

Detailed Program & Speakers

*Access the full biographies at the end of the conference package or by visiting:
<https://icn-rcc.ca/en/spurchange/national-conference/2022-speakers/>

Tuesday, May 17, 2022

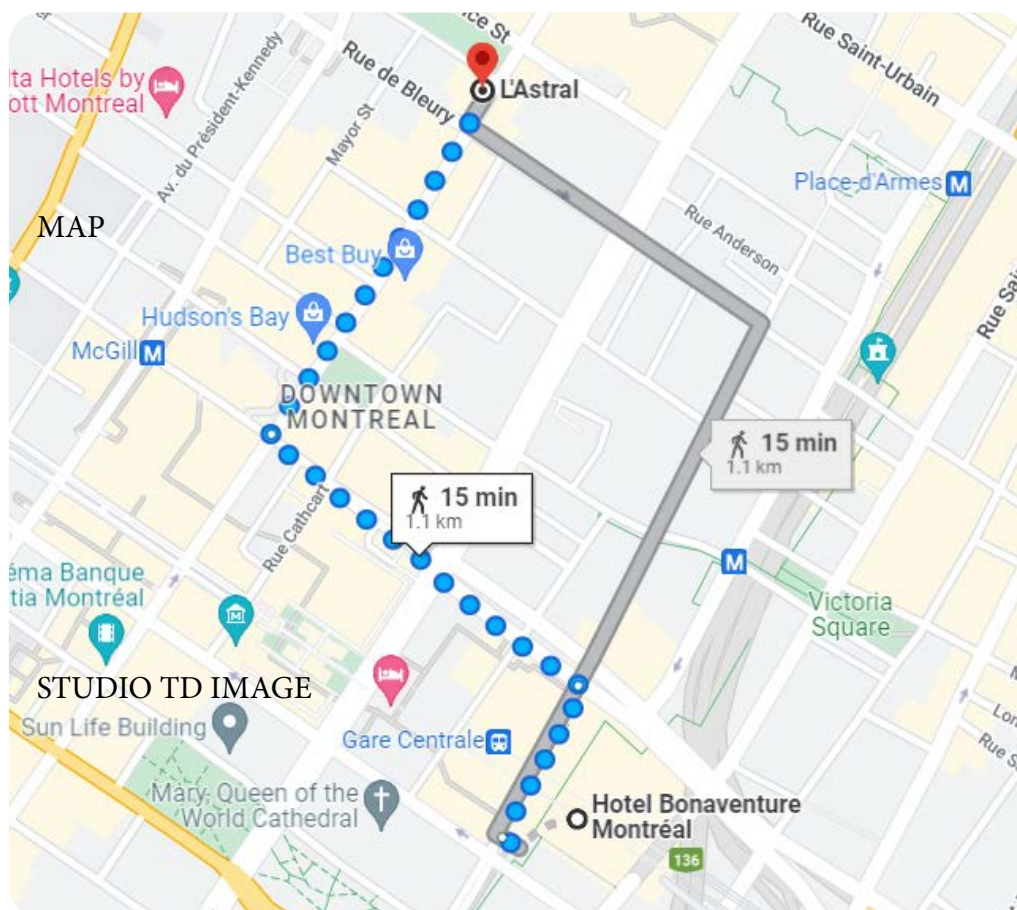
(18:00 - 22:00) Opening Night Event

Location: The Studio TD | Everyone
Formerly L'Astral, overlooking the Place des festivals.
305 Saint-Catherine St West, Montreal, Quebec H2X 2A3

Join us to open the 2022 Spur Change Conference with inspiring words, and in good company. On the menu: dinner, beverages, artistic performances with Karen Young, Kathia Rock, and a feminist choir, plus open mic performances from participants!

Meet in the lobby of Hotel Bonaventure between 17:15 and 18:00 to travel in groups to the venue with other participants--be it a 15 minute walk through Montreal or a short taxi if required.

Complimentary meal provided + Cash Bar onsite.



