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MEET THE KEYNOTES.

RANIA EL MUGAMMAR

Artist, Anti-oppressive practice Consultant & Liberation Educator

Rania El Mugammar is a Sudanese Artist, Liberation Educator, Anti-oppression Consultant, multidisciplinary performer, speaker and published writer.

As a writer, Rania's work explores themes of identity, womanhood, Blackness, flight, exile, migration, belonging, gender, sexuality and beyond. Rania's primary mediums are poetry, spoken word and oral storytelling. She is a published poet, storyteller and playwright. Rania is deeply interested in poetic form and the auditory texture of words as well as the visual/aesthetic impact of language and form.

Rania is an experienced anti-oppression, equity, inclusion and liberation educator and consultant who is unflinchingly committed to decolonization and freedom as the ultimate goals of her work. She has worked extensively with contemporary arts institutions, STEM based enterprises, media organization, educational institutions and community/grassroots spaces. Rania has worked with hundreds of organizations, collectives and institutions engaging over 1,000,000 social justice learners and audience members over the course of her career as an educator, artist and consultant.

DR. MARIE WILSON

Commissioner, Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

Marie Wilson, a Commissioner of the historic Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (2009-2015), has been an award-winning journalist, trainer, federal and territorial executive manager, high school teacher in Africa, university lecturer, and consultant. Fluently bilingual in French and English, she has served as 2016 Professor of Practice at McGill University's Institute for the Study of International Development, and a Mentor for the Pierre Elliot Trudeau Foundation. Ms. Wilson currently sits on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC-Radio-Canada) and the Rideau Hall Foundation. As a prominent public speaker throughout Canada and internationally, she brings acknowledged expertise on the successes and challenges of advancing reconciliation.

Ms. Wilson holds honorary degrees from six Canadian universities, and in addition to several professional awards, is the recipient of the Order of the Northwest Territories, the Order of Canada, and the Meritorious Service Cross. She and her husband, Stephen Kakfwi, have three children and four grandchildren...her most valuable achievements!

DR. RAFAEL PÉREZ-ESCAMILLA

Professor, Epidemiology and Public Health, Director, Office of Public Health Practice, and Director, Global Health Concentration, Yale School of Public Health

Dr. Rafael Pérez Escamilla is a tenured Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health, Director of Office of Public Health Practice and Global Health Concentration at the Yale School of Public Health. He obtained his BS in Chemical Engineering at Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City, and Masters in Food Science, Doctorate in Maternal-Child Nutrition and Post Doctorate in Integrated Early Child Development at the University of California at Davis. He is a world authority on the Baby-Friendly Initiative, breastfeeding peer counseling programs, infant and young child feeding responsive feeding guidelines, and household food security measurement and policies. He has published over 230 research articles, over 300 conference abstracts, and numerous book chapters, and technical reports, and has been invited to deliver close to 300 lectures across world regions. He has been primary advisor to over 100 graduate students, post-docs and visiting scholars from all over the world. He is a former member of the Food and Nutrition Board at the National Academy of Medicine, has served twice in the U.S. Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee, and has been an advisor to maternal-child nutrition programs led by numerous United Nations agencies including UNICEF, WHO and FAO, U.S. Government agencies, and philanthropic foundations. He is past-president of the International Society of Research Human Milk and Lactation and was awarded a Doctorate Honoris Causa by the University of Guadalajara in Mexico in 2016, the Patricia Martens Excellence in Breastfeeding Research Award by ILCA in 2005 and the Ehrlich-Koldovski Young Investigator Research Excellence Award from the International Society of Research Human Milk and Lactation in 1999.

MEET THE SPEAKERS.

PAMELA O'SULLIVAN

Baby Friendly Assessor, Breastfeeding Committee for Canada

Pam is a healthcare professional, RN,BSN, MBA with extensive experience in perinatal and women's health care. She has been an advocate for the Baby Friendly Initiative for many years including as an administrator of a large facility in British Columbia that achieved BF designation for the first time in 2008. Pam is currently one of the Board co-chairs for the Breastfeeding Committee for Canada . She is a baby friendly assessor and enjoys supporting both community and hospitals in achieving BF designation. She is a board director for the Zajac Ranch Society for Children and past Regional Director for the Canadian Association of Perinatal and Women's Health Nursing.

NAIDA HAWKINS

RN, BScN, IBCLC, Population Health Services North Battleford, Saskatchewan Health Authority

Read combined group biography below.

