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UNAC-VANCOUVER NETWORKING BREAKFAST

March 14, 2014 | 8:30 - 10:30am

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AGA KHAN FOUNDATION
CANADA

AGA KHAN FOUNDATION

Zahed Lalani | Campaign Manager

Established in 1980, AKFC is a registered Canadian charity and an agency of the worldwide Aga Khan Development Network, a group of development agencies with individual mandates that address social, economic and cultural dimensions of development. Active in 30 countries, these agencies share a mission to improve living conditions and opportunities for the poor, without regard to their faith, origin or gender. Our programs demonstrate that success is possible when poverty is tackled on multiple fronts, over the long-term, and with communities in charge. In Canada, we promote discussion and learning on international development issues, raise funds and build partnerships with Canadian institutions to support development.

Zahed Lalani is the Regional Campaign Manager with Aga Khan Foundation Canada and has been with the Foundation for seven years starting in Ottawa at their Canadian head office. Zahed comes from a diverse professional and educational background. His professional experiences includes working with The Bank of New York, The European Parliament and the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium. Zahed was educated in Belgium, England and the United States. Zahed's role with the Foundation includes Public Engagement, Managing the World Partnership Walk and Golf tournaments and Relationship Management in Victoria and Vancouver, BC.
zahed@akfc.ca



Prevent • Act • Support

AIDS VANCOUVER

Monica Freudenreich | Community Engagement Supervisor

AIDS Vancouver's mission is to alleviate individual and collective vulnerability to HIV and AIDS through support, public education and community-based research. Our strategic intent is to Prevent-Act-Support. Since 1983, AIDS Vancouver (AV) has been providing programs and services delivering education, support and direct care to people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA). These programs have evolved to accommodate the constantly shifting challenges of HIV/AIDS over the last three decades. Some of the programs offered include: case management, community outreach supports, grocery, peer engagement, HIV helpline, and education workshops. AIDS Vancouver works in communities locally, regionally, nationally and internationally with an integrated approach to care, support, prevention and harm reduction.

My passion for HIV work stems from my experience with HIV/AIDS both locally, in Vancouver, Canada and internationally in Quezaltenango, Guatemala. My experience working on the front line of HIV work with inspiring individuals, some of whom were living with HIV and most of whom had lost at least one family member or friend because of HIV, has led me to recognize the value of community based research and meaningful involvement with people living with HIV/AIDS and affected communities (MIPA). Since my experience in Guatemala, I dedicated much of my university studies, volunteer work and now professional career to developing more meaningful partnerships between community and academia. As Community Engagement Supervisor, I work closely with our community program coordinators to provide direction, support and supervision for staff and volunteers and I also oversee daily program activities.
monicaf@aidsvancouver.org



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Don Wright | Regional Coordinator

Amnesty International's vision is of a world in which every person enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments. In pursuit of this vision, Amnesty International's mission is to undertake research and action focused on preventing and ending grave abuses of these rights.

Don Wright is a regional coordinator based at the Vancouver office of Amnesty International. He supports member and group activism, speaks at schools and community events, and works with a variety of organizations to present public events focused on human rights. Don has a master's degree in Adult Education, lives in the West End, and writes a travel blog in his spare time.
dwright@amnesty.ca



THE AFFILIATION OF MULTICULTURAL AND SERVICE AGENCIES

Lindsay Marsh | Program Coordinator

AMSSA is a province-wide umbrella non-profit agency that strengthens its 75 member agencies, who serve immigrants and build culturally inclusive communities, with the knowledge, resources, and support they need to fulfill their mandates. Established in 1977, AMSSA fosters a culture of support by facilitating collaborative leadership, knowledge exchange and stakeholder engagement. AMSSA works in three key areas: settlement & integration, diversity & inclusion, and diversity health. Our vision is one of a just and equitable society in which everyone benefits from social and economic inclusion. To learn more, please visit www.amssa.org

Lindz Marsh has dedicated her career to fostering inclusive workplaces and communities. While working at AMSSA and in collaboration with non-profit agencies, post-secondary institutions, and city governments, Lindsay has managed the national Safe Harbour: Respect for All diversity program in over 1,000 participating locations in 45 communities across Canada. Lindz has developed curriculum, facilitated interactive workshops, and planned major events to bring together leaders in diversity and inclusion. She completed her MA in Intercultural and International Communication in 2012 and believes that values-based leadership, coupled with intercultural communication competence, will lead to inclusive and resilient workplaces and communities.
lmash@amssa.org



BCCLA

Josh Paterson | Executive Director

The BC Civil Liberties Association's purpose is to promote, defend, sustain, and extend civil liberties and human rights. The BCCLA was established in 1962 and is the oldest and most active civil liberties group in Canada. Our mandate is to preserve, defend, maintain and extend civil liberties and human rights in Canada. We achieve our mandate through our Advocacy in Action, Public Policy, Community Education, and Justice programs. The BCCLA is an autonomous, non-partisan charitable society. We are funded by the Law Foundation of B.C. and by citizens who believe in what we do.

