



**17<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL**

# Rights Talk

**YOUTH AND CIVIL LIBERTIES CONFERENCE**

March 2–3, 2022

**ONLINE EVENT**





# Program Schedule

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## DAY 1

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

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9:30am-11:00am

### KEYNOTE AND TERRITORIAL WELCOME

**Speakers:** Veronica Butler, Ta7taliya Paisley Eva, Cecilia Point

11:00am-12:00pm

### LUNCH

12:00pm-1:30pm

### BCCLA KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

**Speaker:** Mara Selanders

As a student, what privacy rights do you have? Can you be suspended or arrested for content you share online? When are your teachers or law enforcement entitled to search your phone and social media accounts? Smartphones have become tools of expression and community mobilization and we want to equip you with the knowledge you need to keep using them as such. This BCCLA Know Your Rights workshop will guide you through activities and discussion about how you can protect your rights both in school and after school, while online and on your phone.

1:30pm-3:00pm

### BCGEU YOUTH WORKER RIGHTS WORKSHOP

**Speaker:** Kari Michaels

Do you feel powerless at work? Do you have questions about what your boss can and cannot do? In this workshop we will go over basic employment rights under the Employment Standards Act. We will explore common workplace issues and the limitations of the system to protect your rights at work. We'll discuss how collective action can make a difference and what it means to form a union at work.

## DAY 2

THURSDAY, MARCH 3

9:30am-11:00am

### COMMUNITY ORGANIZING WORKSHOP

**Speaker:** Atiya Jaffar

To change everything, we need everyone. This workshop will share tools that can be used to activate a critical mass of people to support our movements. We will discuss online and offline tactics and strategies used by social movements to transform political landscapes.

11:00am-12:00pm

### LUNCH

12:00pm-1:30pm

### HOUSING JUSTICE WORKSHOP

**Speakers:** Anna Cooper and Elli Taylor

A workshop on local housing justice issues in conversation with a person with lived experience of tent city advocacy, homelessness, and housing precarity. We will explore some of the major barriers to housing rights in so called “British Columbia”, and introduce some key ethical considerations when engaging in housing advocacy on unceded lands.

1:30pm-3:00pm

### COLONIAL LEGAL SYSTEMS AND INDIGENOUS LAW WORKSHOP

**Speaker:** Cheyenne Arnold-Cunningham

Are you interested in learning about Indigenous laws? Through an examination of Canadian law and Cree law, this workshop will explore different sources of law, the legitimacy of Indigenous laws, and the ability for Indigenous laws to work alongside Canada’s legal system. Participants will learn about the impactful historical dismissals of Indigenous laws and will feel empowered to question societal stereotypes and assumptions. Participants will also learn about ways to build more respectful relationships between different legal orders and systems.

# Meet the speakers and facilitators

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## Cecilia Point

Territorial Welcome



A member of the Musqueam Nation, Cecilia Point is a political activist who stood for 200 plus days protecting her nation's ancestral burial site from development in 2012. Since then she has taken part in countless political actions advocating for human rights and the environment. Cecilia has also dedicated many years to cultural preservation in the field of Indigenous cultural and eco tourism. She currently holds the position of Director of Finance and Administration for the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada. She is a facilitator for reconciliation workshops with the Bright New Day organization, and has been designated a public speaker for her nation. She holds a Certificate in Business from UBC, supplemented with courses in First Nations studies, including hə́nqəmínəm (the Musqueam language).

## Veronica Butler

Keynote Speaker



Bio to come

## Ta7taliya Paisley Eva

Keynote Speaker



Ta7taliya Paisley Eva hails from the Skwxwú7mesh Nation village of Eslha7an and is based in what is colonially known as “Vancouver”. She currently lends her facilitation skills to Decolonizing Practices, Mi tel'nexw Leadership Society and The Fireweed Fellowship. She is also part of the duo behind MST Futurism, a project which focuses on uplifting and celebrating Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh visions for the future. She also works as DJ and believes in decolonizing every aspect of life including the music industry. She's currently throws innovative and inclusive parties on Zoom featuring BIPOC DJs and performers. As well as working on opening a fully equipped DJ studio called Cue Club which will offer low barrier and by-donation access to sound equipment as well as weekly DJ lessons for BIPOC, LGBTQ2S+ and disabled folks. Her work is based in Skwxwú7mesh teachings and all about sharing equity with marginalized bodies.

