

RIGHTS TALK
9TH ANNUAL
FREEDOM IN ACTION
CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 13, 2013
SFU HARBOUR CENTRE

**BC CIVIL LIBERTIES
ASSOCIATION**
IN COLLABORATION WITH



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



We are so glad you've joined us for this, our ninth annual Youth and Civil Liberties Forum. You've probably heard friends or family ask why they should care about the latest human rights or civil liberties issue they might have

read about. I'm not a criminal – why should I care about what the police are doing? Or I'm doing fine in school and nobody's hassling me – harassment isn't my problem. We hope that this Rights Talk conference will help to equip you to answer those questions, and encourage you to learn more and become active as a defender of 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; trying to ensure that individuals' rights are respected, both inside and outside of prison; and so many more. But whether we're working to educate people on issues around HIV testing or advocating for better police accountability on behalf of those who have been injured or killed by law enforcement, the motivating principle behind our work is respect for the dignity of each and every human being.

Consider the work we have done over the past few years with a brave young Indigenous woman named BobbyLee Worm. She was just 19 years old and a first time offender when she went to prison, and was held in solitary confinement for more than three years. During this time she was forced to spend up to 23 hours a day in a cell just 8 by 10 feet in size. Often the only human contact she had was through the food slot in the door of her cell. The BCCLA filed a lawsuit on her behalf, challenging the legality of long-term solitary confinement in Canadian prisons. The government settled BobbyLee's case in May of 2013, and the BCCLA is committed to continuing the fight against the

use of long-term solitary confinement in Canada. We are dedicated to ensuring that every Canadian is treated with dignity and respect and dealt with according to the law.

The BCCLA is also committed to educating Canadians about their own rights. This conference doubles as the official launch of our newly revised handbook: *Rights Talk: Students and Civil Liberties at School*. Information on how to get a copy is included later in this program. We believe that informed and active citizens are vital to protecting fundamental rights and freedoms in Canada, and we hope you will read our new *Rights Talk* handbook to learn a bit more about your own rights as a youth and a student, and encourage your friends to do the same.

Today, you will be confronted by many complex and challenging issues that are at the forefront of the BCCLA's work for greater civil liberties and human rights. These are sensitive and sometimes polarizing topics. They demand that you learn to walk the fine line between security and privacy, individuals and collectives, and rights and responsibilities. They should challenge you to think critically about the world around you, and the rules that structure it.

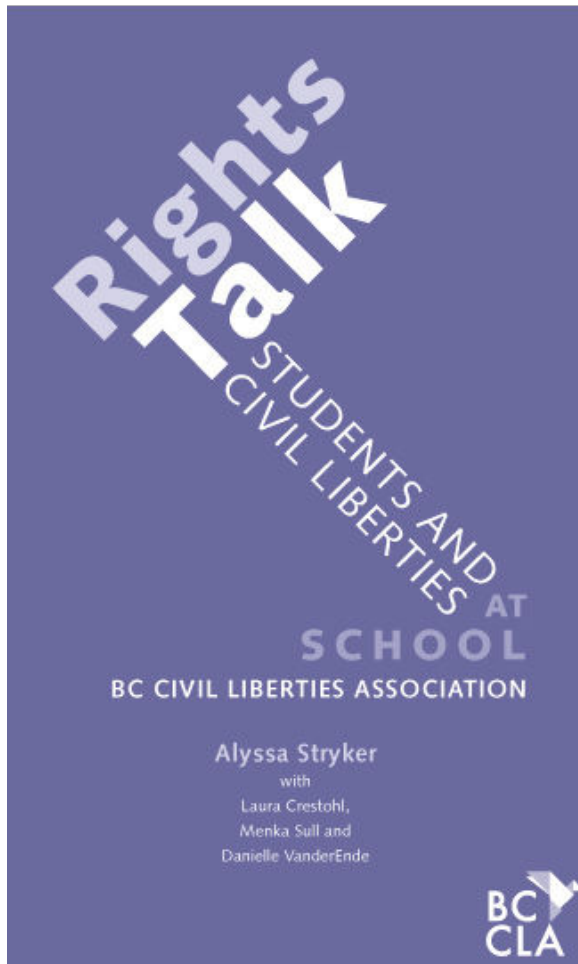
Building communities that recognize, respect and defend the dignity of all members of our societies is everyone's responsibility. We hope that the presentations and discussions you participate in today will help you understand the issues better, challenge your thinking in new ways, and gain an appreciation for what you can do to support and advance the causes you care about. Thank you for deciding to spend the day with us.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lindsay M. Lyster".

Lindsay M. Lyster
President, BCCLA

DO YOU KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AT SCHOOL?