The BCCLA works to protect people in Canada from human rights violations, civil liberties restrictions, and discrimination. Josh's legal career has always focused on human rights issues. He got his start as the Director of the Freedom of Expression, Equality and Dignity Project at the Canadian Civil Liberties Association in Toronto. After moving to Vancouver, he worked in labour law, and then as the Aboriginal and Natural Resources Lawyer at West Coast Environmental Law, where he led that organization's highly effective legal work protecting the rights of people in northern BC and on the coast. Josh holds law and master's degrees from the University of Toronto.
josh@bccla.org



BC COALITION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Jane Dyson | Executive Director

The BC Coalition of People with Disabilities (BCCPD) was founded in 1977 and is a provincial not-for-profit organization. BCCPD's mission is to support people with all disabilities to live with dignity, independence and as equal and full

participants in the community. We strive to fulfill this mission through our services, programs, community partnerships, advocacy, research and publications.

Jane Dyson has been with the BC Coalition of People with Disabilities (BCCPD) since 1998. She has been the Executive Director for nearly 5 years. Jane has been responsible for the management of many projects and community initiatives designed to enable people with disabilities to live with dignity and independence in their communities. She played a leadership role in founding the Disability Without Poverty Network which published a paper in July 2012 demonstrating the inadequacy of BC's provincial disability benefits rates. Jane also works closely with key stakeholders in the custom transit field. Jane is on Board of the Nidus Personal Planning Resource Centre and Registry, and is a member of the Vancouver Foundation's Disability Supports for Employment Advisory Committee and the Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness. Jane has a Masters Degree in Political Science from Simon Fraser University.
jwd@bccpd.bc.ca



CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DU CANADA
Vancouver Branch | Section Vancouver

CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL
Valerie Shapiro | President

The Canadian International Council (CIC) is Canada's foreign relations council. It is an independent, member-based council established to strengthen Canada's role in international affairs. The CIC reflects the ideas and interests of a broad constituency of Canadians who believe that a country's foreign policy is not an esoteric concern of experts but directly affects the lives and prosperity of its citizens. The CIC uses its deep historical roots, its cross-country network, and its active research program to advance debate on international issues across academic disciplines, policy areas, and economic sectors. The CIC's digital media platform, OpenCanada.org, is Canada's hub for international affairs. The CIC's research program is managed by the national office in Toronto. Its 16 branches across Canada offer CIC members speakers' programs, study groups, conferences, and seminars.

Valerie Shapiro is President of the Canadian International Council, Vancouver Branch, and past executive member and Chair of Events Planning, Women Lawyers Forum (WLF), Canadian Bar Association British Columbia. Her legal career has involved work as a solicitor in private law firms, as in-house counsel in government and a crown corporation and legal consulting. She also brings a results-focused and people-oriented leadership style.
vancouver@opencanada.org



CODEVELOPMENT CANADA

Barbara Wood | Executive Director

CoDevelopment Canada is a B.C.-based NGO that works for social change and global education in the Americas. Founded in 1985 by a group of activists who wanted to go beyond financial aid, CoDev builds partnerships between like-minded organizations in Canada and Latin America to foster learning, social change, and community empowerment. These partnerships educate Canadians about Latin America and allow them to directly support the region. Such connections build solidarity, mutual understanding and ultimately improve prospects for a fairer global order. Our partners work to promote gender equality, human rights and labour rights.

