

RIGHTS TALK
12TH ANNUAL
FREEDOM IN ACTION
CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 23, 2016
SFU HARBOUR CENTRE

BC CIVIL LIBERTIES
ASSOCIATION

IN COLLABORATION WITH



twitter.com/bccla
facebook.com/BCCivLib

www.bccla.org

WELCOME TO THE BC CIVIL LIBERTIES ASSOCIATION'S RIGHTS TALK CONFERENCE!



Thank you for joining us for this, our twelfth annual Youth and Civil Liberties Conference. Human rights and civil liberties are important for everyone, and especially for youth. The unprecedented engagement of young voters in last year's federal election demonstrates that young people like you care about the

threat to our freedoms posed by legislation such as Bill C-51 and the second-class citizenship created by Bill C-24. Youth want to make their voices heard and to participate in our democracy. But to do that effectively, you need to learn both about the issues and your own fundamental freedoms to engage in debate, protest and democratic action.

We hope that this Rights Talk conference will help you both to learn more about some emerging human rights and civil liberties issues, and inspire you to become increasingly effective advocates for human rights and civil liberties.

The BCCLA is actively involved in a broad array of issues: defending the rights of protesters to freedom of expression; working to safeguard your privacy online; and ensuring that the police respect the rights and freedoms of the people they are sworn to serve and protect. Whether we're suing the Government of Canada to defend your right to privacy against Canadian intelligence agencies spying on everyone all of the time, or achieving a landmark victory at the Supreme Court of Canada to establish a *Charter* right to choice at the end of life, the motivating principle behind all of our work is respect for the inherent dignity of each and every human being.

The BCCLA is committed to educating Canadians about their own rights. We believe that informed and active citizens are the first line of defence in protecting and furthering fundamental rights and freedoms in Canada. This conference, the many protest rights workshops we conduct each year, and our handbook designed to inform students like you about your rights, *Rights Talk: Students and Civil Liberties at School*, are just a few of the ways we reach out to our fellow citizens to help everyone know their rights and duties as Canadians.

Today, you will be immersed in many complex and challenging issues that are at the forefront of the BCCLA's work. How do we work as an ally and advocate with others to make rights and liberties real for the most marginalized among us? How do we stand up for and empower those that are disenfranchised?

Poverty, and the social conditions associated with it such as street homelessness, are among the greatest challenges Canada faces. Indigenous people, and people living with disabilities, are disproportionately represented among those living on the streets. Increasingly, too many young people are joining the ranks of the homeless. One of the panel discussions you will be hearing today focuses on how the law can be a powerful tool in working with marginalized people, to ensure that they enjoy the full measure of the equal rights and fundamental liberties guaranteed by the Charter.

Much of the BCCLA's work centres on sensitive and sometimes polarizing topics. It is our job to stand up for the rights of the unpopular and the dispossessed. We hope to challenge you to join with us in thinking critically about the world around you, the rules that structure it, and your place within it.

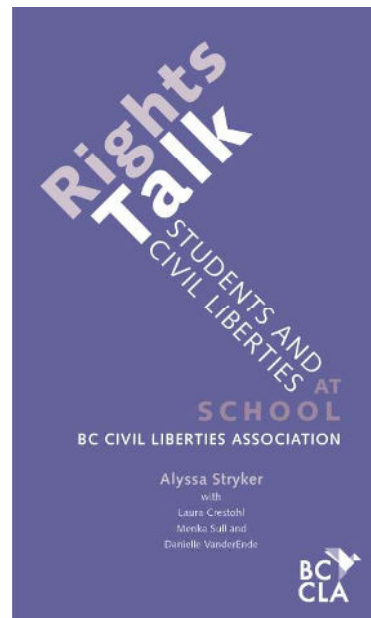
Equipping individuals and building communities that recognize, respect and defend the dignity of all members of our society is everyone's responsibility. The presentations and workshops you participate in today will help you understand the issues better, challenge your thinking in new ways, and gain an appreciation for what you can do to support and advance the causes you care about.

I encourage you to join in and participate fully in all the day offers you, and hope you will be inspired to become more involved in realizing the *Charter's* promise of a truly free and democratic society. I look forward to standing together with you in the ongoing defence of rights and liberties in the years to come.

All the best,

Lindsay M. Lyster, President, BCCLA

DO YOU KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AT SCHOOL?



Have you checked out our fully updated youth handbook, *Rights Talk: Students and Civil Liberties at School*?

Ever wondered...

- Whether you could face criminal charges for sexting?
- Whether your teacher or the police can search the contents of your cell phone?
- If you can be disciplined at school for something you said outside of school?
- Whether it's ok for religious parents to pull their children out of classes that discuss topics like LGBTQ issues and sex ed?
- If the police can use sniffer dogs to look for drugs at your school?

