

Amplifying Voices on Turtle Island: An Intersectional Caucus

Day One

Abolition & the Policing of Marginalized Communities



Husoni Ramond (Moderator/Panelist)

Husoni Raymond is a co-founder of Black Lives Matter Fredericton. His advocacy is rooted in a passion for community empowerment and Black liberation. During his time with BLMF, Husoni has led grassroots initiatives related to defunding the police, anti-oppression education, targeted financial aid for Black students, and advocacy for Black history to be incorporated in the New Brunswick public school curriculum. He also worked for the New Brunswick Multicultural Council where he led research on racism in New Brunswick and developed an anti-racism training. He is now pursuing his JD from Osgoode Hall law school but still remains an active member of Black Lives Matter Fredericton.”



Andrea Vásquez Jiménez (Panelist)

Andrea Vásquez Jiménez (she/her/hers) is an Afro-Latina born in Toronto to Colombian parents. She is the Director and Principal Consultant of Policing-Free Schools, where she supports organizations, school boards, departments of education and grassroots organizers in ending police-in-school programs; while simultaneously moving towards the end of policing/carceral infrastructures, practices and culture and the creation of transformative, healthy, equitable and life-affirming educational spaces. Andrea also makes part of international organizing for Police and Policing-Free Schools working in solidarity with others, among those the U.S and U.K. She is Co-Founder and former Co-Director of LAEN (Latinx, Afro-Latin-America, Abya Yala Education Network). She was a lead organizer for the successful removal of the TDSB School Resource Officer program. Under her portfolio, Andrea spearheaded the vision, creation and development of two Police-Free Schools campaigns; lead organizer, coordinator and campaign strategist for the Police-Free Schools Ontario & National campaign.



Dr. Rai Reece (Panelist)

Rai Reece (she/her) is an interdisciplinary scholar-abolitionist whose work broadly examines how carceral logics are relationally organized by racial capitalism and white supremacy. Her work specifically examines the intersection of punishment/criminalization and misogynoir in a Canadian context. Since 2005 she has been involved with anti-prison work with prisoners and ex-prisoners. She has conducted frontline (one-on-one and group) work with prisoners, street involved/active youth, trans folk, and in the domestic violence sector. She has facilitated numerous workshops on anti-Black racism, prison health and equity, and harm reduction. In 2016 she participated in the Walls to Bridges program to further ground her work in the critical importance of examining the connection between abolition, community-based collaboration, experience, and self-reflection. As an assistant professor in the department of Sociology at Ryerson X University in Toronto, she teaches and researches from a place of healing and centers decolonial pedagogies (in theory and practice) as a way to deeply reflect and hold space for personal, interpersonal, and collective care for ourselves and our communities.



Ma-Nee Chacaby (Panelist)

Ma-Nee Chacaby (she/her) is an Ojibwe–Cree writer, artist and activist from Canada. You may have met her at a rally in Thunder Bay or Toronto, seen her on the evening news or on the dance floor at Glad Day, or maybe she taught you how to make a drum.

She is well known for her memoir, *A Two-Spirit Journey: The Autobiography of a Lesbian Ojibwa-Cree Elder*, an important account of her life. Ma-Nee is also a mentor, support, and advocate for Two Spirit communities across the country.

She lives in Thunder Bay, one of the most dangerous places in Canada for Indigenous people. Here, she mentors many individuals and groups, including Wiindo Debwe Mosewin and Not One More Death, who work to make safety for all people in Thunder Bay.

She is dedicated to mentoring young people, sharing Anishinaabe teachings and stories, and supporting access to ceremony for 2SLGBTQ+ Indigenous peoples.

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AfroIndigeneity: Stolen People on Stolen Lands



Isak Vaillancourt (Moderator)

Isak Vaillancourt (he/him) is a multimedia artist, filmmaker, and community organizer based in N'Swakamok later known as Sudbury. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies from Laurentian University. He is currently completing his Master of Arts in Media Production at X (Ry*erson) University where he explores research-creation methods centralized around the theme of Black and Indigenous relations and solidarity. Isak is also co-founder and core team member of Black Lives Matter Sudbury.



