

RIGHTS TALK

13TH ANNUAL FREEDOM IN ACTION CONFERENCE

November 15, 2017
SFU Harbor Centre



in collaboration with



Welcome to the BC Civil Liberties Association's Rights Talk Conference!



Thank you for joining us for our thirteenth annual Youth and Civil Liberties Conference. Human rights and civil liberties are important for everyone, and especially for youth. Youth want to make their voices heard and participate in our democracy. But to do that effectively, you need to learn both about the issues and your fundamental freedoms to engage in debate, protest, and democratic action.

We hope that the Rights Talk conference will help you learn more about some emerging human rights and civil liberties issues, and provide you with the right tools to be effective advocates for human rights and civil liberties.

The BCCLA is actively involved in a broad array of issues: defending the rights of protestors 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.

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 allies 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 economic inequality are major issues in Canada, including the significant homelessness and housing issues many are experiencing in Vancouver. One of the panel discussions you will be hearing today focuses on how the law can be a powerful tool in the realm of housing justice. Various activists, community groups, and non-profit organizations that are concerned about these issues and the variety of ways they are trying to combat poverty and homelessness.

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. 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 defense of rights and liberties in the years to come.

All the best,

Josh Paterson

Executive Director, BCCLA.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

8.30 - 9.00 Registration

Concourse

9.00 - 10.00 Keynote - Jules Koostachin

Rm 1900, Fletcher Challenge Theatre

10.00 - 10.10 BREAK:

Please head to your first workshop room.

10.10 - 11.05 Workshop 1

Rm 1500 Gender and sexuality 101

Rm. 2200 Power, discrimination and anti-oppression

Rm 1525 Power play: Marginalization in the law

Rm. 2245 Know your rights

Rm. 1900 Your rights as young workers

11.05 - 11.20 BREAK:

Please head to your second workshop room.

11.20 - 12.15 Workshop 2

Rm 1500 Gender and sexuality 101

Rm. 2200 Power, discrimination and anti-oppression

Rm 1525 Power play: Marginalization in the law

Rm. 2245 Know your rights

Rm. 1900 Your rights as young workers

12.15 - 1.15 Lunch

1.15 - 2.20 Panel Discussion -

Housing, poverty, & the law

Panelists -

Alliance Against Displacement

Chinatown Action Group

Pivot Legal Society

2.20 - 2.30 Help improve the conference for 2018!

Fill out a feedback form.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

JULES KOOSTACHIN



Cree from Moshkegowok territory, and a member of Attawapiskat First Nation, Jules was born in Moose Factory, Ontario where she was raised by her Cree grandparents, as well as with her mother in Ottawa. She is a PhD candidate with the Social Justice Institute at UBC. Her educational and arts practice endeavours address environmental and Indigenous issues.

She has obtained grants from Arts Councils for her works: Words for my Daughters, Alive with Breath, and Broken Angel which won Best Fresh Voice at

the Female Eye Film Festival. Jules' company VisJuelles Productions Inc. has a number of productions in development, and her co-produced youth series AskiBOYZ is currently airing on Aboriginal Peoples Television Network. She has been working within the Indigenous community for many years servicing Indigenous women and children who face barriers. She hopes to continue bringing light to social issues that urban and rural Indigenous peoples face.

WORKSHOPS

Molly Billows

Gender & Sexuality 101

In reflection of the realities of bullying, homophobia and transphobia at schools and in communities, this workshop will be unpacking gender stereotypes and the connections between homophobia, transphobia and sexism. We'll be examining gendered insults and homophobic and transphobic slurs, and exploring gender identity and what it means to be transgender.



Molly Billows is swift waters, secrets, and salal berries. Northern Coast Salish from the Homalco nation, they were adopted-out and grew up in and around Victoria. They are a two-spirit, queer, trans non-binary, mixed, urban, Indigenous feminist, a spoken word poet, facilitator and a youth worker. Molly hopes to weave together stories in ways that lift up their communities, and contribute to collective healing, rage, resurgence and love.