For the answers to these (and many other) questions, download a copy of *Rights Talk* today!

Access it online here:
http://bccla.org/our_work/rightstalk

BECOME A MEMBER

The BC Civil Liberties Association depends on the active donation and participation of our membership to make our work possible. Be a part of Canada's rights movement by becoming a student member, or signing up with your family. You can find information about membership online at bccla.org/take-action/become-a-member

GET TO KNOW SFPIRG

The Simon Fraser Public Interest Research Group (SFPIRG) is a student-funded and student-directed resource centre based at the Burnaby campus of Simon Fraser University. Our mission is to engage students and community in social and environmental justice, and we've been doing that since 1981 through Education, Action, Research and Community-Building



Initiatives. There are many ways to volunteer here, access great resources, take part in educational workshops and get involved in our vibrant campus community. Please check out our website (www.sfpirg.ca) or drop by the centre to find out more. We are located in TC326 in the Rotunda, SFU Burnaby. We are open Monday to Friday, 10:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Rights Talk Conference Schedule 2016

Time	Topic	Speaker	Venue
9:00-9:05	Welcome & Introduction of Keynote	Josh Paterson, BCCLA Executive Director	Rm. 1900
9:05-9:55	Keynote Address: "It's go time: why we need to collectively advance Indigenous Title and Rights in BC"	Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs	Rm. 1900
9:55-10:05	BREAK: Please head to your first workshop room		
10:05-11:05	Workshop 1		
11:05-11:20	BREAK: Please head to your second workshop room		
11:20-12:15	Workshop 2		
12:15-1:15	LUNCH		
1:15-2:40	PANEL DISCUSSION Poverty, Rights and the Law <i>Each speaker will deliver a short presentation, after which we will open the floor to questions from the audience and discussion amongst the speakers.</i>	Panelists: Laura Track, BCCLA Counsel DJ Larkin, Pivot Legal Society Housing campaigner Madam Justice Barbara Fisher, BC Supreme Court	Rm. 1900
2:40-2:55	Help improve the conference for 2017! Fill out a feedback form.		

WORKSHOP SESSIONS			
Building Movements for Systemic Change: Immigration Detention with Emma Warner Chee and Julian Tennent-Riddell	Rm. 1500	Power, Discrimination and Anti-Oppression with Lydia Luk	Rm. 1425
Power Play: Marginalization in the Law with Afie Bozorgebrahimi	Rm. 1520	Know Your Protest Rights with Charlotte Kingston	Rm. 1600
Compassion? Why do we bother? with James Tigchelaar	Rm. 1900		

Can't find your workshop room? There's a map on the back of the program!

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



GRAND CHIEF STEWART PHILLIP / ubcic.bc.ca
It's go time: why we need to collectively advance Indigenous Title and Rights in BC

In October 2008, **Grand Chief Stewart Phillip** concluded his fourth consecutive four year term as Chief of the Penticton Indian Band (PIB), and served the Band as Chief for a total of 14 years. In addition, he served as an elected Band Councilor for a 10-year period. Aside from serving as a member of the PIB Council for a total of 24 years, Grand Chief Phillip continues to serve as the Chair of the Okanagan Nation Alliance.

WORKSHOP PRESENTERS



AFIE BOZORGEBRAHIMI / westcoastleaf.org
Power Play: Marginalization in the Law

In this session, we use games and activities to facilitate discussions about power, discrimination and equality. It serves as a brief introduction to equality law in Canada, introducing the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and looking at some of the cases where it has been used. If you are interested in social change and how the law can be used to further it, don't miss this session! Brought to you by the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund.

Afie is currently a geography student at UBC, specializing in environment & sustainability. Her studies sparked her interest in social and economic sustainability, and the huge role that equality plays in this. Afie's social justice passions lie especially in anti-racism, decolonization, and of course all things gender. When she's not in class, locked in the library, or doing workshops, you can find her shouting her love for salt and vinegar chips and used bookstores from the rooftops.



LYDIA LUK / peernetbc.com
Power, Discrimination and Anti-Oppression

Participants create a shared understanding of the words tossed around when speaking about diversity. Through experiential learning, participants will examine individual and systemic barriers, expectations and norms. Participants apply other lenses to broaden their perspectives about accessibility, inclusion, power and privilege.

Lydia has a passion working with diverse communities. From her volunteer experiences working with seniors to her extensive work with queer youth in the Lower mainland, Lydia brings her enthusiasm for community development and experience in community mobilization, engagement and development with respect to social justice and queer issues. As an alumni of Youth Facilitate This! Workshops of PeerNetBC, Lydia has truly come full circle to be part of the PeerNetBC team now as a community developer.



CHARLOTTE KINGSTON / bccla.org

Know Your Protest Rights!