Barbara has been involved in solidarity, human rights and development work related to Latin America for more than 25 years. Her work experience includes time with the Latin American Working Group (LAWG) and the Inter-Church Committee on Human Rights in Latin America (ICCHRLA) in Toronto. In the early 90's, Barbara was a CUSO cooperant in Nicaragua, working with a local human rights organization to begin a program on women's human rights. On return to Canada, she completed a MA in Latin American Studies at SFU focusing on women's human rights and gender equality. bwood@codev.org



FOREST ETHICS

Sven Biggs | Campaign Organizer

ForestEthics Advocacy Association was founded in April 2012 to conserve and protect the natural environments of Canada while allowing for their sustainable use. ForestEthics Advocacy is able to devote an unlimited amount of its time and resources to environmental advocacy, to ensure that destructive projects and weakened environmental laws are vigorously and successfully opposed. We achieve our goals by: Advocating for industry-wide changes in the extraction, purchasing and sourcing of natural resources, Advocating for large scale, legislated protection of endangered forests and wild places, Educating and informing the public by providing workshops, seminars, and publications, Co-operating with governments and with other persons, societies, corporations and organizations in furtherance of these purposes.

Sven joined ForestEthics Advocacy in February of 2013, bringing with him more than a decade of community and online organizing experience. As

Campaign Organizer he will be playing a leading role in the organization's work to build community opposition to pipeline and tanker proposals, and to work towards a tar sands free future. Born and raised in London, Ontario, Sven came west in late 1999 and quickly fell in love with British Columbia's big trees and wild coastlines. Before joining ForestEthics he worked as Campaign Director at Tanker Free BC and as the Wilderness Committee's Director of Outreach. sven@forestethicsadvocacy.org



FREE THE CHILDREN

Helen Chan | Youth Programming Coordinator

Free The Children is an international charity and educational partner that believes in a world where all children are free to achieve their fullest potential as agents of change. In Canada, they work through We Day and We Act to educate, engage and empower young Canadians to become active local and global citizens. Through their holistic and sustainable development model – Adopt a Village – they work to remove barriers to education and to empower communities to break the cycle of poverty.

Helen graduated from Simon Fraser University with a degree in Health Sciences in October 2013. Spending four years learning about different issues around the world and also right in her own backyard, Helen left university fueled to make a difference and help others! Having participated in a number of clubs during university, Helen's most impactful experience was her three years spent in Student Services working with new students and student volunteers. Working hands-on with others, leading workshops, and interacting with passionate students is what kick-started Helen's passion for facilitating and public speaking. At Free The Children, Helen jumped in to do what she loves and started leading Professional Development Sessions, running Action Planning workshops, and doing Outreach Speeches, and engaging educators and student alike in Free The Children's We Act program. This past summer, Helen had the opportunity to lead Me to We trips in Ecuador and Kenya! Helen.chan@freethechildren.com



GORDON NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

Andrew Christie | Community Food Advocate

The mandate of Gordon Neighbourhood House is to support our community by providing relevant programs, fostering leadership, social inclusion and meaningful opportunities for inter-cultural learning, community dialogue and education. Vision: To work alongside our neighbours, sister organizations and policy makers in achieving the best quality of

life possible for residents of Coal Harbour, the West End and Yaletown. Originally from Toronto, Andrew worked as a professional Chef in top kitchens across the country, promoting sustainability and local eating through his menus and promotions. To deepen his understanding of local food systems, he has worked on organic farms, and volunteered with food justice and anti-poverty organizations. andrew@gordonhouse.org



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Stephani Samaridis | Director Fund Development

Habitat for Humanity Greater Vancouver (HFHGV), an affiliate, was established in 1995 and in 1999 purchased an acre of land in Burnaby from the Provincial Government, where a 27-unit townhome community has been built over 6 phases. The final six families moved into their homes in July 2013. To date, safe, decent, affordable housing has been provided for 31 families including 43 children. The homes are built by volunteers under the direction of a Site Supervisor and funded by individual donations, grants, and corporate sponsorships. Everyone deserves a safe and decent place to live. There is a serious poverty issue in Metro Vancouver as the house price and income gap widens. Nearly 20% of children are raised in poverty in British Columbia, 6% higher than the national average. 50% of families are struggling to decide between groceries and heat. Vancouver is rated one of the world's most unaffordable cities from both the home ownership and rental aspects. A median house price requires 80% of the median household income to service a mortgage and rental accommodation is equally unaffordable. Habitat for Humanity Greater Vancouver is a solution. Habitat for Humanity builds safe and decent homes and provides affordable homeownership as a means to end the cycle of poverty. With no-interest mortgages and payments indexed to 30% of the household income, families can live safely, start to build equity and save for a better future. Our Habitat families are happier (90%), find higher paying jobs (34%) and are more likely to have their children graduate from high school (25%). Importantly, nearly 60% of our Habitat children go on to own their own home within 10 years of moving out of their parent's Habitat home. Families are able to thrive and not just survive.