Kristin Murray (Panelist)

Kristin Murray (she/her) is a proud member of Chapleau Cree First Nation. She is a mixed raced woman of Cree and Jamaican ancestry. With an academic background in Social Service Work and Drug and Alcohol Counselling, Kristin has been an advocate for Indigenous Peoples in Northeastern Ontario for 18 years; specializing in Child Welfare and Indigenous Health. While engaging in advocacy work Kristin recognized the interconnectedness of "The Land" (Kitaskeynano); as it relates to the health and success of Indigenous Peoples and Communities. As a result, her passions have become developing strategic partnerships and influencing local policy to support and encourage the resurgence of Indigenous practices and teachings.

Kristin is the first person of ethnicity on Timmins City Council. Kristin is a very proud mom of two daughters, who are one of the main reasons behind why she decided to run for municipal politics in 2018. Kristin is serving her first term on council and was quite surprised about her win after being told that she had the most votes for a single councillor during an election in Timmins. Kristin is also very involved in creating awareness on climate change and incorporating green initiatives into her practice as a City Councillor in Timmins. She is currently enrolled in part-time studies at Laurentian University with her sights on a BA with a Concentration in Equity, Diversity, and Human Rights.



Ravyn Wngz (Panelist)

"The Black Widow of Burlesque" is a Tanzanian, Bermudian, Mohawk, 2Spirit, Queer and Transcendent empowerment storyteller. Ravyn (she/her) is an abolitionist and co-founder of ILL NANA/DiverseCity Dance Company. She is a co-founder of Black Lives Matter Canada, A co-founder of the Wildseed Centre for Arts & Activism, A Canadian Best Selling Author, Top 25 Women of Influence in Canada recipient of 2021, Ravyn is committed to eradicating all forms of anti-Black racism, nurturing Black healing and liberating Black communities.



Aja Sy (Panelist)

Aja Sy (she/her) is currently a student athlete on Sylix territory at the University of British Columbia Okanagan, where she majors in International Relations and plays volleyball. Originally from northern Ontario, Aja has had the opportunity to live in both eastern and western Canada, having spent the last 5 years in Victoria, BC, on Lekwungen territory. Aja plans to attend law school after her undergraduate degree. Her interests include physical activity of any kind, reading, and spending quality time at home in Victoria with her mother and cat.

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Art & Activism: Artivism of Social Change



Connor Lafortune, Nimkiins (Panelist)

Nimkiins ndizhinikaaz bineshiinh ndondem Okikendawt ndonjiibaa Anishinaabe nini ndow.

Connor Lafortune, Nimkiins (he/him) is from Dokis First Nation. He is in his third year at Nipissing University with a Double Honours Major in Indigenous Studies and Gender Equality and Social Justice with a minor in Legal Studies. He is situated on Robinson Huron Treaty territory of 1850. Connor was previously the Male Traditional Coordinator and Vice-President on the Indigenous Student Circle at Laurentian University. He occupies various roles on local boards in Sudbury Ontario as a Francophone, Queer, and Indigenous person. He works with the Thunderbird Partnership Foundation and has co-created a 'Life Promotion Toolkits' for Indigenous peoples alongside other Indigenous youth. Since the creation of the toolkit, Connor has had the opportunity to speak at the World Indigenous Suicide Prevention Conference and the Issues and Substance Conference, among others. Since high school, Connor has been a youth facilitator for 'La Fédération de la Jeunesse Franco-Ontarienne', where he runs workshops, activities, and speaks on panels for Franco-Ontarian high school students. He currently sits on various committees including Cannabis and Psychosis Canada, School Mental Health's Social Emotional Learning advisory, Indigenous Student Mental Health Project's advisory board, Anishinabek Nation's Youth Council, as well as the Mental Health Commission of Canada's Youth Council. Throughout his post-secondary career, Connor has been able to participate in various Indigenous symposiums, panels, and advisories. He is currently co-writing an Indigenous Undergraduate policy paper through the Ontario Undergraduate Student Association that aims to give a voice to Indigenous post-secondary students.