The BCCLA believes that protest is a critical part of free expression and assembly rights. We aim to make sure people are informed of their rights and safe when they do so. This workshop includes information on laws related to protest, expression, and assembly, and tips for exercising those rights in safe and legal ways.

Charlotte joined the BCCLA while completing her MA in Political Science at UBC. She has worked as a facilitation trainer for youth and community groups, and for several post-secondary student organizations promoting access to education. She is passionate about creating opportunities for democratic dialogue between all segments of Canadian society, and engaging community members in important conversations about public policy.



EMMA WARNER CHEE & JULIAN TENNENT-RIDDELL

Building Movements for Systemic Change: Immigration Detention

Using immigration detention as a case study, we will unpack the systems that perpetuate this issue and then discuss some of the tactics that create effective movements towards social justice.

Emma is an undergraduate in International Studies at Simon Fraser University. For the past three years she was involved in a youth group dedicated to social justice through systemic change. She helped coordinate a garden to promote food sovereignty, and believes access to food is a human right. She is also passionate about anti-racist action and migrant justice.

Julian is a law student at the UBC Faculty of Law and is passionate about using the law as a tool for social justice. He has been an active community organizer in various social movements and campaigns, and is a member of the No One is Illegal collective in Vancouver. Julian is currently working with others to establish a new End Immigration Detention chapter in Vancouver.



JAMES TIGCHELAAR / bccdc.ca

Compassion: Why Do We Bother?

People from socially disadvantaged places are more likely to contract HIV, live with addictions, and die prematurely than the socially advantaged. How do we respond to this as individuals and as a society? What challenges does this present in providing health care in these areas? Is it human nature to be caring, or are we more likely to abandon those who can't 'make it' to suffer? In this workshop we will examine the tension between selfishness and caring, and try to work out how to respond.

James is an educator with the BC Centre for Disease Control. He worked with the Outreach Program (Street Nurse Program) since 1991, first as a front line nurse, then as the clinical/outreach supervisor, and then as the Outreach Education Leader. Much of James' current work in education involves working with students in the health professions, as well as nurses and other health and social service providers to address the challenges related to providing effective and accessible care to people who are most vulnerable to STI, Hepatitis and HIV.

AFTERNOON PANEL

POVERTY, RIGHTS AND THE LAW

Poverty and economic inequality are major issues in Canada, including significant homelessness and food insecurity. Many individuals, community groups, non-profit organizations and politicians are concerned about these issues, and are trying to address them in a variety of ways. The law can be a powerful tool for social change – think of the legalization of same-sex marriage or the overturning of Canada's prohibition against physician-assisted dying – but there are some unique questions that are raised when we think of the law as a potential tool to combat poverty. Our panelists will unpack some of these unique questions for us today!

PANELLISTS (in order of appearance)



LAURA TRACK / bccla.org

Laura is a lawyer with the BC Civil Liberties Association. On behalf of the BCCLA, Laura is directing litigation challenging the use of solitary confinement in Canadian prisons, second-class citizenship, and many other issues. She completed her law degree at UBC and a Masters degree at Oxford, where she focused her research on economic and social rights. She has a keen interest in how the law can be used to fight poverty and advance economic and social rights like the right to housing, food and health.



DJ LARKIN / pivotlegal.org

DJ is a lawyer and campaigner for housing justice with Pivot Legal Society. Pivot is a human rights organization that uses the law to address the root causes of poverty and social exclusion in Canada. That work is grounded in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, where so many people experience the negative impacts of marginalization. Pivot challenges the laws and policies that force people to the margins of society and keep them there. Over the past decade, they've won major victories for sex workers' rights, police accountability, health and drug policy, and affordable housing. DJ's work focuses largely on the criminalization of homelessness. She works with her clients to challenge laws that displace people, change systems of housing that infringe on the human rights of low-income renters, and fights housing policies and practices that put marginalized tenants at risk. She is committed to working with her clients to create a community that respects and values all of its members.

MADAM JUSTICE BARBARA L. FISHER / Supreme Court of BC

Madam Justice Fisher received a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Victoria in 1981 and was admitted to the British Columbia Bar in 1983. She was appointed to the Supreme Court of British Columbia in 2004, after a varied legal career.

At the time of her appointment, Justice Fisher was with the firm of Blake, Cassels & Graydon, where she practiced primarily in the areas of administrative and aboriginal law. Prior to that, she served as British Columbia Treaty Commissioner, General Counsel to the Ombudsman for British Columbia, and General Counsel to the Information and Privacy Commissioner of British Columbia.

She also contributed to the profession in other ways, as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Society of British Columbia, Chair of the Hospital Appeals Board and member of the Forest Appeals Commission. She was an instructor at the University of British Columbia Law School and a contributor in numerous Continuing Legal Education Programs.

VENUE MAP