Stephani Samaridis is the Director, Fund Development for Habitat for Humanity Greater Vancouver. Her role is to work with Community Partners and Donors to facilitate the building of more homes for more families, faster. Stephani has a background in Financial

Services sector prior to moving into the Non Profit world where she worked for Canuck Place Children's Hospice and the Sarah McLachlan School of Music. In both roles she was responsible for numerous signature fundraising events, the implementation of a variety of fundraising strategies and projects along with the stewardship of individual and Community Partners of all sizes. With a passion for leaving a legacy, her work continues as Habitat for Humanity Greater Vancouver looks to increase its visibility and activity in the years ahead. funddevelopment@habitatgv.ca



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Peter Wood | IISD Consultant

The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) is a non-profit organization based in Winnipeg, with offices in New York and Geneva. The Earth Negotiations Bulletin is IISD's main publication, which reports on international negotiations on environment and development issues, and reaches approximately 50,000 subscribers worldwide. The goal is to make international negotiations accessible to the public, in order to ensure transparency and accountability in decision making.

Peter is currently the Director of Conservation for the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (BC Chapter). Prior to this, he worked for Global Witness, a UK-based NGO that investigates and campaigns to prevent natural resource related conflict, corruption and human rights violations. He has also been a Team Leader for the International Institute of Sustainable Development's Earth Negotiations Bulletin. He has worked for a variety of other international organizations, including the United Nations, the Forest Stewardship Council, and Transparency International. He holds a PhD in Forestry from the University of Toronto, and a BA in Environmental Studies from UBC. peterjwood@gmail.com



KIDSAFE PROJECT SOCIETY

Gerhard Maynard | Executive Director

KidSafe began by keeping two schools open, in Vancouver's poorest neighborhoods, for at-risk children during winter break. Today, KidSafe supports over 450 referred, at-risk children annually, and provides services to six Vancouver elementary schools. KidSafe welcomes children from the ages of 5 to 13 for the two months of summer vacation, for spring break, winter break, and for some after school programs. KidSafe is widely recognized as a vital service for vulnerable children and youth in Vancouver.

Gerhard is the Executive Director of the KidSafe Project Society. With a background in organizational development, programming, strategic planning, and people management, he has held positions such as the Regional Manager for Learning Through the Arts in Western Canada at The Royal Conservatory of Music and most recently the Director of Programming at Arts Umbrella in Vancouver. A respected leader in the community, he has also held numerous advisory and committee positions for organizations such as The Actors Fund of Canada, The Dancer Transition Resource Centre, and Made in BC. Gerhard holds a Masters in Leadership from Royal Roads University. Gerhard@kidsafe.ca



LEAVE OUT VIOLENCE SOCIETY

Bruce Passmore | Executive Director

Leave Out Violence (LOVE) Society BC is a violence prevention/intervention organization, with a strong emphasis on addressing systemic violence (i.e. gender-based violence; racism; homophobia; etc.). LOVE uses media arts as a vehicle for youth to find creative and healthy ways to express themselves and to create tools for advocacy and social change. LOVE uses leadership training so that youth can share their skills and lead others to break the cycle of violence. LOVE offers after-school programs and in-school programs, and hosts community events.

Bruce Passmore has a B.Sc. in Wildlife Biology and worked as a biologist for many years, primarily studying large carnivores (e.g. bears, wolves and other charismatic mega-fauna). He also has a Masters in Peace and Conflict Studies, focused on human security and peacebuilding in international conflict settings. Throughout his strange and ever-changing career he has worked in too many jobs, some of which include a secondary and post-secondary educator, actor, ski racing coach, crisis line support worker, and a bunch of other totally unrelated jobs. He's currently employed at LOVE because he wants to say he "works for love." bruce@leaveoutviolence.org



BC NDP

David Eby | MLA

David Eby is the MLA for the British Columbia constituency of Vancouver Point Grey, an area bounded by 16th Avenue and Arbutus Street, west to the water. The constituency includes the University of British Columbia, the University Neighbourhoods, the University Endowment Lands, and the neighbourhoods of West Point Grey and Kitsilano. David is the Advanced Education critic for the BC NDP opposition caucus. An award-winning human rights lawyer, David was the Executive Director of the B.C. Civil Liberties Association prior to his election in May of 2013. He has

appeared at all levels of court in British Columbia, and is credited with significant campaign victories in relation to housing rights and police accountability in BC. David is committed to representing the interests of Vancouver Point Grey's residents and businesses in Victoria. david.eby.mla@leg.bc.ca



OPEN MEDIA.CA

David Christopher | Communications Manager

OpenMedia.ca is an award-winning network of people and organizations working to safeguard the possibilities of the open Internet. We work toward informed and participatory digital policy.