DR. ALMEREAU PROLLIUS

Obstetrician, Gynecologist, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Read combined group biography below.

DR. TIN YEN

MD, FRCSC, Obstetrician, Gynecologist, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Clinical Assistant Professor, College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan, Chair Elect, Saskatchewan Section, American College of OBGYN

Dr. Prollius, Dr. Yen and Naida Hawkins are part of a multidisciplinary team that works to improve outcomes for diabetic mothers and babies. All three of them share a passion for assisting mothers and babies to have the most positive experience possible, from pregnancy right through the post partum experience. This commitment is what has led them to champion antenatal milk expression as a tool to help mothers have an easier time starting and continuing breastfeeding while also banking a store of mothers own colostrum should it be needed. While discussing the title of the presentation they were to give at provincial Grand Rounds, Naida put forth the suggestion “Empowering Women to Meet Their Breastfeeding Goals Through the use of Antenatal and Early Postpartum Hand Expression.” Sensibly, Dr Prollius pointed out that was quite a mouth full and proposed the title “More Milk, Sooner.” All three of them are so excited to be here and share this work with you.

YOLANDE LAWSON

RN, BScN, BSc, MPH(N), IBCLC, Health Promotion Consultant, Best Start, Health Nexus

Yolande Lawson, RN, BScN, BSc, MPH(N), is an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) and presently lives in Thunder Bay, Ontario. She is a Métis woman and has worked across Canada (Northwest Territories, British Columbia and Ontario) and has lived most of her life in northern communities. Yolande has worked for the last 5 years for the BFI Strategy for Ontario as a workshop facilitator and project lead for the development of the BFI Implementation Toolkit, BFI 20-Hour Toolkit, Early and Late Preterm Breastfeeding resource, BFI Video and many more resources. She has worked with many Indigenous communities to help support front line workers with breastfeeding and education and has sat on many local and provincial committees. She presently works with Best Start by Health Nexus as a Bilingual Health Promotion Consultant.

Yolande's passion is to continue working with northern Indigenous communities to increase breastfeeding knowledge and help with the implementation of BFI.

KYLA KAKFWI SCOTT

Project Lead, Primary Health Care Reform, Department of Health and Social Services, GNWT

Kyla Kakfwi Scott (K'asho Got'ine from Fort Good Hope, Northwest Territories) is the Project Lead for Primary Health Care Reform with the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT). In this role she is working to shift the health and social services system to be truly centered on the person (client/patient), their family and community, through a community development approach that enables participation in priority setting, planning, and design and integrates the social determinants of health. She is also the department's lead in the development and administration of the NWT On the Land Collaborative. Kyla is a founding member of Dene Nahjo, an Indigenous leadership collective working to advance social and environmental justice for northern peoples and promote Indigenous leadership. She holds a Master of Public Administration degree from Dalhousie University, and lives in Yellowknife with her husband and two daughters.

KAREN EDOHAI BLONDIN HALL

Senior Advisor, Indigenous Health, Department of Health and Social Services, GNWT

Karen Edohai Blondin Hall is a member of Deline First Nation and grew up in Somba K'e (Yellowknife). She currently works as Senior Advisor, Indigenous Health for the Department of Health and Social Service of the Government of the Northwest Territories. Karen holds a BSc in Health Promotion from Dalhousie University and an MA in Studies in Policy and Practice from the University of Victoria where she focused her studies on Indigenous health inequities, Indigenous ways of knowing, Indigenous health research, and cultural safety. Karen is an alumna of the Jane Glassco Northern Fellowship (2010-2012) and the International Visitor Leadership Program (2016) through the U.S. Government. In 2018, she co-authored a chapter in the book, *Indigenous Research: Theories, Practices, and Relationships* edited by Deborah McGregor, Jean-Paul Restoule, and Rochelle Johnston.

DR. STEPHANIE IRLBACHER-FOX

Scientific Director, Hotì ts'eeda: NWT SPOR Support Unit

Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox, Scientific Director, is responsible for the overall scientific and administrative direction of Hotì ts'eeda. Stephanie grew up in Inuvik, NT, graduating from Samuel Hearne Secondary School. She went on to earn a BA and MA in Political Science at the University of Alberta, and received a PhD from Cambridge University during 2005, where she was a Major Scholar at Magdalene College during her studies.

