

# RIGHTS TALK 11TH ANNUAL FREEDOM IN ACTION CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 12, 2015 SFU HARBOUR CENTRE

BC CIVIL LIBERTIES  
ASSOCIATION

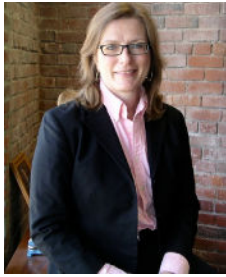
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# WELCOME TO THE BC CIVIL LIBERTIES ASSOCIATION'S RIGHTS TALK CONFERENCE!



Thank you for joining us for this, our eleventh 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 our recent 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 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 it is associated with 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 cases you will be learning about today, *Association of Drug War Survivors v. Abbotsford*, exemplifies how the law can be a powerful tool in working with marginalized people like those living on the street, 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 centers 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. We hope that 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.

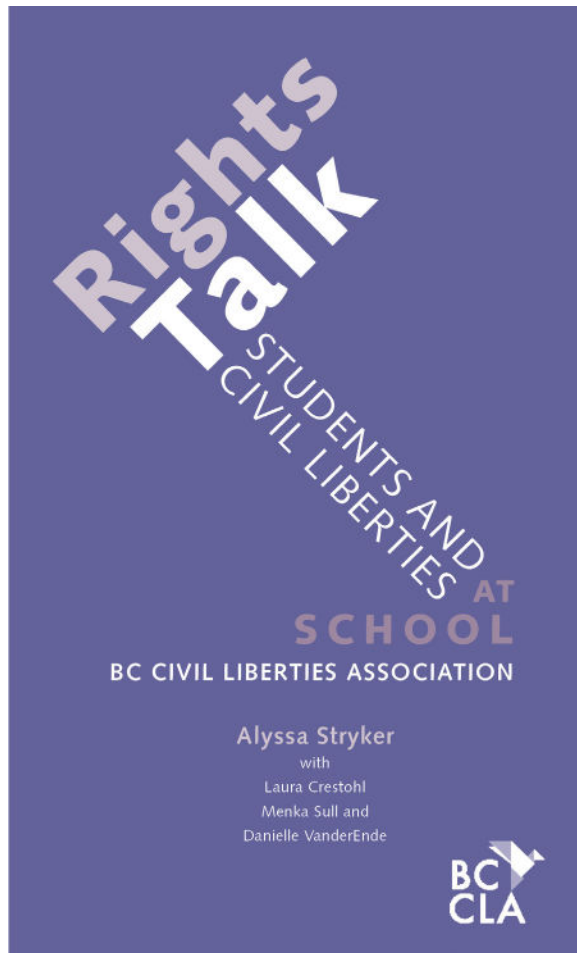
I encourage you to join in and participate fully in all the day offers you, and hope you will be inspired to become more involved in realizing the *Charter's* promise of a truly free and democratic society. I look forward to standing together with you in the ongoing defence of rights and liberties in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

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lindsay M. Lyster". The signature is fluid and cursive.

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](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](http://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](http://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 2015

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: Indigenous Law and Resilience	Caleb Behn, Eh-Cho Dene and Dunne-Za lawyer, and Executive Director of the Keepers of the Water Society	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	<b>PANEL DISCUSSION</b> <b>Poverty, Rights and the Law</b> <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>	<b>Panelists:</b> Laura Track, BCCLA Counsel DJ Larkin, Pivot Legal Society Housing campaigner Chief Justice Robert J. Bauman, BC Court of Appeal	Rm. 1900
2:40-2:55	Help improve the conference for 2016! Fill out a feedback form.		

WORKSHOP SESSIONS			
<b>Building Movements for Systemic Change: Immigration Detention</b> <i>with Ayendri Perera and Emma Warner Chee</i>	<b>Power, Discrimination and Anti-Oppression</b> <i>with Romi Chandra-Herbert</i>	<b>Power Play: Marginalization in the Law</b> <i>with Afie Bozorgebrahimi</i>	<b>Know Your Protest Rights</b> <i>with Charlotte Kingston</i>
Rm. 1500	Rm. 1510	Rm. 1520	Rm. 1600
			Rm. 1900

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

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Photo: Adam Myhill  
courtesy of Two Island Films

### CALEB BEHN

#### Indigenous Law and Resilience

**Caleb** is Eh-Cho Dene (EHH CHO DE-NEH) and Dunne-Za (DUNN-NAY ZAA) from Treaty #8 territory in Northeastern BC. Caleb is a lawyer, currently working for the West Moberly First Nations as Director of the Lands department and he is also the Executive Director of the Keepers Of The Water Society. Caleb is the subject of the award winning documentary film *Fractured Land*. He currently divides his time between his territory and his ongoing public advocacy regarding unconventional energy development.

## WORKSHOP PRESENTERS



### AFIE BOZORGEBRAHIMI / [westcoastleaf.org](http://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.



### ROMI CHANDRA-HERBERT / [peernetbc.com](http://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.

**Romi** is in good company amongst the diverse South Asian diaspora in Canada. Seeking refuge from multiple coups in Fiji (which still continue to this day), he and his family fled in 1989 to find a new home. As a result, social justice practices and community mobilizing became central to his day to day life. In 1997, he helped establish the very first Gay/Straight Alliance in BC at his high school in Maple Ridge. Over the past 16 years, Romi has had the honour of working and learning with diverse communities across the province and internationally. He was worked as a youth worker for queer and immigrant and refugee communities, both at a grassroots level and within established institutions. Romi finds his strength in helping others to help themselves.



## CHARLOTTE KINGSTON / [bccla.org](http://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.



## AYENDRI PERERA AND EMMA WARNER CHEE

### 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.

**Ayendri** is a Sri Lankan born and Vancouver based activist, facilitator and youth organizer. She is passionate about intersectional social movements and has been active in organizing centered in anti-oppression, decolonization and environmental justice. In the past Ayendri was a committed organizer with the End Immigration Detention Campaign in Ontario and is currently organizing with No One Is Illegal Vancouver.

**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.



## JAMES TIGCHELAAR / [bccdc.ca](http://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](http://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](http://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.



#### CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERT J. BAUMAN

The Honourable Robert J. Bauman is the Chief Justice of British Columbia and Chief Justice of the Court of Appeal of Yukon. He was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia in 1996, was appointed to the British Columbia Court of Appeal in 2008 and appointed as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of British Columbia on 9 September 2009. Chief Justice Bauman was appointed Chief Justice of British Columbia on 16 June 2013. Prior to his judicial appointment in 1996, he was in private practice with Bull, Housser & Tupper in Vancouver. He worked largely in the areas of local government and administrative law. While practicing law, he also taught administrative law at the University of British Columbia, Faculty of Law, as an adjunct professor from 1991 to 1996.

# VENUE MAP

