



THE EVENT WILL BE
LIVE STREAMED TO



HERE TO STAY, BABY!



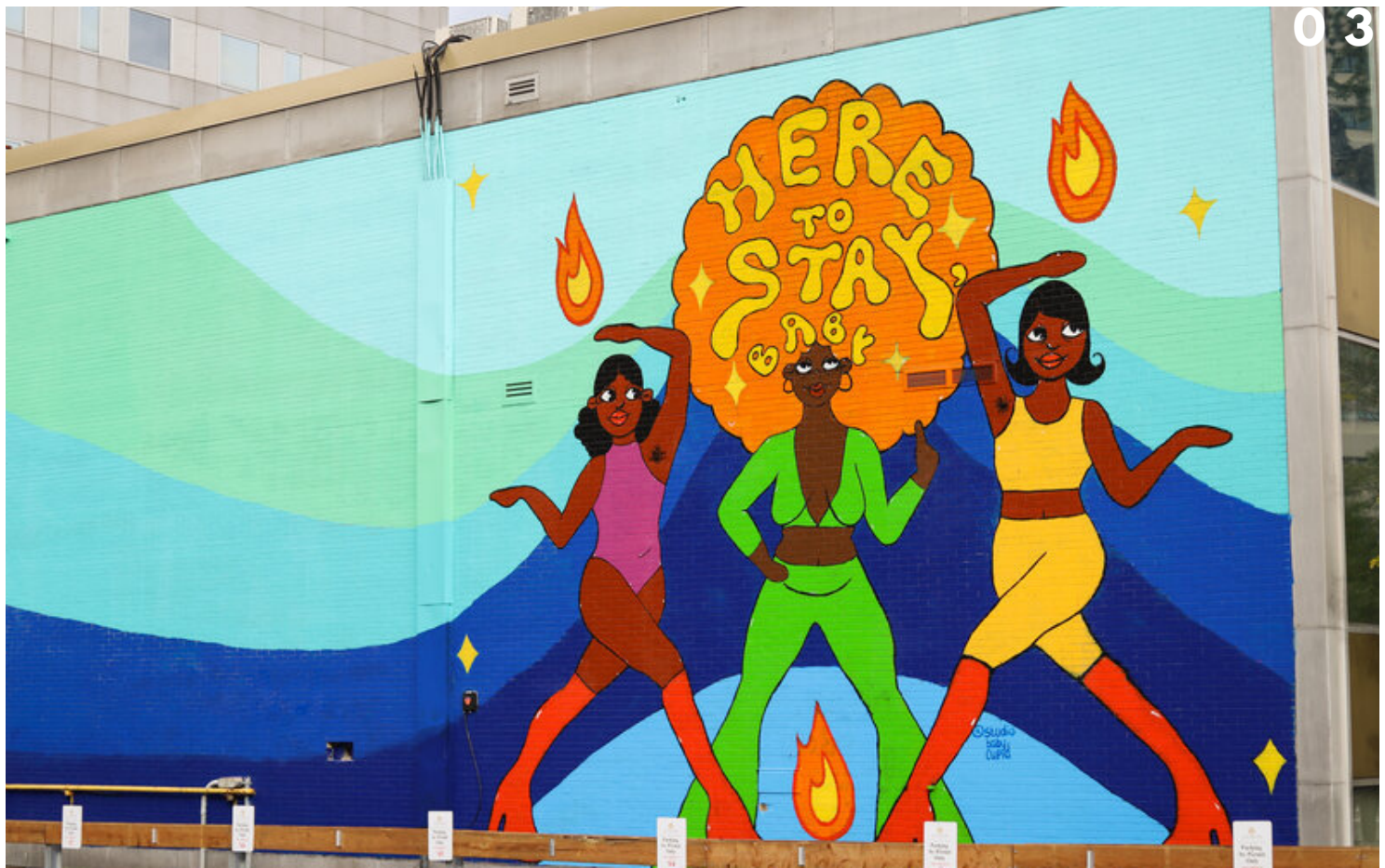
AN INTERSECTIONAL NORTHERN CAUCUS
FEBRUARY 27 & 28, 2021, 12-6PM

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ABOUT THE CAUCUS

“Here to Stay Baby”: A Northern Intersectional Caucus is an online conference designed to uplift the voices of marginalized individuals across Northern Ontario while educating diverse audiences.

Created by Black Lives Matter Sudbury, the Caucus was developed to provide a safe space and greatly needed platform for the delivery of a series of inclusive and diverse key-note presentations. Themed around a variety of topics which affect the everyday lives of marginalized individuals, this first-time event was designed to unite and inform those who experience discrimination and the allies who support the all-too-necessary social justice movements.

Derived from the beautiful mural by Sonia Ekiyor-Katimi, the name of this Caucus is not only the header of the event, but a battle cry for the marginalized communities residing in Northern Ontario. Our lives have value, we belong, **we are here to stay, baby.**

UNITING MARGINALIZED PEOPLES AND ALLIES FROM NORTH BAY TO THUNDER BAY

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to acknowledge that we are hosting this weekend's event from N'Swakamok, later known as Sudbury. This land on which we learn, work and live is in the Robinson-Huron Treaty territory. We are located on the traditional lands of the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek and the Wahnapiatae First Nation. We would also like to recognize the presence and important contributions of Métis peoples in the community and on this land.