Simran Sarwara

Power, Discrimination & Anti-Oppression

Want to talk about what we mean by the words we toss around when speaking about diversity? Simran's workshop will address the big picture topics that structure our relationships to schools, friends and communities and broaden perspectives about accessibility, inclusion, power and privilege.



Simran Sarwara is a former Global Stewardship student at Capilano University with a strong as well as a diverse background in the participation of various grassroots initiatives. As she continues to do so, she expresses an ambition to develop and deliver youth empowerment workshops in various communities of marginalized youth, particularly among Indigenous and newcomer communities.

Shahnaz Rahman

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!



For the past 22 years Shahnaz has worked in various capacities as an educator, trainer, and counselor and as the provincial coordinator for over ninety Children Who Witness Abuse Programs across BC. In her current role as the Manager of Community Outreach at West Coast LEAF, Shahnaz manages community based programming with a particular emphasis on family law to advance women's equality rights in British Columbia.

Caily DiPuma

Know Your 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.



Caily DiPuma is the Acting Litigation Director for the B.C. Civil Liberties Association. She has served on the executive committee of the Social Justice Action Network and has done volunteer work for Lawyers Rights Watch Canada, Pivot Legal Society, and Access Pro Bono Canada. At the BCCLA, Caily is focused on the Association's strategic litigation program, including the development and management of complex Charter cases on a range of issues from national security to prisoners' rights.

Alive After 5 (BC FED)

Your Rights as Young Workers

The workshop is designed to give participants an understanding of the Workers Compensation Act and the Occupational Health & Safety Regulation, which govern their rights and responsibilities in the workplace. The workshop will also provide students with the skills to interpret and respond appropriately to different situations that may arise in their workplaces with regard to their health and safety rights.



The Alive After Five Young Worker Awareness Program of the BC Federation of Labour is an innovative initiative that seeks to make the province a healthier and safer place to live and work for all of us. Since its inception in 2003, the Alive After Five program has directly spoken to over 150,000 high school students and employment centre participants.

PANEL

Housing, Poverty, and the Law

Poverty and economic inequality are major issues in Canada, including significant homelessness and housing. 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, but there are some unique questions that are raised when we think of the law as a potential tool to combat poverty and homelessness. Our panelists will unpack some of these unique questions for us!

Darcie Bennett, PhD, Pivot Legal Society



Darcie first joined the Pivot team as a researcher in 2006. Since then, she has held several positions including child welfare campaigner, coordinator of the Jane Doe Legal Network, and campaigns director. She joined the Pivot team in January 2015 as interim executive director and currently serves as Pivot's director of strategy. Darcie holds a PhD in sociology from the University of British Columbia.

Jannie Leung, Chinatown Action Group

Jannie Leung 梁泳詩 has been organizing for social justice and people power with the Chinatown Action Group for over two years. She feels honoured to learn from some of the fiercest grandmas and grandpas in Chinatown, who are fighting for their right to remain without fear of displacement. Jannie grew up on unceded Coast Salish Territories (Greater Vancouver) and has ancestral roots in Guangdong, China.

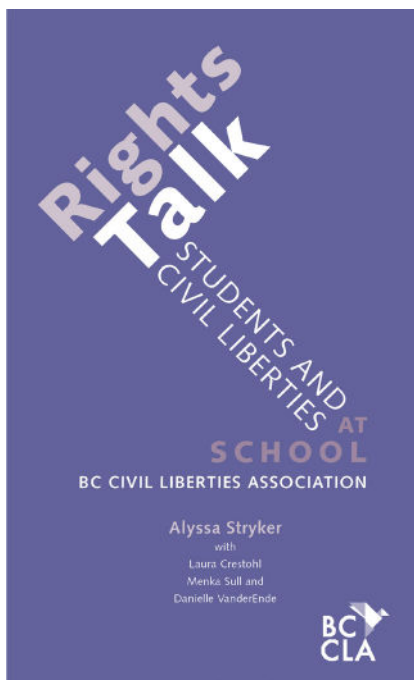


Alliance Against Displacement



Alliance Against Displacement is a grassroots organization that organizes with communities facing displacement in British Columbia. Our goal is to support the development of people's power in working class and Indigenous communities and build alliances between our struggles.

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

Access it online here:

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.