She is the author of numerous academic books and articles, including Finding Dahshaa: Self Government, Social Suffering and Aboriginal Policy in Canada (UBC Press, 2009), a standard text in Indigenous Studies programs at many Canadian universities. For the past two decades Stephanie has worked for Indigenous peoples' organizations across the NWT on Treaty negotiations and Treaty implementation. She has a long-standing interest in the effects of government policy choices for social determinants of health. She is an Adjunct Professor at Carleton University's School of Public Policy and Administration; is a member of the Board of Directors of the Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies; is on the Editorial Board of Northern Public Affairs Magazine; and, a Member (Federal) of the Gwich'in Arbitration Board.

MICHELLE PENSA BRANCO

MPH, IBCLC, Co-Founder & Clinical Lead, SafelyFed Canada

Michelle Pensa Branco is a lactation consultant (IBCLC). In addition to her clinical practice, she advocates for improved maternal-child health practices at the local, national and global level serving as a consultant and speaker. She is the clinical lead at SafelyFed Canada. As a volunteer, she was a La Leche League Canada Leader for over 10 years, the Communications Director for the Canadian Lactation Consultants Association as well as the Toronto Coordinator of INFACT Canada. She continues to be an active member of the Ontario Public Health Association's Breastfeeding Promotion Working Group and the Toronto Baby-Friendly Network.

JODINE CHASE

Co-Founder & Communications Lead, SafelyFed Canada

Jodine Chase is a strategic communications professional and a long-time breastfeeding advocate working for many maternal and infant health-related causes including advocating for the re-establishment of milk banks, amending policies and legislation to protect breastfeeding rights, and increasing access to midwifery care. She is co-lead of SafelyFed Canada, a national, non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to the protection of infants and young children in emergency through safe and appropriate feeding. Jodine serves on the board of her local breastfeeding advocacy group, the Breastfeeding Action Committee of Edmonton (BACE), which recently implemented a human rights education grant project in her city. She also curates Human Milk News.

JENNIFER SPLAINE

RN, BScN, IBCLC, Alberta Health Services, Area Manager, Population Public Health, Fort McMurray, Alberta

Jennifer Splaine is a registered nurse and IBCLC and currently the Area Manager of Population Public Health in Fort McMurray, Alberta. Along with her team at Public Health, Jennifer is currently leading the only Alberta Health Services community health team towards Baby Friendly designation. She serves on the board of the Alberta

Breastfeeding Committee, as past chair and current secretary, to protect, promote and support breastfeeding through the adoption, implementation and maintenance of the Baby Friendly initiative and its principles. In addition, Jennifer serves on the board of the Breastfeeding Committee for Canada as the provincial representative to Alberta. Following the Fort McMurray wildfire of 2016, Jennifer has collaborated on work to bring infant feeding to the forefront of emergency disaster responses within Alberta

CRYSTAL GAIL FRASER

PhD Candidate, Department of History and Classics, University of Alberta

Crystal Gail Fraser is Gwichyà Gwich'in, originally from Inuvik and Dachan Choo Gęhnjik, Northwest Territories. She is the granddaughter of Marka Andre and Richard Bullock. Crystal is finishing her PhD in Canadian History at the University of Alberta on the history of residential and day schooling in the Northwest Territories from 1959 to 1996. She currently lives on Treaty 6, homeland of the Métis Nation and is learning Dinjii Zhuh Ginjik with her daughter, as part of the #speakgwichintome campaign.

DR. SARA KOMARNISKY

Research Project Manager, Hotì ts'eeda: NWT SPOR Support Unit

Dr. Sara Komarnisky is a settler scholar of Ukrainian heritage. She is a mother to two-year old Ingrid, as well as an anthropologist and author. She currently works as a Research Project Manager with Hotì ts'eeda, leading the renewal of the Government of the Northwest Territories Healthy Family Program. Dr. Komarnisky lives in Yellowknife, on Chief Drygese traditional territory of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation.

Together, Crystal and Sara wrote [150 Acts of Reconciliation](#) in August 2017. Many of these are small, everyday acts that average Canadians can undertake, but others are more provocative and are intended to encourage people to think about Indigenous-settler relationships in new ways. To learn more, please check out their website: <https://150acts.weebly.com/>.