David Christopher is the Communications Manager 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, Canada. david@openmedia.ca



OPTIONS FOR SEXUAL HEALTH

Jennifer Breakspear | Executive Director

To provide comprehensive education, accurate information, support for sexual expression and reproductive choice, and confidential clinical services that help British Columbians enjoy healthy sexuality throughout life.

Jennifer Breakspear is committed to making a difference and this commitment has guided her throughout her life. Jennifer is proud to be the Executive Director of Options for Sexual Health, the largest sexual and reproductive health care provider in Canada, where she leads an innovative health care organization in the delivery of sexual health care and education. Jennifer contributes her time and talents to organizations making a difference locally and around the world. Some of these include; Amnesty International, Canadian Red Cross, Zee Zee Theatre, and Vantage Point. Jennifer is pursuing her Certified Association Executive (CAE) designation through the Canadian Society of Association Executives. In her spare time Jennifer is active in dragon boating as a paddler, steersperson and race official. jbbreakspear@optbc.org



OUT IN SCHOOLS

Jen Sung | Coordinator

Out in Schools is a unique education program that engages youth through

film in the promotion of safer and diverse learning environments, free from homophobia and bullying. Understanding that media, film and other creative art forms are tools that empower youth, we harness the idea that students have the capacity to be changemakers in building safety and inclusivity in their schools and communities. Through film-based presentations, facilitated post-film dialogues and youth filmmaking initiatives, we challenge and inspire students to advocate for equality and human rights by employing creative approaches to addressing social justice issues.

Jen Sung is a lifelong queer-rights advocate and public speaker. She holds a degree in Women and Gender Studies from UBC, specializing in feminist pedagogy, queer theory and media literacy. Jen has been featured on the cover of the Georgia Straight and performed on PechaKucha Night at the Vogue Theatre. She has a penchant for all things colourful and believes everyone has the capacity to change the world through their own creative lenses. In her free time she can be found perusing the aisles of your local grocery store and buying avocados in bulk. jen@outinschools.com



OXFAM
Canada

OXFAM CANADA

Miriam Palacios | Policy and Outreach Officer

Oxfam Canada is an affiliate of the International Oxfam Confederation. Together we are 17 organizations networked together in 94 countries, as part of a global movement for change. We work directly with communities, and we seek to influence those in power to ensure that people living in poverty can improve their lives and livelihoods and have a say in decisions that affect them. We believe that together, people can create a fair world, free of poverty and injustice. A fair world that respects the basic rights of all human beings to: earn a decent living, enjoy basic education and health care, get help in life-threatening disasters, speak out for their rights, be treated as equals.

Miriam Palacios is the Policy and Outreach Officer for Oxfam Canada in B.C. Originally from Guatemala, Miriam has been a tireless human rights activist and advocate. Miriam has helped to educate many people in Vancouver about issues related to Human Rights, Women's Rights, Food and Trade and many other global and local oriented topics related to human rights. In 2008 Miriam was the recipient of the Renate Shearer Human Rights Award and the Gold Award from the Spirit of the Crane for her Community Work on Human Rights. Miriam has a Masters Degree in Latin American Studies from SFU. miriam.palacios@oxfam.ca



PEERNET BC

Romi Chandra Herbert | Co-Executive Director

PeerNetBC has been helping people connect since 1986, providing resources for peer groups and peer-led initiatives. We provide training, resources and support to peer-led initiatives across British Columbia, fostering opportunities for people to learn from each other and make connections. Our workshops include but not limited to, basic and advanced facilitation skills training, anti-oppression, inclusive leadership, team building, decision-making, group development, youth engagement, conflict and communication. Our resources and services are available for community members and groups across British Columbia, including online, rural, First Nations, multicultural and youth engagement initiatives. PeerNetBC is a non-profit, registered charitable organization.

