summer. No longer hot and humid and not yet cold, temperatures have become more moderate, hovering between 60 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit (15 to 21 degrees Celsius) with little humidity, and by mid-September, the leaves are starting to change color from green to vibrant orange, yellow, and red, typically hitting peak colorfulness at the end of the month.

WI-FI

Free WI-FI is available in all guest rooms, plus the Conference room.

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Sincerely hope you will NOT need these – but better safe than sorry.

Municipal Service	311
Police, Fire, Ambulance	911