Wednesday, May 18, 2022

(9:00 - 9:45) Opening Ceremony

Location: MTL 4-5 | Everyone

(9:45 - 10:45) Opening Panel: Peace Beyond the Absence of War

Location: MTL 4-5 | Everyone

We are honored to open the conference with distinguished guests from around the world who are known for their unwavering commitment to peace, life and dignity. And to open the conference in an inspiring and hopeful atmosphere, they will share their vision of peace and we will exchange with them on ways to be in solidarity with communities and groups facing armed conflict or violence, and actions to contribute to peace.

SPEAKERS



Ariane Émond
(Chair)
Independent journalist
and facilitator



Dr. Kenneth Deer
Indigenous Rights
Activist and Chief
Officer, International
Indigenous
Association



Fawzia Koofi
Movement for Change in
Afghanistan Leader



**Jeanne-Marie
Rugira**
Professor and Researcher
in the Department of
Psychosociology and
Social Work at the
University of Québec,
Rimouski

(11:00 - 12:00) Essential Roles of Women in Building Peace

Location: MTL 4-5 | SMOs

In Latin America, the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, women play a fundamental role in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, as well as in the establishment and maintenance of an inclusive, lasting and equitable peace. The essential contribution of women to the establishment of peace was recognized in 2000, when the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1325. This resolution recognizes for the first time the specific crimes committed against women during armed conflicts and stresses the importance of their constructive, full and equal participation at all levels of peace processes. Yet to this day, women's expertise continues to be undervalued, their organizations suffer from chronic underfunding, and they remain largely excluded from peace processes. During this session, we will

discuss the essential role and possible solutions put forward by peaceful activists around the world, the issues and obstacles still to be overcome and ways to act in solidarity.

SPEAKERS



Gisèle Eva-Côté
(Chair)
Senior Gender and
Social Inclusion
Specialist, IMPACT



Jessica Ramos
Podcaster and
contributor, Comité pour
les droits humains en
Amérique latine (CDHAL)



**Dr. Robin
Neustaeter**
Assistant Professor,
Coady Institute



**Thérèse Kulungu
MBungu**
President of the World
March of Women,
Democratic Republic of
Congo

(11:00 - 12:00) Make your Classroom Fair and Green

Location: MTL 6-7 | School Representatives

A participatory session to discuss and exchange in depth on ways, tips and tricks to make the school and the classroom fair, inclusive and ecological, by actively involving students in the process. Your contributions on this topic are welcome!

SPEAKERS



**Utthara
Wanigasekara**
Spur Change Youth
Champion, Ontario



Sarah Newton
Teacher, Begbie View
Elementary

(13:00 - 14:15) Decolonization 101

Location: MTL 4-5 | SMOs

Decolonization is important for everyone and everything! Knowing the colonial roots and legacy of the International Development sector, decolonization is more important than ever in our work. This workshop will break down the importance, meaning, and practice of decolonization as individuals and as organizations. You will have the opportunity to reflect and discuss difficult but important questions in a safe space where open conversation and sharing is encouraged. This workshop will also guide you in looking at the actions you can take in your own decolonization journeys. These actions should stretch and challenge us. They should unsettle us all. Led by a group of Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders at VIDEA, this workshop will be interactive, engaging, and thought provoking. Come with an open mind and readiness to have your perspectives changed.

SPEAKERS



Lili Coyes-Loiselle
Manager of Indigenous
Youth Engagement and
Reconciliation, VIDEA



Deena Watson
Indigenous
Governance Officer,
VIDEA



Sarah Danks
Communication and
Fundraising Officer,
VIDEA



Rachel Barr
Head of Youth
Opportunities and
Leadership, VIDEA

(13:00 - 14:15) Linking Peace and Ecology: A Game of Justice

Location: MTL 6-7 | School Representatives

Here is a workshop with participatory games and presentations, to explore the links between peace and the protection of the environment, natural resources and territory, all from a perspective of justice and equality. The workshop will begin with a classroom role-play to explore the concept of climate justice and its links to other major issues; followed by an exchange between the participants and two guests who will talk about the struggles of communities in the South for the defense of biodiversity, the environment and the territory, and how this is essential to peace.

