

REMEMBERING AIR INDIA FLIGHT 182



ONE-PAGER

Conference Overview

Remembering Air India Flight 182: A 40th Anniversary Conference was a two-day event held at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, from May 24-25, 2025. The conference foregrounded families' experiences, community activism, and archival practices to deepen engagement with the Air India Flight 182 tragedy and its aftermath, situating the bombing within transnational histories of violence, resistance, remembrance, and the ongoing pursuit of recognition.

Takeaways

The Air India Flight 182 tragedy remains absent from dominant Canadian narratives, reflecting how race, citizenship, and political interests shape whose grief and loss are publicly recognized.

Silence and fragmented remembrance perpetuate re-victimization, making sustained public discussion, education, and memorialization essential to preventing erasure and indifference.

Justice and care for victims' families require long-term, coordinated state commitment, including cross-agency collaboration, political accountability, and continued protection and support.

Community, creative, and affective forms of remembrance are vital, as fiction, exhibitions, oral histories, and academic work counter silences in the public realm and keep the tragedy present in public memory.

The legacy of Air India Flight 182 extends beyond mourning, shaping counterterrorism, immigration, and citizenship policies that continue to disproportionately affect racialized and Indigenous communities.

Calls to Action

Support Justice Efforts for Affected Families: Justice should be treated as an active, long-term responsibility. Governments, institutions, and civil society must commit to supporting families in their ongoing pursuit of justice, including accountability and transparency.

Integrate the Air India Flight 182 Tragedy into Educational Curricula: The Air India Flight 182 tragedy should be integrated within K-12 school curricula to foster critical engagement with questions of justice and memory and prevent institutional forgetting among future generations.

Actively Counter Collective Indifference through Diverse Mediums: Sustained, collaborative efforts across scholars, artists, educators, journalists, and community organizations to tell and retell the story of the Air India Flight 182 bombing through diverse mediums will ensure it is remembered, understood, and engaged with by a wide range of audiences.

Facilitate Public Dialogue through Remembrance Practices: Participate in and provide funding for annual memorial services, conferences, workshops, public exhibitions, and other commemorative practices to counter national indifference and enable collective engagement with the tragedy.