

Amplifying Voices on Turtle Island: An Intersectional Caucus

Day Two

BIPOC Queerness: Identity, Community & Resistance



Ruva Gwekwerere (Moderator)

Ruva Gwekwerere (she/her) is a young queer activist who calls Sudbury home but is currently living in Ottawa. She developed a passion for justice and liberation early and has been an activist for over a decade. She holds a degree in Women's Gender and Sexualities Studies from Laurentian University and is interested in policy as a tool for creating the conditions under which we can build liberatory systems. She currently works in anti-poverty policy where she works to advocate for policies that are intersectional in order to address the social and economic inequities that are faced by those with marginalized identities. She serves as the Training and Management Coordinator for YPA Policy Corner, a policy publishing platform which she helped found that aims to disrupt the policy space and expand policy writing to include the lived expertise of marginalized youth. She also serves on the board of BLM Sudbury as the Community Relations Coordinator. All her work as an activist is fully informed by her identity as a fat queer black woman and for her the liberatory nature of queerness is inextricably linked to black liberation.



Kyanna Graham (Panelist)

Kyana Graham (they/them) is proud to be a Black transmasculine nonbinary dyke who resides in the Greater Toronto Area. They have a Social Service Work diploma from Durham College, are currently participating in Humber College's Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Leadership certificate, and will be attending Trent University for their Gender and Social Justice B.A in May. Kyana has been doing diversity and inclusion work for several years and wants to share their expertise and lived experience with organizations that want to build a more inclusive culture.



Nenookasi Ogichidaa (Panelist)

Nenookasi Ogichidaa (she/they/them) is an Afro-Indigenous (Jamacian, Anisishinaabe and Ukrainian) 2Spirit Queer mother, activist, song writer/composer who resides in Treaty 13 also know as Toronto, Ontario Canada. Neno has been a pillar in the fight for 2SLGBTQI+, Black, Indigenous rights, through seats on established boards with the LHINS, Canada Pride, she continues to throw thought provoking realisms of protest with her art demonstrations, panels, and her music. "My goal is to challenge colonial norms with facts and information. I'm not often compelled to make it light and pretty as trauma and suffering never are. I advocate on behalf of those who can not for themselves"



Debbie Owusu-Akyeeah (Panelist)

Debbie Owusu-Akyeeah (she/her/elle) is an award-winning Black feminist with over 8 years of local and international advocacy experience through feminist initiatives in the Ottawa-Gatineau region and through working at Oxfam Canada and Global Affairs Canada. She became the new Executive Director at the Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity (CCGSD) in July 2020. The Centre promotes diversity in gender identity, gender expression, and romantic/sexual orientation in all its forms on a national level through services in the areas of education and advocacy.



Akili (Panelist)

Akili (they/them) is a Black queer member of BLM Sudbury with roots in St Anns and St Elizabeth Jamaica, known as Xaymaca before colonization. They are part of multiple marginalized communities including BIPOC, 2SLGBTQ+ and Neurodivergent communities to name a few. Navigating these complex intersections of identity ignites their drive to support and uplift others in these communities, including their queer neurodivergent children. Akili imagines a future where their children can freely and safely explore their identities, becoming their utmost authentic selves. It is important to Akili that safer spaces are made for marginalized communities and envisions a day where everyone can thrive in their true essence like their ancestors long before them, once did.

Amplifying Voices on Turtle Island: An Intersectional Caucus

Day Two

Dualité de l'identité : Les Réalités d'être Francophone et Noir



Priscilla Mbemba (Moderator)

(elle) I describe myself as a multitasker and multi-talented woman. I am married, a mother and an employee-preneur. In September 2020, I became the cultural liaison officer at the Greater Sudbury Community Health Center, 8 months after moving to Canada from France where I was born, grew up built myself up until now. In May 2020, I started my own company called Tabitha.ML Show, which is active in public speaking, hosting professional events and web programs presented by me. The themes presented during these programs are cultural, socio-economical, and centered on "the woman". Founder of Cité de l'Espoir, an association born in December 2018 with the aim of supporting women in their physical, psychological and mental recovery. Give them hope in life. Today we are 17 active members with more than 60 women listening around the world.



Jean Jacques Fouda (Panelist)

Jean Jacques Fouda (il/he/him) is a graduating student in the business administration program at the university of Hearst, Ontario. He also holds a sociology degree from his home country. Jean Jacques has a passion for music, art, and photography, he also has a vast experience in strategic planning, in communication and in the monitoring and evaluation processes of projects. He has a strong analytical mind and enjoys researching topics that interest him. Since 2019, Jean Jacques has been very involved in issues relating to la Francophonie and immigration in northern Ontario. He is also part of a local committee that fights against racism and discrimination. Jean Jacques has carried out several activities aimed at defending the interests of grassroots populations (people with reduced mobility, business owners and people undergoing forced evictions).

Dr. Amadou Ba (Panelist)

Historian, researcher and writer, Dr Amadou Ba (he/him) holds a PhD in history, a Master's degree in political science and a bachelor's degree in teaching. Currently, Dr. Ba teaches African History at Nipissing University (North Bay ON). He also teaches at the School of Education and the Department of Political Science at Laurentian University (Sudbury ON). He is the author of four books: *L'Afrique des Grands Empires (7e-17e siècles) : 1000 ans de prospérité économique, d'unité politique, de cohésion sociale et de rayonnement culturel*, Editions AB, 2020. *L'histoire oubliée de la contribution des esclaves et soldats noirs à l'édification du Canada (1604-1945)* paru aux Éditions Afrikana, Montréal, octobre 2019. *Les militaires Ouest-africains dans la conquête et la Colonisation de Madagascar 1895-1960*, Éditions Harmattan Études Africaines en 2012. Dr. Ba is also the author of several articles in scientific and academic journals in Canada, France and Senegal. Dr. Ba is often invited to speak to share his research on the history of Black people in Canada and North America and he is currently conducting research on the history of pre-colonial, colonial and post-independence Africa. Lastly, he is a well known presence in the Francophone community in Ontario and Canada.