All panel discussions will include sign language interpreters provided by Canadian Hearing Services.



PANEL SCHEDULE

HERE TO STAY, BABY!

SAT 27	12:00-1:15pm	Defund, Decolonize, Dismantle: Policing Marginalized Communities
	1:30-2:45pm	Racism-Free by 2023: Anti Racism Activism in the North
	3:00-4:15pm	Let Me Be Perfectly Queer: The Northern Queer Experience
	4:30-5:45pm	Naadmaadwin: Black and Indigenous Solidarity
	6:00pm	END OF CONFERENCE DAY 1

SUN 28	12:00-1:15pm	Neo-Fascism: The Rise of Modern Fascism in Northern Communities
	1:30-2:45pm	Parce Qu'on Vient de Loin: Panel Francophone Sur L'Immigration
	3:00-4:15pm	Blackademia: Surviving in Higher Education
	4:30-5:45pm	Here to Stay: The Birth of Black Lives Matter Sudbury
	6:00pm	END OF CONFERENCE DAY 2

TUNE IN TO OUR
VIRTUAL PANEL ON



**ELEVATING AND
ACCENTUATING BIPOC
AND MARGINALIZED
VOICES ACROSS
NORTHERN ONTARIO**



PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAMES ADETOYESE-OLAGUNJU

DEFUND, DECOLONIZE, AND DISMANTLE: POLICING MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES



SATURDAY FEBRUARY 27 2021, 12:00-1:15PM

Tune in for a discussion on Black Lives Matters' most renowned and contentious demand of defunding the police. Learn from experts on the institutional persecution of marginalized communities at the hands of police, and how they anticipate a future in which law enforcement is defunded, decolonized, and dismantled.

MODERATOR: GARY KINSMAN

Gary Kinsman is a queer liberation, anti-racist, anti-poverty, and anti-capitalist activist in solidarity with Indigenous struggles. He was involved in initiating the first Sudbury Lesbian and Gay Pride Day march in 1997 and the Sudbury Coalition Against Poverty and is currently involved in the No Pride in Policing Coalition and helped organize the Defund and Abolish All Police rally in Toronto on Pride Day 2020. He is the author of *The Regulation of Desire* (which he is currently working on a 3rd edition of), and co-author (with Patrizia Gentile) of *The Canadian War on Queers*. Recent book chapters include "Forgetting National Security in 'Canada'" in Choudry (ed.), *Activists and the Surveillance State*; "Not a Gift From Above," in Dummit and Sethna, *No Place for the State*; and "Learning from AIDS Activism for Surviving the COVID-19 Pandemic," in BTL Editorial Committee, and *Sick of the System*. He shares his time between Toronto and Sudbury, where he is Professor Emeritus at Laurentian University. His website is <https://radicalnoise.ca/>



SPEAKERS:



TRACY GREGORY

Tracy has 30 years of experience working in the sex work community, and she is currently working as the Executive Director of SWANS – Sex Workers Advisory Network of Sudbury. Tracy identifies as a white, cis-gendered woman with a commitment to being part of building an anti-racist and socially inclusive society.

DARIUS GARNEAU



Darius Garneau (he/him) is a 21-year-old activist from Sudbury, Ontario. Currently, he is completing his undergraduate degree at Laurentian University where he is specializing in Computer Science and Law & Justice. Over the years, Darius has served several organizations. Presently, he serves as the President of the Provincial NDP Riding Association, and Director of Policy and Development for Black Lives Matter Sudbury where he has had the opportunity to support a variety of community initiatives. Darius is passionate about making positive changes in the community and his goals are to eventually attend law school and pursue graduate studies. Darius began his work with Black Lives Matter following the Juneteenth protest/event and is most proud of the proposal to defund the police presented to the City of Greater Sudbury. This proposal focused on properly funding social services within the city and the creation of a 24-hour sexual violence hotline.

LAUR O'GORMAN



Laur O'Gorman is an activist, professor, and researcher from Sudbury, Ontario. Laur has been involved in community activism since the 1990s, most recently as the diversity representative for Fierté Sudbury Pride, an organizer for Take Back the Night, and opposing local white supremacist hate groups. Laur received the Jack Layton Award for Social Justice for their work as an anti-poverty organizer and labour activist. They have a Master's in Applied Social Research and a PhD in interdisciplinary Northern and Rural Health from Laurentian University. They teach Women's, Gender, and Sexuality studies at Thorneloe University. Their current work focuses on the impact of equity and marginalization on mental health and wellbeing, including access to health care and services.

SELENA WABEGIJIG



Selena Wabegijig is a 41 year old Ojibway woman. A Sudbury resident, studied, volunteered and worked in north eastern Ontario. Learning, healing, and educating about Intergenerational Trauma in between generations. Knowing the value of a community to survive. Walking together to decolonize ourselves and social systems. Networking and developing our collective capacity to bring transformative change. She has worked and volunteered with various organizations in Sudbury. Elizabeth Fry Society as Peer Leader. Better Beginnings Better Futures in Community Closet. N'Swadmok Friendship Center in Cultural Programs and Teachings. Participated on boards such as MMIWG. Currently active with grassroot Nonprofit Organization Planet Over Profit.

“Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed.” - Martin Luther King Jr.

RACISM-FREE BY 2033: ANTI-RACISM ACTIVISM IN THE NORTH



SATURDAY FEBRUARY 27 2021, 1:30-2:45PM

Racism-Free by 2033 features activists of colour from across Northern Ontario. This panel will discuss their work in social justice and how their respective organizations hope to flip the script on racism, oppression and discrimination in Northern communities.

MODERATOR: RA'ANAA BROWN

Ra'anaa Brown was born and raised in Brampton. She was drawn to Northern Ontario for post-secondary education and has since remained in the Greater Sudbury Area. After completing her Masters of Architecture on The Architectural Segregation of Chicago: Black Identity in the South Side, she became impassioned with the intersection of art and activism. Amidst the resurgence of the Black Lives Matter Movement, she was compelled to become involved in her local chapter, of which she is now one of the Co-Presidents. In a collaboration with Up Here: Urban Arts Festival she was invited to be the 2020 Guest Curator. Working closely with other Black artists she has produced a series of Black arts initiatives including ETHEREAL, a photography installation surrounding the themes of Black hair and beauty. A hard working Black woman, Ra'anaa aspires to pursue a PhD education in the coming years centralizing around her passion for activism.



SPEAKERS:

NGUÉNAR YACINE CISSE

Nguénar was born in Secaucus New Jersey to two wonderful Senegalese diplomats. She grew up equally in Senegal and the US. Her child and teen years were marked by frequent travels in accompanying her dad to his appointments to different countries. This period of her life was particularly important as it was one of self-discovery. Today, she proudly claims her heritage and is grateful for her experiences which have resulted in her passion for community engagement. After graduating high school from Senegal, she is currently an Economics major at Laurentian University and plans to act upon her love for community engagement in the city of Sudbury.



PITIA MODI



Pitia Modi is a 21-year-old South Sudanese immigrant who was born in Amman, Jordan located in the Middle-East which is an Arab Country then lived in Cairo, Egypt before moving to Canada at a very young age. He currently attends the University of Windsor where he is working towards his Bachelor's Degree and is also a member of the Lancers Varsity Football Team. He grew up in Thunder Bay, Ontario and later graduated from St. Ignatius Catholic High School before receiving a football scholarship to the U of W. Pitia comes from a family of 5 children and he is the second oldest. He is also one of the organizers of the Black Lives Matter Protest which was held in Thunder Bay during the previous summer. Also, he helped organize a Black Excellence Award Scholarship for the TBC Highschool District.

VIJANTI RAMLOGAN



Vijanti Ramlogan or "Vi" is an employment consultant. Last year, she finished a Masters of Environmental Studies at Nipissing University, focussing on the media portrayal of drinking water issues found on First Nations'. As a student research analyst for Natural Resources Canada, she compared Indigenous policy across extractive industries. Her leadership roles include being a founding member and Executive Director of Greening Nipissing, a now defunct charity and being a founding member of Equity and Inclusion North Bay. Her experience working with newcomers comes as a former project coordinator for the Empowering Women Catering Project at the North Bay & District Multicultural Centre. Vi is a practicing reiki master and member of the Canadian Reiki Association. She is a mother of two teens, plays violin and enjoys outdoor activities which are abundant in North Bay. She is of Indo-Caribbean heritage, was born in Canada and has lived in North Bay for 20 years. Her languages are English, French and Spanish.

ZACHARIAH ABDIRAHMAN LEONARDI



Zachariah Abdirahman Leonardi is of Somali-Métis descent. He was born and grew up in Thunder Bay, Ontario, but has lived in places like Gatineau, Montreal, and the Oshawa area. He went to St. Patrick's High School and played football there. Growing up, Zachariah played a lot of sports like: soccer, baseball, basketball, and football.

Although, his favourite would have to be hockey. He is currently a Purdue University Hockey commit and will be attending the school this fall, majoring in Behavioural Sciences. Zachariah was a coordinator for the BLM protest held in Thunder Bay after the George Floyd events. He also helped organize a scholarship fund at his Alma Mater for students of Afro-Caribbean descent.

"It is in collectives that we find reservoirs of hope and optimism" — Angela Davis

LET ME BE PERFECTLY QUEER: THE NORTHERN QUEER EXPERIENCE



SATURDAY FEBRUARY 27 2021, 3:00-4:15PM

Being queer in Northern Ontario comes with many challenges; isolation, lack of services. Our panelists will address the specific issues that come with living in rural and remote Northern Communities and how from a BLM perspective those issues can be addressed.