The BCCLA is thrilled to announce the release of our fully updated new edition of *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/rights-talk-students-and-civil-liberties-at-school

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 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, 10:30am to 4:30pm.

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER	VENUE
9:00 - 9:30	WELCOME ADDRESS	Josh Paterson, Executive Director of the BCCLA	Rm. 1900 Fletcher Challenge Theatre
9:30 - 10:15	Criminal Defence and Youth Crime	Brock Martland, Criminal defence lawyer	Rm. 1900 Fletcher Challenge Theatre
10:15 - 10:25	BREAK		
10:25 - 12:00	PANEL DISCUSSION The Internet and Civil Liberties: Perils & Promises Each speaker will deliver a short presentation, after which we will open the floor to questions from the audience and discussion amongst the speakers.	David Christopher, Communications Coordinator for OpenMedia.ca Sandy Garossino, Founding Partner of the Red Hood Project Micheal Vonn, Policy Director of the BC Civil Liberties Association	Rm. 1900 Fletcher Challenge Theatre
12:00 - 1:00	LUNCH		

1:00 - 1:55	WORKSHOP 1			
Compassion: Why Do We Bother? with James Tigchelaar Rm. 1900 Fletcher Challenge Theatre	Rights, Homelessness and Social Change: Adams v. Victoria with Margot Young Rm. 1520 Barrick Gold Lecture Room	Power Play: Understanding Equality Rights with Chrissie Arnold Rm. 1420 Segal Centre	Power, Discrimintion & Anti-Oppression with Romi Chandra- Herbert Rm. 1410 Segal Centre	Know YOUR Rights! with Caily DiPuma Rm.1315 Scotiabank Lecture Room
1:55 - 2:05	BREAK			
2:05 - 3:00	WORKSHOP 2			
Compassion: Why Do We Bother? with James Tigchelaar Rm. 1900 Fletcher Challenge Theatre	Rights, Homeless- ness and Social Change: Adams v. Victoria with Margot Young Rm. 1520 Barrick Gold Lecture Room	Power Play: Understanding Equality Rights with Chrissie Arnold Rm. 1420 Segal Centre	Power, Discrimination & Anti-Oppression with Romi Chandra- Herbert Rm. 1315 Segal Centre	Know YOUR Rights! with Caily DiPuma Rm. 1315 Scotiabank Lecture R oom
3:00 - 3:15	Help improve the conference for 2014! Fill out a feedback form.			

MORNING SPEAKERS



JOSH PATERSON / www.bccla.org

Welcome Address

Josh Paterson has worked as the BCCLA's executive director since the beginning of 2013. Before that he spent four years working as the Aboriginal and Natural Resources Lawyer at West Coast Environmental Law, where he worked to protect the rights of people in northern BC and on the coast, particularly dealing with issues of oil pipelines and tankers. He is also a founding board member of the Vancouver Public Space Network.



BROCK MARTLAND / www.vancrimlaw.com

Criminal Defense and Youth Crime

Brock will speak about the criminal justice system and its basic principles (such as the presumption of innocence, the right to a fair trial), and about youth crime and the justice system for youths. He will also discuss what a criminal defense lawyer does, and what legal rights a person has when they deal with the police.

Brock Martland is a criminal defense lawyer with the law firm of Martland & Saulnier in Vancouver. He does trial and appeal work including the Surrey Six murder prosecution, the Air India case, and the Frank Paul Inquiry. He has handled many cases under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*.



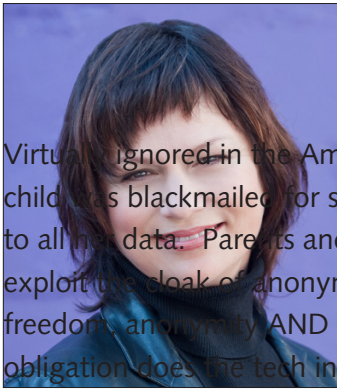
DAVID CHRISTOPHER / OurPrivacy.ca

The Impact of Dagnet Government Surveillance on Canadian Civil Liberties

A look at how secretive, blanket surveillance of law-abiding Canadians has undermined the Charter right to privacy and the civil liberties of all Canadians. A discussion of what is already known about this surveillance, and what experts believe is really going on. A look at how the most private details of our everyday lives can be revealed through analysis of our online activities. Finally I'll discuss how Canadians are working together to put a stop to arbitrary spying and to push for strong legal measures to protect the privacy of all Canadians.

David Christopher is the Communications Coordinator for OpenMedia.ca, and blogs regularly for the website. He's from the west of Ireland and holds a degree from Trinity College Dublin, where he studied History and Political Science. He worked in communications in New Zealand, Northern Ireland and Scotland before moving to Vancouver.