JULIE HALIPCHUK

Clinical Nurse Specialist, Population & Public Health, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority

Julie Halipchuk currently works as a Clinical Nurse Specialist with the Winnipeg Regional Authority's Population and Public Health Program and as a diabetes educator. Her research interests have combined her clinical passions for maternal-newborn care and diabetes in effort to determine associations between aspects of the prenatal, obstetrical and postnatal periods with the development of childhood-onset type 2 diabetes. Julie completed her Master of Nursing from the University of Manitoba and currently leads breastfeeding initiatives for the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority. Julie welcomes all opportunities to support families and to promote breastfeeding, and she is a keen advocate and educator for the baby-friendly initiative.

DR. CHARLOTTE LOPPIE

Professor, School of Public Health and Social Policy, University of Victoria

Dr. Charlotte Loppie (of Mik'maq and Acadian ancestry) is a Professor in the School of Public Health and Social Policy and Research Lead for the Faculty of Human and Social Development, University of Victoria. Over the past 25 years, Charlotte has been invited to partner on research projects with individual First Nation communities as well as regional and national Indigenous organizations. These projects have largely focused on Indigenous health and wellness, issues facing Indigenous peoples living with HIV/AIDS, the social determinants of Indigenous health, racism and cultural safety, Indigenous research ethics and capacity building as well as the sexual and reproductive health of Indigenous women.

DR. LESLEY FRANK

Associate Professor, Sociology, Acadia University

Dr. Lesley Frank is an Associate Professor of Sociology at Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. Her research broadly centres on food and health inequities for families and early childhood and implications for public policy. She is a leading scholar in the relationship between food insecurity and infant feeding practices and the author of the forthcoming book, *Out of Milk: Infant Food Insecurity in a Rich Nation* (UBC Press, Spring 2020) – which explores the experiences of mothers struggling to feed their babies in food insecure circumstances and the implicit failed social safety net of the Canadian state at times of maternity. Dr. Frank is also the long-standing author of the annual Nova Scotia Child and Family Poverty Report Card. Her academic and public sociology work is grounded in several years providing pre-natal and post-natal services to women living in low-income circumstances in rural Nova Scotia.

DR. PERTICE MOFFITT

Manager and Instructor, Health Research Programs, Aurora Research Institute

Dr. Pertice Moffitt is Manager/Instructor, Health Research Programs at the Aurora Research Institute/Aurora College in Yellowknife Northwest Territories. She enjoys teaching nursing research and community health to undergraduate nursing students at Aurora College; and, teaches graduate students by distance as a sessional teacher at Athabasca University. Pertice works internationally as an Honorary Professor with University of the Arctic in Hammerfest Norway where she collaborates in rural and remote education and research. She has lived and practiced nursing in the NWT for over 30 years. She completed an internship as a health science researcher in South Africa in 2011. She received a PhD in Nursing, University of Calgary; MN, University of New Brunswick; BSN, University of British Columbia; and, a diploma in nursing from Victoria Public Hospital, Fredericton, New Brunswick. Her research interest is with

Women and Indigenous health and she has conducted many studies over the lifespan of women using mostly qualitative methods.

MICHELLE LEDREW

RN, BN, MN, CHE, Baby-Friendly Project Director, Breastfeeding Committee for Canada

Michelle LeDrew is currently the National BCC Baby-Friendly Project Director with the Breastfeeding Committee for Canada. She is leading a five-year Baby-Friendly project funded by the Public Health Agency for Canada's Innovation Fund. Michelle has previously volunteered with the Breastfeeding Committee for Canada for 17 years and is a Lead Baby-Friendly Assessor and past co-chair of the BCC Assessment committee and BCC Board. Michelle was an Internationally Board Certified Lactation Consultant from 1999-2009.

Prior to her current position Michelle was the Director, Women's and Newborn Health Program at the IWK Health Centre in Halifax. Her background also includes management positions in Population and Public Health in Halifax and Winnipeg with Health Promotion and Community Health Nursing. She has lived and worked in four provinces and the United States. Michelle is passionate about improving maternal newborn health outcomes and protecting, promoting and supporting breastfeeding.

LISA WOLFF

Director, Policy and Research, UNICEF Canada

Lisa Wolff is Director, Policy and Research at UNICEF Canada. Her mission is to promote public policy and practices in Canada that align with the principles and standards of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. She leverages UNICEF's global strengths including data and innovation and works across sectors with many Canadian partners to advance the rights of Canada's children. Lisa is a member of the Board of Directors of PREVNet. She has a Bachelor of Environmental Studies from University of Waterloo, and a Bachelor of Education and Master of Education from the University of Toronto. Lisa received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal from the Governor-General of Canada in 2012.