MODERATOR: KATLYN KOTILA

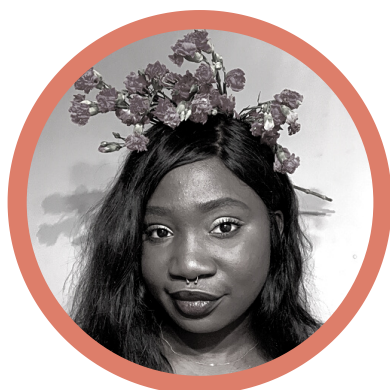
Katlyn Kotila (she/her) is a 21-year-old public speaker and queer activist born and raised in Sudbury, Ontario. Currently, she is completing her undergraduate degree at Laurentian University where she is specializing in Political Science and majoring in Communication Studies. Over the years, Katlyn has served a number of organizations working in partnership with marginalized communities and those living with mental illness. Presently, she serves as the Communications Lead for Fierté Sudbury Pride where she has had the opportunity to support a variety of community initiatives. Katlyn is a passionate social advocate but is most proud of her work around improving mental health infrastructure and eliminating barriers to access for 2SLGBTQ+ and Northern students. As a speaker, Katlyn uses her platform and experiences with mental health to empower youth across the globe to live courageously in their pursuits towards self-love and a better world.



SPEAKERS:

SONIA EKIYOR-KATIMI

Born in Port Harcourt, Nigeria, Sonia Ekiyor-Katimi moved to Sudbury, Ontario 8 years ago. They came to Sudbury to explore a Northern approach to architecture and a hands on experience with sustainable building systems at (McEwen Architecture). Upon the completion of her Masters thesis on sexual assault "Body therapy and the built environment, 2019." She has been volunteering for sexual assault relief efforts, Black Queer art collaborations (Nuit Blanche Montreal), architectural freelancing and exploring her own personal career in art. Most currently she has shared collaborative efforts in Sudbury through Black Lives Matter X UpHere Festival, (2020), The Branch collective and River & Sky. As a visual artist, she aims to represent impolite characters and explore queer Black representation through her own observations. In general, she explores the intersections of gender, race, queerness and space. In the future she hopes for a career in which social architecture and art overlap meaningfully.





G.R. GRITT

G.R. Gritt is a Juno Award winning, Two-Spirit, Transgender, Francophone, Anishinaabe/Métis artist. After living many years in Yellowknife they are currently living in Sudbury/Robinson Huron Treaty territory where they grew up. This homecoming coincides with a journey to a new voice, both physically and in the growing magnetism of their songwriting. G.R. Gritt pulls effortlessly from the past to create soulful futurisms that elegantly weave melodies using vocals, guitar and new electronic elements. They create both intimate and anthemic music that would fit in a folk club, a dance club and anywhere in between.



TAFARI ANTHONY

Tafari (pronounced ta-far-eye) Anthony is a Toronto based artist whose music blends elements of Pop, Soul, and Electronica. He is a creator who embodies the spirit of the modern musician. Not just a musician, but a creator. Known for his sleek vocal tones, sultry melodies and music which oozes with personality, Tafari leaves listeners in awe – somewhat apt considering his name means “He who inspires awe”.

Tafari's music has been featured on Billboard Pride, PAPER Magazine, Gay Times Magazine, PopularTV (Nylon Magazine), EarMilk, MTV and more. He has also been nominated for a TIMA, receives regular airplay on CBC Radio, with his single "Know Better" being named one of CBC's Most Influential Songs of 2016. He's also performed with Shangela (RuPaul's Drag Race) and toured across North America and Asia as part of the award winning a capella band Eh440, as well as having performed at Toronto's Dundas Square and Massey Hall and receiving praise from Michael Bublé himself.



TEDDY SYRETTE

Teddy Syrette (Ozhawa Anung Kwe/Yellow Star Woman) is an Anishnabe 2-Spirit of Rankin Reserve - Batchewana First Nation (Baawaating). They are an advocate and storyteller for LGBTQ+ and Indigenous experiences and histories.

Teddy has a background in social justice, theatre, and bingo. Teddy is an alcoholic and has a diploma in social service work in Indigenous specialization. They have travelled around Turtle Island sharing their story and voicing issues of homophobia, transphobia, racism and colonial trauma.

They work part time as Indigenous Liaison & Program Development for the Enchanté Network, a network of 2Spirit and LGBTQ service providers, centers and groups. Teddy is also a fulltime shit disturber.



ASHLEY MOREAU

Ashley Moreau is a Two spirited Metis artist originally from Treaty 3 region, Eagle River, Ontario. They've lived in Thunder Bay since 2005 and since living in the city have been able to grow and learn more about themselves, their culture and share some of their creativity and passion with the community. Ashley first served on the Two Spirited people of thunder bay board as president in 2006 and from there have committed their path to helping bring awareness and helping 2S be more visible in our community. Currently, they are the Chair of Thunder Pride Association and is working to bring a cultural perspective to our events. Last year they also started a local two spirited group called Niizh Spirit Society to help educate and advocate for two spirit inclusiveness and education.



