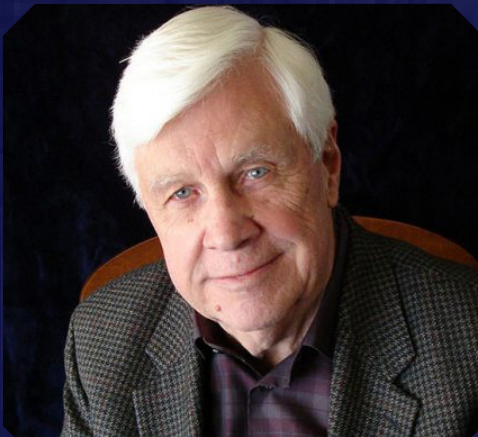


Fireside Chat Speaker Biographies



Shauna Labman

Shauna Labman PhD is a lawyer and Associate Professor of Human Rights at the Global College, University of Winnipeg. She started her legal career with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in New Delhi, India which led her to research the interplay between resettlement and asylum. She sits on the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba's Board of Directors and in 2016 she was recognized as one of CBC Manitoba's Future 40. "She is the author of *Crossing Law's Border: Canada's Refugee Resettlement Program.*"



Thomas Denton

Thomas Denton C.M., O.M., C.D., is a champion for Canada's refugee and immigrant communities. For decades, he has helped hundreds of families build new lives in Canada through public and private sponsorship programs, most recently as Executive Director of Administration at Hospitality House Refugee Ministry. A sought-after advisor, he chaired the Manitoba Immigration Council, and was one of the creators of the Winnipeg Refugee Sponsorship Assurance Program. A resolute voice for vulnerable communities, he advocates tirelessly for refugee rights.



Seidu Mohammed

Seidu Mohammed successfully obtained refugee status in Canada after avoiding the official port of entry from the United States in December 2016. In a dramatic bid to gain protection in Canada, Seidu choose to walk through a farmer's field in the midst of a fierce winter storm. His story garnered international attention, instantly making him the face of migrants seeking asylum in Canada. Seidu has used his public profile to oppose proposed changes to refugee law that would negatively impact asylum seekers.

All advocacy is, at its core, an exercise in empathy.