Romi left his home country of Fiji and moved to the Coast Salish Territories when he was 9 due to on-going coups. As a result, social justice became central in his life. 8 years later, he founded the very first Gay/Straight Alliance in BC at his high school in Maple Ridge. Romi has learned much working as a youth worker for queer youth, coordinating sexual health program and anti-racism programs with immigrants and refugees before finding his way to PeerNetBC as a community developer, coordinator and now as Co-Executive Director. He has written curriculum for numerous non-profits, and for Vancouver Coastal Health and City of Vancouver. Romi@peer-netbc.com



QMUNITY

Dara Parker | Executive Director

QMUNITY is BC's queer resource centre – the hub for the lesbian, gay, trans*, bi and queer community program, training and advocacy. We envision a world where all queer people are included and free from discrimination. Our team of skilled professionals deliver many vital social services and programs including: Gab Youth (for queer, questioning and ally youth 25 years of age and under), Generations (for the aging and elder members of our community), Education/Outreach, Volunteer Services, Anti-Violence resources, Coming Out and Social Support Groups, Free Counselling, Meeting Spaces and our 'Out on the Shelves' Library. Dara Parker is a community planner with a focus on inclusion and over 15 years' experience working in social profits and local government. She began her career working in international development and has travelled to 48 countries, spanning five continents. Her CIDA-funded youth engagement work in Lesotho

(Southern Africa), inspired her to return to pursue a Masters in Planning at the University of British Columbia, with a focus on how to build inclusive cities. Dara's notable achievements include: working for Kids Help Phone, the United Nations Association in Canada, the City of Burnaby, and Cuso International. For the last three years Dara has consulted with UN-Habitat on their inaugural Youth Advisory Board, helping mainstream youth participation throughout the organization. Dara volunteers as Co-President of the United Nations Association in Canada Vancouver Board, promoting public engagement on global issues. dara.parker@qmunity.ca



REEL YOUTH

Mark Vonesch | Director

Reel Youth is a not-for-profit, media empowerment project supporting youth, adults and organizations to create and distribute engaging films about the issues they care about most. Our mobile stop-motion animation, video production, music video, and photography programs empower participants to create their own media, engage communities, and play a meaningful role in inspiring positive change. Over the past 9 years, Reel Youth has produced over 1000 films with 4,000 people in BC, Alberta, Yukon Territory, Northwest Territories, Morocco, Vietnam, India and Nepal.

Mark Vonesch is the Founder and Director of Reel Youth, a non-profit project that helps communities produce and distribute films about issues they care about. A skilled film maker, youth worker, and business person, he is passionate about using media to strengthen communities and build a more just and sustainable world. Mark also grew up milking cows, has planted over 2 million trees and almost became an investment banker. mark@reelyouth.ca



United Nations Association in Canada
Association canadienne pour les Nations Unies

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION IN CANADA | VANCOUVER BRANCH

George Somerwill | Director-at-Large

UNA-Vancouver focuses on public engagement in Metro Vancouver, raising awareness on topics such as peace and security, human rights and sustainable development. Each year, UNA-Vancouver recognizes outstanding local people who are making a contribution in the field of international service and understanding through a variety of local awards.

George Somerwill started his career in the media and communications world, working for the BBC World Service for Africa in the early seventies. In 1976, he joined the

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), eventually serving as executive producer of a top daily current affairs radio programme, and spending three years as a producer in the CBC's Paris office. He also worked with the Oil-For-Food Programme, UNICEF, the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), the UN Missions in Sudan (UNMIS), and ended his career in the UN with the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). unacvancover@gmail.com



VANCOUVER ABORIGINAL FRIENDSHIP CENTRE SOCIETY

Robbi Wilson | Program Director

The Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society (VAFCS) was established in 1954 under the BC Society Act as a non profit organization. The Centre is celebrating its 60th year of operation in 2014 and is dedicated to providing quality programs and services to the urban Aboriginal community. The mandate of the centre is to meet the needs of the Aboriginal People making a transition to the urban community. The centre provides programs in health and welfare, social services, human rights, culture, education, recreation, and equality for all genders of Aboriginal People of all age groups.

