

FREE OUR MINDS: POLICING-FREE SCHOOLS



Isak Vaillancourt (he/him) *Moderator*

Isak Vaillancourt is an award-winning producer and multidisciplinary artist whose practice includes photography, filmmaking, arts-based programming, and digital communications.

As a creative, he relies on dynamic and vibrant imagery to explore the entanglement of identity and aesthetics from a lens of Black healing and decolonization. Through the unapologetic use of creativity* he recognizes that we can construct our own liberation through cultural creation.

Isak graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours, Cum laude) in Communication Studies from Laurentian University. Recently, he completed his Masters of Arts in Media Production at Toronto Metropolitan University where he explored race relations, advanced production, immersive technology, and visual culture within a social-justice framework. He is the proud recipient of the OUTtv Award in Master of Arts in Media Production, Aditya Jha Graduate Award in Media Production, Black Graduate Student Scholarship & Ryerson Graduate Fellowship.

Isak is also a Co-Founder and Director of Black Lives Matter - Sudbury, a non-profit organization committed to dismantling systemic racism and supporting cultural creation in Northern Ontario.

VIRTUAL PANEL: FEB 26TH 2:00-3:30 PM



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Andrea Vásquez Jiménez
(she/her)
Panelist

Andrea Vásquez Jiménez is the Director and Principal Consultant of Policing-Free Schools where she provides support to organizations, educational spaces, departments of education and community organizers in removing police-in-school programs, policing-in-school programs and police presence; while simultaneously moving towards the end of policing and carceral infrastructures, practices, policies, logics and culture alongside the co-creation of transformative, healthy, equitable, life-affirming and healing educational spaces.

Policing-Free Schools is the convener of the National Campaign for a Policing-Free Schools Canada, as well as the Provincial Campaign for a Policing-Free Schools Ontario. Andrea is currently working on expanding with, and alongside #PolicingFreeSchoolsCA Partners, additional Provincial Campaigns across the country. She makes part of an international movement working on these issues in solidarity with the U.S and U.K.

Andrea is a Masters of Education graduate from the Social Justice Education program at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto.

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MayaSpoken
Panelist

MayaSpoken is an award winning spoken word artist, singer-songwriter, educator, author, activist, speaker and single mother. Her voice has graced platforms such as TEDx, WE Day, Historica Canada, CBC Arts: Poetic License and more.

Maya is the author of poetry novel Warriors in Broad Daylight and is also the founder of Spoken in the City Poetry Slam, Tell 'Em Girl Women's Spoken Word Showcase and Loud Black Girls, all platforms giving Ottawa poets the space to be themselves unapologetically. To keep up with Maya's work and to be updated on her future performances you can find her on all platforms of social media at MayaSpoken.

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Hailey Yasmeen Dash
(she/her)
Panelist



Hailey Yasmeen Dash is a mad, queer, South Asian community organizer who has grown up living between the unceded and unsundered territories of the Algonquin Anishinaabe and Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.

Hailey Yasmeen's lived, organizing, and academic experiences have provided her a strong and crucial foundation for the anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist politics she holds today. She is a co-founder of Asilu Collective which led the successful effort to terminate policing-in-schools programs in so-called Ottawa and continues to work alongside youth and their families through political education programming and to support their navigation of the school-prison nexus.

Hailey Yasmeen organizes for abolitionist futures with a number of grassroots groups across so-called Canada including Asilu Collective, Defund 604 Network, Vancouver Prison Justice Day Committee, and Joint Effort.

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