ALEX TÉTREAU

Born and raised in Sudbury, Alex is an artist, cultural worker, and community activist for queer and francophone issues. He is a graduate of Laurentian University where he studied Theatre and Political Science. In addition to his current position as Chair of Fierté Sudbury Pride, which he has occupied since November 2019, Alex is a board member for several other local organizations, including the Centre de santé communautaire du Grand Sudbury and the Salon du livre du Grand Sudbury. He also served as the Editor-in-Chief of L'Original déchaîné and regularly appears in local francophone media. His current theatrical project in development, Nickel City Fifs, is a meeting between Sudbury's francophone and queer communities. A version of the play was read publicly at the Théâtre du Nouvel-Ontario (TNO) in October 2020.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY INCAPTURE

“We will all, at some point, encounter hurdles to gaining access and entry, moving up and conquering self-doubt; but on the other side is the capacity to own opportunity and tell our own story.” — Stacey Abrahams

NAADMAADWIN: BLACK AND INDIGENOUS SOLIDARITY



SATURDAY FEBRUARY 27 2021, 4:30-5:45

When people come together healing happens which is where, Naadmaadwin, roughly translated to the place of helping, came from. This panel highlights the importance and longstanding history of Black and Indigenous solidarity. Tune in for a captivating conversation on how these communities support one another and advocate for systemic change, reform and reparations across Turtle Island.

MODERATOR: TICARRA PAQUET

TiCarra Paquet is a fourth year Carleton University student studying Political Science and Canadian Studies. TiCarra is self-described as Black/Indigenous and will speak from her own experiences with discrimination, her political education, her racial awareness, and her personal obligation to make a difference where she is able. She currently sits as one of the co-Presidents for Black Lives Matter Sudbury, as she hopes to bridge the gap of racial inequality within Sudbury, Ontario.



SPEAKERS:

JOEY-LYNN WABIE

Dr. Joey-Lynn Wabie is an Algonquin Anicinabe ikwe from Wolf Lake First Nation in Quebec. She is an assistant professor in Indigenous Social Work at Laurentian University located on Atikameksheng Anishnawbek territory (Sudbury, Ontario). Joey-Lynn works in communities at the grassroots level focusing on wellness, culture, and bringing people together. Her research interests are Indigenous youths' perspectives on Truth & Reconciliation, spiritual wellness/healing, and land-based teaching/learning. Joey-Lynn takes the role of sister, auntie, cousin seriously and is dedicated to ensuring her culture and traditions are passed on through storytelling, ceremony, and the occasional latte.





CAROLYN ITWARU

Carolyn Itwaru is self-described as Black and Indigenous. Moreover, within her unique perspective existing in settler Canada she has been able to navigate and prosper in spite of systemic barriers. Carolyn has resided in Sudbury, Ontario for over forty-four years and she currently works for the provincial government. Carolyn hopes that there can be radical and meaningful changes within the various levels of government.



LAURA HALL

Laura Hall is a scholar in the School of Indigenous Relations, who was raised in N'Swakamok, on Anishinaabe territory, by a Mohawk mother and English-Canadian father. Laura is a lifelong learner, focused on Indigenous revitalization and reclaiming, land return, gender-based justice, and Indigenist-feminist-2S environmental restoration.



WILL MORIN

(B.F.A., B.A. Native Studies, B.Ed, M.A. & PhD in process)

A citizen of the Michipicoten Anishinaabek, residing here in Sudbury Ontario. Will is an Anishinaabe artist, leader in the arts and Indigenous Communities, and a social activist, and is also a Professor of Indigenous Studies at the University of Sudbury for over 20 years. As owner of Birds of Pray Create; a company which features his Environmental messaged artwork for nearly 3 decades and offers Cultural Awareness Training and Cross-Cultural Consulting across Ontario. From 2004 - 2013 Will ran in 3 federal elections as a candidate and then leader for the First Peoples National Party of Canada until he deregistered the party when the Idle No More movement began.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAMES ADETOYESE-OLAGUNJU



PANELIST AFFILIATIONS



FIERTÉ
Sudbury
PRIDE



SEX
WORKERS
ADVISORY
NETWORK
SUDBURY



**studio
baby
cupid**



**RÉSEAU
du NORD**

Soutien à l'immigration
FRANCOPHONE
J'en fais partie!

NEO-FASCISM: THE RISE OF MODERN FASCISM IN NORTHERN COMMUNITIES



SUNDAY FEBRUARY 28 2021, 12:00-1:15PM

The political economy of some advanced capitalist liberal democracies resemble many aspects of fascism, however, white supremacy, genocide, apartheid, and ethnic cleansing are entirely compatible with neo-colonization within capitalism. In recent years, Canada has seen a significant rise in the mainstreaming of extremist voices and racist conversations. Join experts in the discussion of how capitalist liberal democracies are moving ever-closer to modern fascism and how this will alter the lives of Northern communities, particularly the lived experiences of marginalized individuals.

MODERATOR: REUBEN ROTH

Dr. Reuben Roth is an Associate Professor in the Workplace & Labour Studies program and also teaches in the Sociology Department at Laurentian University. His main areas of research include: working-class identity & oppositional working-class consciousness, education & work, and national/ethnic identities & national liberation struggles. Dr. Roth has also written and lectured on racism in Canada, labour education programs in the U.S. & Canada, and workers' informal knowledge. He worked on the Albert Johnson and Buddy Evans campaigns against police murders, as well as the "Seven Jamaican Mothers" anti-deportation campaign in Toronto in the 1970s. He continues this history of working for social justice and progressive causes today with the Palestine Solidarity Working Group (Sudbury).