Robbi Wilson, is Coast Salish from the Tla'amin (Sliammon) First Nation. As a consultant Robbi worked in both the urban and rural First Nation communities to deliver business and wellness services. Robbi has volunteered with First Nation, federal government and non profit organizations and continues to work hard to support people in their personal, educational, employment and cultural aspirations. As the current VAFCS Program Director Robbi oversees VAFCS staff who deliver programming to the VAFCS Elders, Family and Youth. Robbi continues as an active Violence Prevention Educator with the Canadian Red Cross Society (CRCS) and their RespectED Violence Prevention Programs. programdirector1@vafcs.org



WATARI COUNSELLING & SUPPORT SERVICES SOCIETY

Michelle Fortin | Executive Director

Watar is a grass roots community based organization providing counselling and support services to vulnerable youth, families and individuals in Vancouver. Watar focuses on addictions, mental health, health promotion, housing, poverty, gender identity and newcomer struggles across programs and believes in the innate strength of

individuals to change. The organization has been recognized for its innovative approaches to staff health and wellness and has been in operation since 1986.

Michelle Fortin has been working in the community development and social service sector for more than 25 years. As the executive director of Watari Counseling & Support Services, she has the opportunity to engage in everything from agency program development to provincial policy development. Michelle also sits as the co-chair of the City of Vancouver LGBTQ Advisory Committee and President of the Vancouver Dyke March & Festival Society. mfortin@watari.org



WEST COAST LEAF

Kasari Govender | Executive Director

Organizational purpose: West Coast LEAF is the only organization in BC that uses the law to further women's equality. We envision a society in which women are full participants in the social, economic, and political activities of the nation, in which differences are respected and supported by the law and by the state. We work to achieve equality by intervening in strategic test cases that protect or advance Charter and human rights. Our law reform initiatives track legislation affecting the legal rights of women, and we engage with government on related issues. We also deliver public legal education workshops that train people on legal tools and strategies, and we deliver peer-to-peer training for young people on consent, safe relationships, and workplace rights.

Kasari Govender is the Executive Director of West Coast LEAF. In addition, she represents the organization in interventions in equality rights litigation such as the Polygamy Reference, and was the co-author of the 2012 report entitled "Blueprint for an Inquiry: Lessons from the Failures of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry". Before joining West Coast LEAF, Kasari practiced constitutional, equality and aboriginal law. She earned her degree in law from the University of Victoria, and her Master's Degree in International Human Rights Law from the University of Oxford. She sits on the Board of Pivot Legal Society, and she co-chairs the Coalition on Public Legal Services. exec@westcoastleaf.org



WORLD FEDERALIST MOVEMENT CANADA

Vivian Davidson | President

The World Federalist Movement started in Europe after the devastation of WWII. As World Federalists we recognize that we face problems that are globalized in their effects and dimensions such as those dealing with security, the environment

and that nations as defined today do not have the ability and or willingness to solve complex problems of global nature; we see the status quo as no longer an option; as such, our mission is formation of a democratic world federal government with the means to apply the rule of law to deal with issues of global concern. We meet every third Thursday at 7:30 pm at the Unitarian church at oak and 49th.

I graduated from UBC with a Major in International Relations and a Minor in Political Science and have special interest in international development and sustainability. Since young I have had a keen interest in all things related to international issues and am an advocate for a wide range of topics including the environment, democracy and human rights. I have volunteered with many organizations dealing with diverse issues including Amnesty International, the Wildlife Rescue Association, United Nations British Columbia and of course the World Federalists of which I am current Vancouver branch President. Here I have had the honour of working with an amazing group of passionate, dedicated and experienced group of people endeavouring to make this world more equitable, just and peaceful. vdavidsonc@gmail.com



YWCA METRO VANCOUVER

Chantelle Krish | Manager, Advocacy and Public Relations

With the vision of Achieving Women's Equality, YWCA Metro Vancouver is a registered charity providing a range of integrated services for women and their families, and those seeking to improve the quality of their lives. From early learning and care to housing, health and fitness, employment services and leadership, YWCA Metro Vancouver touches lives in our communities.

With a passion for social justice and communications, Chantelle understands the important connection between public opinion and public policy. Her experience in the private and non-profit sectors has enabled her to successfully connect with multiple stakeholders and raise awareness about issues affecting some of the most vulnerable populations in Canada. Chantelle has led local initiatives to educate youth about media literacy and gender equality. Recently, she was invited to attend a conference on youth engagement at the United Nations where she advised UN staff on communications strategies for authentic youth engagement relating to UN initiatives. She has created and executed campaigns highlighting the high prevalence of violence against women in society and has been successful in affecting policies to support marginalized women and their families leaving abusive relationships. She is a social advocate, a born communicator and a strong believer in the power of just one action to start a movement. ckrish@ywcavan.org

