

AI Network of BC Code of Conduct

The open exchange of ideas, the freedom of thought and expression, and respectful discussion are central to the goals of the AI Network of BC ("AI Network of BC") activities; this requires a community and an environment that recognizes and respects the inherent worth of every person. The purpose of this Code of Conduct (CoC) is to outline expected standards of behaviour during AI Network of BC activities.

Scope

This CoC applies to all AI Network of BC activities, including but not limited to:

- Events organized, hosted, co-branded, or in cooperation with AI Network of BC
- Submissions and reviewing processes run by AI Network of BC
- Communications sent through communication channels associated with AI Network of BC, including but not limited to social media
- Meetings and discussions associated with AI Network of BC activities

If an activity is in cooperation with another organization that has its own CoC, the union of both CoCs apply.

Accessibility & Accommodations

AI Network of BC is committed to ensuring accessibility for all participants. Participants requesting accommodations (e.g., sign language interpreters, captioning, dietary needs, mobility assistance) should contact the organizers in advance at info@ainbc.ai. We will make every reasonable effort to provide necessary support to enable full participation.

If an accommodation request arises during an event, participants can notify on-site staff who will coordinate to address needs promptly.

Responsibility

All attendees, speakers, mentors, panelists, area chairs, reviewers, sponsors, contractors, organizers, volunteers, members of the AI Network of BC Board of Directors and Advisory Council (referred to as "Participants" collectively throughout this document) involved in AI Network of BC activities as described above are required to comply with this CoC.

Sponsors and Partners are equally subject to this CoC. In particular, sponsors should not use images, activities, or other materials that reinforce gender stereotypes or are of a sexual, racial, or otherwise offensive nature at AI Network of BC events. Booth staff, including but not limited to volunteers, should not create a sexualized environment.

Unacceptable Behavior

AI Network of BC is dedicated to providing an experience for all participants that is free from harassment, bullying, discrimination, and retaliation. This includes offensive comments related to gender, gender identity and expression, age, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, ethnicity, religion (or lack thereof), politics, technology choices, or any other personal characteristics or considerations made unlawful by federal, provincial, or local laws, ordinances, or regulations.

Inappropriate or unprofessional behavior that interferes with another participant's full participation will not be tolerated. This includes bullying, intimidation, personal attacks, harassment, sustained disruption of talks or other events, sexual harassment, stalking, following, harassing photography or recording, inappropriate physical contact, unwelcome sexual attention, public vulgar exchanges, derogatory name-calling, or diminutive characterizations. Advocating for, or encouraging, any of the above behaviour, is also considered harassment.

No use of images, activities, or other materials that are of a sexual, racial, or otherwise offensive nature that may create an inappropriate or toxic environment is permitted. Disorderly, boisterous, or disruptive conduct including but not limited to fighting, coercion, theft, damage to property, or any mistreatment or non-businesslike behavior towards other participants is not tolerated. Scientific misconduct—including but not limited to fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism of paper submissions, research presentations, or product capabilities—is prohibited. This prohibition extends equally to companies, sponsors, partner organizations, and institutions, who must not misrepresent research findings, make false or unsubstantiated claims in white papers or marketing materials, misuse or withhold data, or fail to give proper attribution in any deliverables associated with AI Network of BC activities.

Media

Media personnel and other attendees recording or livestreaming AI Network of BC activities must comply with this CoC. No video, audio, or livestreaming is permitted without express written consent from AI Network of BC organizers. All professional media and photography services must be contracted or approved in advance by AI Network of BC. By attending, participants consent to media coverage (e.g., photography and video) conducted by professionals engaged by AI Network of BC, and acknowledge that these materials may be used for promotional, archival, or reporting purposes.

Privacy & Data Protection

AI Network of BC may collect and process personal data (e.g., name badges, registration details) solely for event administration, community engagement and to comply with venue and/or local requirements or regulations. Media captured during activities will be used in accordance with applicable privacy laws and this CoC. Participants who have concerns about their personal data or media usage should contact privacy@ainbc.ai.

Reporting

If you have concerns related to your participation or interaction at an AI Network of BC activity, observe someone else's difficulties, or have any other concerns you wish to share, you can make a report:

Anytime:

By email at info@ainbc.org

During an event:

In-person to organizers, volunteers, or any member of the AI Network of BC Board of Directors. Organizers and volunteers may be identified by special badges marked as "ORGANIZER" or "VOLUNTEER." Members of the Board of Directors may be identified by badges marked as "Board."

There is no deadline by which to make a report. The person receiving your report will provide you immediate medical or security help and assist you to feel safe for the duration of the activity. Members of the AI Network of BC organization will investigate your report.

Non-Disparagement

Participants shall not, at any time during or after AI Network of BC activities, make disparaging or non-constructive public statements about the AI Network of BC, its members, sponsors, partners, organizers, or participants. This includes, but is not limited to, verbal comments, social media posts, or other communications that undermine the reputation or integrity of involved parties.

Enforcement

Any participant asked by any member of the community to stop any unacceptable behavior is expected to comply immediately. A response of "just joking" will not be accepted; behavior can be harassing without an intent to offend.

If a participant engages in behaviour that violates this CoC, AI Network of BC retains the right to take any action deemed appropriate, including but not limited to:

- Formal or informal warnings
- Barring or limiting continued attendance and participation, including but not limited to expulsion from the event
- Barring from participating in or deriving benefits from future AI Network of BC activities
- Exclusion from AI Network of BC opportunities, e.g. leadership, organizing, volunteering, speaking, reviewing, sponsoring, etc.
- Reporting the incident to the offender's local institution or funding agencies
- Reporting the incident to local law enforcement

The same actions may be taken toward any individual who engages in retaliation or who knowingly makes a false allegation of harassment. If action is taken, an appeals process will be made available.

Investigation

Reports of violations will be handled at the discretion of the AI Network of BC Board of Directors, who will investigate reports and bring the issue to resolution. Reports made during the activity will be responded to within 24 hours; reports made at other times will be responded to in less than five weeks. All reports will be handled as confidentially as possible and information will be disclosed only as it is necessary to complete the investigation and bring to resolution. There may be situations (such as those involving Title IX issues in the United States and venue- or employer-specific policies) where the member of the Board informed of the violation will be under an obligation to file a report with another individual or organization outside of AI Network of BC.

Ongoing Review

The AI Network of BC Board of Directors welcomes feedback from the community on this CoC policy and procedures; please contact us by email at info@ainbc.ai.

Acknowledgements

This CoC policy was written by adapting the wording and structure from other CoC policies and procedures by Geek Feminism Wiki (created by the Ada Initiative), NeurIPS, ACM, Montreal AI Symposium, Women in Machine Learning and Deep Learning Indaba.