SPEAKERS:

WILL MORIN

(B.F.A., B.A. Native Studies, B.Ed, M.A. & PhD in process)

A citizen of the Michipicoten Anishinaabek, residing here in Sudbury Ontario. Will is an Anishinaabe artist, leader in the arts and Indigenous Communities, and a social activist, and is also a Professor of Indigenous Studies at the University of Sudbury for over 20 years. As owner of Birds of Pray Create; a company which features his Environmental messaged artwork for nearly 3 decades and offers Cultural Awareness Training and Cross-Cultural Consulting across Ontario. From 2004 - 2013 Will ran in 3 federal elections as a candidate and then leader for the First Peoples National Party of Canada until he deregistered the party when the Idle No More movement began.





JUDE ALEXANDER

Jude was born and resides in Sudbury, Ontario, and is extremely concerned about the continued denigration of leftist politics in society. A staunch idealist, Jude is just so tired, of everything, all of the time.



LAURIE MCGAULEY

Laurie McGauley has been working for social justice for over 45 years in Sudbury, Montreal and Northern Ontario. In the 70s and 80s McGauley was very active in the feminist movement, helping to lay the groundwork for the establishment of key organizations such as the Sudbury Women's Centre and the Sexual Assault Crisis Centre. She was a relentless anti-poverty activist fighting the onslaught of neo-liberal policies and austerity measures of the 80s and 90s, working closely with people living in poverty to form activist groups such as Group Action Against Poverty. From the beginning, McGauley integrated art and theatre into her activism. In 1996, she founded Myths and Mirrors Community Arts, initially to counter the poor bashing and hate against social assistance recipients that was rampant at the time.

McGauley is currently a sessional professor in the Women, Gender and Sexuality Department of Laurentian University.



GARY KINSMAN

Gary Kinsman is a queer liberation, anti-racist, anti-poverty, and anti-capitalist activist in solidarity with Indigenous struggles. He was involved in initiating the first Sudbury Lesbian and Gay Pride Day march in 1997 and the Sudbury Coalition Against Poverty and is currently involved in the No Pride in Policing Coalition and helped organize the Defund and Abolish All Police rally in Toronto on Pride Day 2020. He is the author of *The Regulation of Desire* (which he is currently working on a 3rd edition of), and co-author (with Patrizia Gentile) of *The Canadian War on Queers*. Recent book chapters include "Forgetting National Security in 'Canada'" in Choudry (ed.) *Activists and the Surveillance State*; "Not a Gift From Above," in Dummit and Sethna, *No Place for the State*; and "Learning from AIDS Activism for Surviving the COVID-19 Pandemic," in BTL Editorial Committee, *Sick of the System* (ebook). He shares his time between Toronto and Sudbury, where he is Professor Emeritus at Laurentian University. His website is <https://radicalnoise.ca/>

"You can jail a Revolutionary, but you can't jail the Revolution."— Fred Hampton

PARCE QU'ON VIENT DE LOIN: BIPOC FRANCOPHONE IMMIGRATION EXPERIENCE



SUNDAY FEBRUARY 28 2021, 1:30-2:45PM

They come from diverse settings and backgrounds. Some of them arrived just a few years ago, others have been here over 20 years. Most of them are multilingual. But they have two things in common: they are Black or People of Color and they have either had to learn or are in the process of learning English, a language they need in order to fully participate in Sudburian life. Tune in to learn about their experiences as francophone Black and People of color and the challenges they have faced as they settled into Northern Ontario.

MODERATOR: MOISE ZAHOU

Moïse Zahoui is originally from the Ivory Coast. He arrived in Canada with his family in 2015. He has worked in media, project management and faith based work in his country of origin. Upon his arrival in Canada, he studied at Collège Boréal. In 2018 he was hired by the Réseau de soutien à l'immigration francophone du nord de l'Ontario (Francophone Immigration Network of Northern Ontario) as a Project Agent for the Francophone Welcoming Communities project, and then in April of 2020 to act as the Development Agent for the Mid-North. Since September 2020, he has been working as the Coordinator of Immigration Services at the Centre de santé communautaire du Grand Sudbury.



SPEAKERS:

MOHAMMED EL MENDRI

Mohammed El Mendri is an international student from Morocco, who is in the Law and Justice program at Laurentian University. He is the International Student Delegate for the Association des étudiantes et étudiants francophones (AEF). He is also a member of the University of Sudbury Board of Regents and Francophone Vice-President of the University of Sudbury Residence Student Council. Mohammed enjoys being involved at the heart of the action to ensure and defend the interests of the people he represents.



TIBILA J. WILLIAM SANDIWDI



Originally from Burkina-Faso, Tibila immigrated to Canada in 2003 and began his career in the education sector at the Conseil scolaire public du Grand Nord de l'Ontario as a Special Education Technician, then at the Carrefour francophone de Sudbury as an after-school program educator. He continued at Collège Boréal as Project Coordinator for immigrant, refugee and international students before becoming First Generation Project Manager. He works at the Centre de santé communautaire du Grand Sudbury as a Settlement Worker in the Schools with the two French language school boards in the Greater Sudbury area.