Allie Pauld (Panelist)

Allie Pauld (elle/she/her) is a 24-year-old activist, speaker, author, content creator, organizer, artist and student in sociology and sexuality studies. Allie is based in Montreal, she uses her platforms to bring light to the important causes dear to her heart. As a queer Black woman living with a disability, much of her work centers on ableism, race, misogyny, homophobia and biphobia. Her written work can be found on her personal blog and she uses her Instagram account to amplify funny or thoughtful things that land on her newsfeed. Allie has been invited to share her experiences as a Black woman living with a disability on a few nominated podcasts and has also spoken at many conferences.



Sandra Ganou (Panelist)

Sandra Ganou (elle/she) is a young black woman, Canadian, Burkinabé, Francophone, Christian, who is passionate about personal development through full self-awareness and knowledge. She has a great interest in international development and social justice. Among other things, she holds a master's degree in international development from the University of Ottawa and a bachelor's degree in business administration from the Université of Moncton.

She was a project officer for the Federation of Young Francophones of Louisiana (USA) with the aim of promoting French as a heritage among young people in a minority context in Lafayette. She was also the initiator of the international day, an effort that aims to highlight the achievements of women and offer them a framework for consultation and sharing.

She is a resident of the nation's capital since 2017 and is currently employed at Global Affairs Canada (GAC). Beyond her position at GAC, she is also co-chair of the Visible Minority Network in her department and co-chair of the Public Service Christian Community within GAC.



Amplifying Voices on Turtle Island: An Intersectional Caucus

Day Two

BIPOC Health Matters: Pushing the Boundaries of Health Equity



Rashane Robinson/Robin (Moderator)

Rashane Robinson (she/her) is a final semester nursing student at Cambrian College/Laurentian University, who aspires to soon start a career as a registered nurse. She has developed a wealth of knowledge and experience through working, volunteering, and interning in several healthcare and clinical settings. Rashane also has a BSc from the University of Toronto where she studied human biology, epidemiology, immunology, and embryology. She has been a member and volunteer for BLM-Sudbury for over a year, with an interest in advocacy for community and youth health and livelihood. With an extensive background working with various age groups, populations, and vulnerable persons, she understands how accessibility to adequate healthcare impacts marginalized individuals, and the battle BIPOC healthcare professionals face when navigating the healthcare system. Currently, Rashane works as a medical case manager and health specialist, on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Dr. Jennifer Jocko (Panelist)

I (she/her) am an Algonquin FN woman. I am a Mother, Wife, Sister, Auntie and work at the Eastern Door in my career as an Obstetrician/Gynecologist. My focus is on improving women's health in Northern Ontario, particularly around access to care for Indigenous, rural and Northern patients. Raised in Mattawa, I spent the first decade of my medical career as a Registered Nurse in North Bay and Mattawa, being married and having two children. With my family's support, I attended McMaster for my medical degree, I then completed my 5 year residency in Ottawa/Thunder Bay.

I am a consultant specialist at the Shkagamik-Kwe Health Centre in Sudbury, Manitoulin Health Centre in Little Current and Naandwechige-Gamig Wikwemikwong Health Centre where I operate a varied half-day weekly to a monthly clinic on the Island. I am currently Chief of OB/Gyn at Health Sciences North. I am an associate professor at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, and sit on the Aboriginal Women's Health Committee for the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada. In 2018 my business partner and I opened Northeastern Ontario's first fertility clinic – NEO Fertility. I thrive in rediscovering traditions and am an avid moccasin/mitt maker and hide tanner (or at least attempting it).



Sume Ndumbe-Eyoh (Panelist)

Sume Ndumbe-Eyoh (she/her/elle) is the Executive Director of the Black Health Education Collaborative (BHEC) and an Assistant Professor at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto. She is a catalytic leader who mobilizes knowledge and activates networks to advance policy and practice on social and economic issues that impact health and wellbeing.

Sume spent a decade with the National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health, where she provided leadership to public health practice on health equity, the social determinants of health including racism, in partnership with institutions across Canada.



Dr. Angela Robertson (Panelist)

Angela Robertson (she/her) is the executive director of Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre. Parkdale Queen West is a community-based health service organization serving mid and west Toronto. Angela is dedicated to people and communities facing discrimination, poverty and marginalization and working to change those social conditions. She is a founding member of Blockorama, which focuses on forging spaces for Black and other racialized LGBTQ+ people and allies in Toronto's Pride, and has served on numerous community Boards, including Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention, Houselink and the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Angela has been recognized for her social justice work by the YWCA, Fred Victor Centre, and Urban Alliance on Race Relations, NOW magazine and was honoured by York University in 2017 with an Honorary Doctorate of Laws degree for her social justice work. In response to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on racialized and low-income populations, Angela initiated and co-chair a Black Health Equity Working Group of health sector experts, leaders, practitioners, and researchers concerned with improving the health and wellbeing of Black people. For her work she was recognized by the Alliance with the Denise Brooks Equity Champion Award and the Pillar of the Pandemic recognition award from the U of T's Dalla Lana School of Public Health.