## Mara Selanders

Know Your Rights Workshop Facilitator



Mara Selanders (she/her) is a mixed-race Guyanese lawyer who was born and raised in Saskatchewan in Treaty 6 territory, which encompasses the ancestral lands of the Cree, Dene, Blackfoot, Saulteaux, Dakota, Nakota, and the homeland of the Métis nation. She completed her undergraduate degree in English literature at the University of Saskatchewan before moving to Ottawa to complete a Master of Journalism at Carleton University. After volunteering for a year in Sri Lanka, she moved to Vancouver to attend law school at the University of British Columbia. Mara is committed to community organizing and justice for racialized and oppressed people, and believes law can be a tool of empowerment and liberation. Mara fills any free time she gets with yoga, cooking, watching basketball, and chasing after her dog, Bodie.

## Kari Michaels

Youth Worker Rights Workshop Facilitator



In June 2021, Kari Michaels was re-elected as Executive Vice President of the BCGEU for her second term. Kari joined the BCGEU as a member when she and her fellow workers at the Kwantlen Student Association formed a union at their worksite. She quickly became active, first as shop steward and subsequently stepping up as a bargaining committee member. Kari is a passionate advocate for social justice and believes in building workers' capacity to take action to improve their working conditions through education and training.

## Atiya Jaffar

Community Organizing Workshop Facilitator



Atiya Jaffar is a grassroots organizer and climate justice activist. She currently works as a National Digital Manager at 350 Canada—a global climate justice organization. Atiya is passionate about building mass people powered movements to challenge the status quo and build a better, justice-centered future that works for all.

## Anna Cooper

Housing Justice Workshop Facilitator



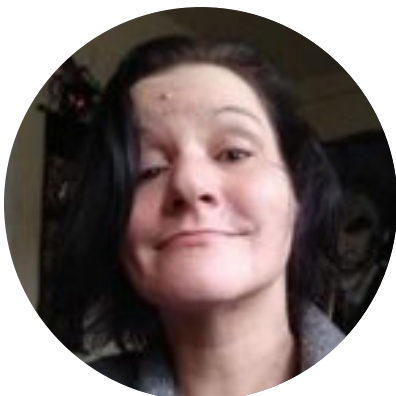
Anna Cooper is a staff lawyer with Pivot Legal Society where she is currently focused on Pivot's Homeless People's Rights campaign.

Anna graduated from law school in 2013 and went on to practice primarily in criminal defence and involuntary mental health detentions prior to joining Pivot in August of 2017. She has a long history of working and volunteering alongside communities living at the intersections of oppression and believes deeply in justice and dignity for all peoples.

As a white settler on the unceded lands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples, Anna recognizes the inherent tension of using a colonial legal system as a tool for justice. She strives to practice law in a way that is in allyship with and service to grassroots movements, as one piece in the greater push for systemic change.

## Elli Taylor

Housing Justice Workshop Facilitator



Elli Taylor is a lived experienced two-spirited person who has been an activist since her teens. Elli prefers to work in the DTES on the Unceded Coastish territories. She specializes in working with the homeless as she was herself homeless. Elli is also a proud substance partaker.

Elli currently sits on the boards of the Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users, Western Aboriginal Harm Reduction Society and Carnegie Community Centre.

Elli is of Indigenous and Chinese roots.

## Cheyenne Arnold-Cunningham

Colonial Legal Systems and Indigenous Law Workshop Facilitator



Cheyenne Arnold-Cunningham is a Métis lawyer with both solicitor and litigation-based experience working with Canada's Aboriginal Law. However, her passion is focused on better understanding Indigenous laws and supporting Indigenous communities as they work to use and share their laws in different contexts. Cheyenne currently works as a researcher at the University of Victoria's Indigenous Law Research Unit where she has gained training and experience working with an effective methodology for researching and rebuilding Indigenous legal traditions.

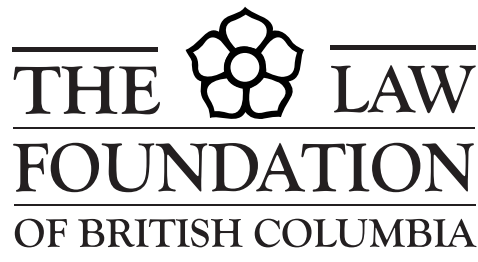
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The BCCLA's main office is located on the unceded and ancestral territories of the x<sup>w</sup>məθ k<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.



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