Ra'anaa Brown (Moderator)

Originally from Brampton, Ontario, Ra'anaa (she/her) received her Bachelors of Architectural Studies and Masters of Architecture at Laurentian University's McEwen School of Architecture. She is currently pursuing her PhD research on the intersection of Black art and activism (artivism) at Concordia University. Ra'anaa is the Co-Founder and President of Black Lives Matter Sudbury and Installation Coordinator for Up Here: Urban Arts Festival. She has participated in and curated numerous activist initiatives and has contributed her talents to the development of many Afrocentric artistic installations. Ra'anaa has taken on many leadership roles, as an artist, activist and academic creating space for people of colour and continually promoting anti-racist practices and social justice.



Kyra Coutain (Panelist)

Kyra Coutain (she/her) creatively showcases her story and how her experiences with racism, sexism, sexual assault, and generational addiction are the very stories of millions of Canadians. As a young black woman, art has provided her with safe spaces to enrich my community with diversity, passion, and connection emotional through artistic pieces. Ranging from poetry, murals, billboards, to bus advertisements, she hopes this vulnerable expression of self gives courage to openly heal traumas hidden in everyday life.



Emilio Portal (Panelist)

Emilio Portal (he/him/they) is a mixed transdisciplinary artist, maker, designer, musician, producer & sound engineer who was born in New Westminster, British Columbia. Emilio holds a BFA in fine art from Laurentian University, a BEDS from Dalhousie University, & a MFA from the University of Victoria. He has exhibited throughout Canada, notably at Open Space in Victoria, BC, Grunt Gallery in Vancouver, BC, & la Galerie du Nouvel-ontario. He has worked with a multitude of artists and curators, namely Rebecca Belmore, Peter Morin, Clayton Windatt, Jessica Karuhanga, Golboo Amani & Elyse Portal. He is a member of the art collective ee portal with his partner Elyse Portal. Emilio started playing drums in 1995 (at the age of 13). In 2000, he started experimenting in electronic music. Over the past 20 years, he has performed live & in a studio context with numerous musicians throughout Canada. His musical focus is rooted in latin & andean music, jazz, hip hop, improvisation, field recordings, electroacoustic music & experimental sound art. Portal is interested in engaging and breaking down the history of violence and conquest in philosophical and musical terms. What this looks like to him is facing and embracing the unknown, unclassifiable, unpredictable, spectral, magical, and musical aspects of life.

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KEYNOTE: The Freedom Fallacy



Shana Calixte (Moderator)

Shana Calixte (she/her/elle) has been living on the ancestral, traditional and unseeded territory of the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, in the Robinson Huron Treaty territory for 15 years. She is currently the Manager of Mental Health and Addictions for Public Health, Sudbury & Districts. Also a professor in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies at Laurentian University, she has previously held roles as the lead for Mental Health and Addictions at the North East Local Health Integration Network, as well as the Executive Director of NISA / Northern Initiative for Social Action, a peer-run organization located in Sudbury. Shana has been awarded the Jack Layton Leadership Award, the Northern Ontario Business, Influential Women/Executive of the Year award and the Forty under Forty Award. She has been engaged in activism and community building work for over 20 years, most recently helping to organize the annual Take Back the Night March and is a Director with Black Lives Matter Sudbury.

"A conversation about organizing, backlash, and the future of Black resistance."



Sandy Hudson (Keynote Speaker)

Sandy (she/her) is the founder of the Black Lives Matter movement presence in Canada. Sandy also helped to found the Black Legal Action Centre, a specialty legal aid clinic, which provides direct legal services and test case litigation for Black communities in Ontario. Currently studying law at UCLA with a specialization in critical race theory, Sandy also co-hosts the Sandy and Nora Talk Politics podcast, and is a producer on the forthcoming CBC eight-episode documentary series about Black history in Canada. A committed abolitionist, Sandy is a bestselling author and editor of the contributed volume, *Until We Are Free: Reflections on Black Lives Matter in Canada*.