OpenMedia.ca recently joined with the BCCLA and over 35 other organizations to launch the Protect Our Privacy Coalition. The Coalition is calling for effective legal measures to protect the privacy of every resident of Canada against intrusion by government entities.



SANDY GAROSSINO / www.redhoodproject.com
Can we protect web freedom, anonymity AND children at the same time?

Virtually ignored in the Amanda Todd tragedy was the most striking aspect of her story: that a 13 year old child was blackmailed for sexually explicit images on Facebook by an anonymous predator who had access to all her data. Parents and educators can't keep up with the growing number of online attackers who exploit the cloak of anonymity to threaten children, women and the vulnerable. Can we protect web freedom, anonymity AND children at the same time? What are the implications for civil liberties, and what obligation does the tech industry owe to children whose data they farm for profit?

Sandy Garossino is a social media activist, community advocate and former Crown prosecutor. She is co-founder of the Red Hood Project, a movement seeking consumer protection and designed security for kids in social media.



MICHEAL VONN / www.bccla.org
The Battle for the Free Internet

We lived in a digitally mediated world. This is a game-changer both for making connections between people to better our lives and our world, and for centralized surveillance and government and corporate control. The battle for the Free Internet is happening right now.

Micheal Vonn is a lawyer and has been the Policy Director of the BC Civil Liberties Association since 2004. She has been an Adjunct Professor at the UBC's Faculty of Law and in the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies where she has taught civil liberties and information ethics. She is a regular guest instructor for UBC's College of Health Disciplines Interdisciplinary Elective in HIV/AIDS Care and was honoured as a recipient of the 2010 AccolAIDS award for social and political advocacy benefitting communities affected by HIV/AIDS.

WORKSHOPS



CHRISSIE ARNOLD / www.westcoastleaf.org
Power Play: Understanding Equality Rights

Would you like to increase your knowledge around equality rights and the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*? How can the law increase marginalization and what can we do about it? West Coast Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF) presents an interactive workshop focusing on power, discrimination and the equality section (Section 15) of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. We will use activities and actual cases to talk about equality and discrimination in the law.

Chrissie Arnold is a feminist, social justice advocate, and firm believer that youth hold the key to a better future. She has over 10 years of experience facilitating transformative educational experiences for youth, both within Canada and internationally. She loves asking questions, drinking coffee, and playing outside. Chrissie is also currently completing her Master's in Educational Studies (with a focus on global education) at UBC. She is currently the Education Manager at West Coast LEAF.



ROMI CHANDRA HERBERT / www.peernetbc.ca **Power, Discrimination and Anti-Oppression**

Romi's workshop will address the big picture topics that structure our relationships in schools and our broader communities. By asking what we can do to end oppression and discrimination, Romi's session will help students build more inclusive and supportive environments. A great speaker, and a hit with last year's Forum participants, Romi's session is not to be missed!

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 has 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.



CAILY DIPUMA / www.bccla.org.com **Know YOUR rights!**

If you are stopped by the police on the street, do you have to answer their questions? Can the police search your school locker? What about your cell phone? Do you have the same legal rights as adults? Find out the answers to these questions and more at this interactive workshop. These are YOUR rights, you should know them!

Caily DiPuma is Counsel for the BC Civil Liberties Association. After immigrating to Canada from Los Angeles, California, Caily attended law school at the University of British Columbia. While there, she volunteered extensively on social justice and human rights issues, including serving as a founding member of Social Justice Action Network and doing research for Lawyers' Rights Watch and Pivot Legal Society. Caily was called to the BC bar in 2009 and since then has worked on a variety of legal issues, including constitutional, criminal and employment law matters. When not working, Caily spends his time as a concert photographer for Exclaim! Magazine, Tiny Mix Tapes and other publications.



JAMES TIGCHELAAR / www.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. As a society, how do we respond to this? 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 Tigchelaar is an educator with the BC Centre for Disease Control. He has worked with the Outreach Program (Street Nurse Program) since 1991, first as a front line nurse, then as the clinical/outreach supervisor, and now 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.



MARGOT YOUNG

Rights, Homelessness and Social Change

A look at a recent legal case out of Victoria involving the rights of the homeless to put up shelter in a city park. The challenge, based on the constitutional rights of life, liberty, and security of the person, illustrates the often unsatisfactory ways constitutional law deals with questions of economic deprivation and injustice. Discussion will focus on the details of the case, on understanding what constitutional rights have to do with anything, and on thinking critically about use of law for social change.

Margot Young is Associate Professor of Law at the University of British Columbia. She teaches Constitutional Law and law and social justice topics. Professor Young's research focuses on equality rights, feminist theories of citizenship, constitutional law, and local housing issues. She has worked with a number of community groups on social justice advocacy, both domestically and internationally.

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