GOULED HASSAN



Originally from Djibouti, an East African country, Gouled Hassan is a management professional who is known for his great enthusiasm. In his professional life, Gouled has worked as a project manager in numerous projects. Over the past 22 years, he has invested his passion and intellect in fostering initiatives based on values such as inclusion, multiculturalism, innovation and accountability. As a Francophone and a member of a visible minority, and through his global vision and experience both locally and internationally, he knows the challenges faced by minorities and Black communities. When he is not working as a project manager, he devotes his free time to sitting on various committees and councils related to the promotion of diversity. Driven to fight racism and the exclusion of minorities, this activist and speaker summarizes his convictions as follows: be yourself, go beyond your limits, be open to others, support those at risk and stick to your principles.

AMADOU BA



Historian, researcher and writer, Amadou BA holds a Doctorate in history (specialization in colonial history of Africa), a Master's in Political Science and a bachelor's degree in Teaching/Education. Currently, he teaches African history at Nipissing University (North Bay Ontario). He also teaches in the Faculty of Education and in the Department of Political Science at Laurentian University (Sudbury, Ontario). Amadou BA has written four books on his own: *The Great Empires (7th – 17th centuries): 1000 Years of Economic Prosperity, Political Unity, Social Cohesion and of Cultural Influence*, EditionsAB, 2020, *The forgotten history of the contribution of Black slaves and Soldiers to the Building of Canada (1604-1945)*, published by Editions Afrikana in 2019. Speaker, notably sharing his research on Black history in Canada and North America, Amadou Ba is very active in the Francophone community in Ontario and Canada. In February 2020, he was elected the 13th Ambassador of the Franco-Ontarian Heritage Network (RPFO) making him the first French-speaking Canadian from outside the country to hold this position.

BLACKADEMIA: SURVIVING IN HIGHER EDUCATION



SUNDAY FEBRUARY 28 2021, 3:00-4:15PM

Join local Blackademics in a conversation surrounding racism and discrimination in our educational institutions. Tune in for a vibrant discussion in which Black academics share their lived experience and learn how they have paved the way for aspiring scholars of colour.

MODERATOR: SHANA CALIXTE

Shana Calixte, Director of Community Relations for BLM Sudbury, lives on the ancestral, traditional and unceded territory of the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, in the Robinson Huron Treaty territory. She has been an activist and organizer for over 25 years, organizing Take Back the Night and various Pride events in the city. Her most recent work supports those living with mental illness and using substances, as manager at Public Health Sudbury & Districts and previously as the Executive Director of NISA/Northern Initiative for Social Action. She is mama to three kiddos, one cat and one dog, and partner to one bad-ass Anisknawbek Firekeeper from Wiikwemikoong unceded Indian reserve.



SPEAKERS:

TAKWANA NHAU

Takwana is currently a full-time grade 4 teacher, hoping to re-enter academia in the fall of 2021 to do her PhD on the Black Histories of Thunder Bay. She intends to lay open the unique ways of experiencing Blackness and Womanhood that are constituted by situatedness in Northern Ontario. The epistemic concern of her project is that the histories and identities of Black Womanhood are at risk of being subjugated through neglect and erasure. Ultimately, she anticipates learning about the relationship between Black Womanhood situated in the Thunder Bay region and intersections of migration, labour, settler colonialism, and Indigeneity.



AMADOU BA



Historian, researcher and writer, Amadou BA holds a Doctorate in history (specialization in colonial history of Africa), a Master's in Political Science and a bachelor's degree in Teaching/Education. Currently, he teaches African history at Nipissing University (North Bay Ontario). He also teaches in the Faculty of Education and in the Department of Political Science at Laurentian University (Sudbury, Ontario). Amadou BA has written four books on his own: *The Great Empires (7th – 17th centuries): 1000 Years of Economic Prosperity, Political Unity, Social Cohesion and of Cultural Influence*, EditionsAB, 2020, *The forgotten history of the contribution of Black slaves and Soldiers to the Building of Canada (1604-1945)*, published by Editions Afrikana in 2019. Speaker, notably sharing his research on Black history in Canada and North America, Amadou Ba is very active in the Francophone community in Ontario and Canada. In February 2020, he was elected the 13th Ambassador of the Franco-Ontarian Heritage Network (RPFO) making him the first French-speaking Canadian from outside the country to hold this position.

RA'ANAA BROWN



Ra'anaa Brown was born and raised in Brampton. She was drawn to Northern Ontario for post-secondary education and has since remained in the Greater Sudbury Area. After completing her Masters of Architecture on *The Architectural Segregation of Chicago: Black Identity in the South Side*, she became impassioned with the intersection of art and activism. Amidst the resurgence of the Black Lives Matter Movement, she was compelled to become involved in her local chapter, of which she is now one of the Co-Presidents.

In a collaboration with Up Here: Urban Arts Festival she was invited to be the 2020 Guest Curator. Working closely with other Black artists she has produced a series of Black arts initiatives including *ETHEREAL*, a photography installation surrounding the themes of Black hair and beauty. A hard working Black woman, Ra'anaa aspires to pursue a PhD education in the coming years centralizing around her passion for activism.

“You may write me down in history with your bitter, twisted lines. You may trod me in the very dirt, but still, like dust, I’ll rise.” - Maya Angelou

HERE TO STAY: THE BIRTH OF BLACK LIVES MATTER SUDBURY



SUNDAY FEBRUARY 28 2021, 4:30-5:45PM

In the final Caucus event, join the entire board of Black Lives Matter Sudbury to recount the birth of their organization. Panellists will discuss the impact of BLMS thus far in the Greater Sudbury Area and how they anticipate the growth and change of the group in the coming years.

MODERATOR: SHALA GAGNON

Shala is a lifelong Sudburian who joined Black Lives Matter - Sudbury in June of 2020 and began working as a volunteer coordinator and police liaison. She is passionate about using her privilege to facilitate safe and accessible demonstration in order to center and amplify the voices of those speaking from lived experience. She continues to work with BLMS in her new role as a Director on the Executive Board.

Shala was introduced to activism via Corporate Social Responsibility campaigns, including participating in a 2018 United Nations roundtable on engaging consumers in Global Compact Sustainable Development Goals. This opportunity empowered her to seek change at the local level, which has been her focus since. Shala's personal advocacy is driven by her lived experience as a neurodivergent, fat-liberated survivor. Her favourite food is pancakes.



SPEAKERS:

TICARRA PAQUET

TiCarra Paquet is a fourth year Carleton University student studying Political Science and Canadian Studies. TiCarra is self-described as Black/Indigenous and will speak from her own experiences with discrimination, her political education, her racial awareness, and her personal obligation to make a difference where she is able. She currently sits as one of the co-Presidents for Black Lives Matter Sudbury, as she hopes to bridge the gap of racial inequality within Sudbury, Ontario.



RA'ANAA BROWN



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SHANA CALIXTE



Shana Calixte, Director of Community Relations for BLM Sudbury lives on the ancestral, traditional and unceded territory of the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, in the Robinson Huron Treaty territory. She has been an activist and organizer for over 25 years, organizing Take Back the Night and various Pride events in the city. Her most recent work supports those living with mental illness and using substances, as manager at Public Health Sudbury & Districts and previously as the Executive Director of NISA/Northern Initiative for Social Action. She is mama to three kiddos, one cat and one dog, and partner to one bad-ass Anisknawbek Firekeeper from Wiikwemikoong uncaded Indian reserve.

ISAK VAILLANCOURT



Isak Vaillancourt is a multimedia producer and communications specialist with over four years of experience working within the private and university sector. In 2019, he graduated with a degree in Communication Studies from Laurentian University where his fourth-year thesis critically examined the representation of marginalized communities within Canadian print media. His personal interests in relation to creative production and activism led him to become involved with Black Lives Matter Sudbury, where he is currently the Director of Communications. Earlier this year, Isak was the creative lead for a collaborative photo installation centralized around the theme of black beauty. Most recently, he is the director and producer of a short documentary which focuses on racial inequality and social justice in Northern Ontario. In the future, Isak plans to further explore research-creation methods, an approach that supports the development of knowledge and innovation through artistic expression, scholar investigation, and experimentation.



DARIUS GARNEAU

Darius Garneau (he/him) is a 21-year-old activist from Sudbury, Ontario. Currently, he is completing his undergraduate degree at Laurentian University where he is specializing in Computer Science and Law & Justice. Over the years, Darius has served several organizations. Presently, he serves as the President of the Provincial NDP Riding Association, and Director of Policy and Development for Black Lives Matter Sudbury where he has had the opportunity to support a variety of community initiatives. Darius is passionate about making positive changes in the community and his goals are to eventually attend law school and graduate studies. Darius began his work with Black Lives Matter following the Juneteenth protest/event and is most proud of the proposal to defund the police presented to the City of Greater Sudbury. This proposal focused on properly funding social services within the city and the creation of a 24-hour sexual violence hotline.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAMES ADETOYESE-OLAGUNJU

STAY TUNED WITH BLM-S



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**BLACK
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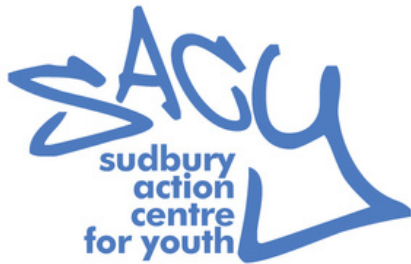


**LES VIES
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SUDBURY
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HIV/Hepatitis
Health and
Social Services
Services sociaux
et de santé pour
l'hépatite et vih

A big thank you goes out to our Northern Caucus organizers!

Abigail Whitney, Aicha Barry, Aj Laflamme, Alex Millar, Cecilia Rodriguez Beaudoin, Isak Vaillancourt, Katlyn Kotila, Lauren Knox, Monique Beaudoin, Neil Portelance, Ra'anaa Brown, Rashane Robinson, Ruva Gwekwerere, Shala Gagnon, and Shana Calixte.