SPEAKERS (On next page)



Marie-Sophie Villeneuve

(Chair)
Program Officer in Global
Citizenship Education
and Mobilization, AQOCI



Rosalinda Hidalgo

Anthropologist and
activist in defense of
rivers in Mexico and Latin
America , Comité pour
les droits humains en
Amérique latine (CDHAL)



Marie Meloche

Programs Manager,
Jane Goodall Institute of
Canada

(14:25 - 15:30) What have SMOs learned from Covid?

Location: MTL 4-5 | SMOs

This interactive workshop will provide an opportunity for SMO representatives to reflect on and share what they have learned during the COVID pandemic. The workshop will begin with a brief presentation of research that has been conducted by a University of Guelph research team in partnership with the Spur Change program, along with an overview of this year's SMO report highlighting SMOs' adaptation throughout the pandemic. Participants will then discuss their own experiences in small groups and collectively document these experiences on a poster. There will be an opportunity for participants to share their successes, challenges, and adaptation strategies, as well as reflect on the future as they continue to adjust to a "new normal."

SPEAKERS



Andréanne Martel

Spur Change National
Program Director



Andrea Paras

Associate Professor,
Department of Political
Science, University of
Guelph



Heather Dicks

PhD Candidate,
Memorial University
of Newfoundland and
Labrador



Asa Coleman

Master's Student, Political
Science, University of
Guelph

(14:25 - 15:30) Applying Decolonization to Curriculum & Pedagogy

Location: MTL 6-7 | School Representatives

Decolonization is a practice that involves everyone, and it is crucial to prioritize it in school environments for students and staff alike. This session will cover the framework to decolonize instructional practices to restore Indigenous peoples as rightful caretakers of the land. In this session for school representatives, learn from other educators who are actively decolonizing curriculum and pedagogy through presentations and reflective group activities. We will begin by discussing the importance of delivering thoughtful land acknowledgments, and examples will be shared on how to implement land-based learning in your own classes. A dialogue and reflection on creating safe spaces for Indigenous and non-Indigenous identifying students will take place to recognize how to support them in their own decolonization journeys. The importance of creating space for voices from students and the wider community while respectfully engaging with Indigenous community members will also be discussed. Decolonizing curriculum and pedagogy are important parts of the process. Join this session to learn more about decolonial practices to implement in your own schools.

SPEAKERS



Skaydu.û Jules

(Chair)

Spur Change Youth
Champion, Teslin Tlingit
Council First Nations,
Yukon Territory



Arshpreet Gill

(Chair)

Spur Change Youth
Champion, Manitoba



Yvette Jean-Jaques

Principal and Educator,
Echo Dene School



Jessica Rumboldt

Professor, Faculty of
Social and Community
Services, Humber
Institute of Technology &
Advanced Learning

(15:45 - 16:45) Feminist Peacebuilding through Livelihoods and Social Services

Location: MTL 6-7 | SMOs

Peacebuilding goes beyond the absence of conflict, and this session will explore just that. Sustainable livelihoods, food sovereignty, and access to social services such as healthcare and education are all critical to ensure peacebuilding in regions experiencing repression, unrest, conflict, or post-conflict reconstruction. Join this session to learn from other organisations about feminist peacebuilding practices through the implementation of livelihoods and social service supports within their projects. In this session, participants will have the opportunity to ask questions, and discuss topics such as supporting partners during times of conflict, applying informed feminist approaches to sustainable livelihoods, and ensuring gender-sensitive support while implementing social service initiatives. Learn about best practices tied to local contexts while implementing livelihood and social service support in your projects as ways of building peace.

SPEAKERS



Isabelle Hachette
(Chair)
Program Manager, World
Accord



Yogesh Ghore
Strategic Partnerships
Advisor, Coady Institute,
St. Francis Xavier
University



Dr. Shawna Novak
Executive Director,
Canada International
Scientific Exchange
Program (CISEPO)



Oscar Benavides-Calvachi
General Coordinator,
Projet accompagnement
Québec-Guatemala
(PAQG)

(15:45 - 16:45) Not About Me: Good Intentions. Unintended Consequences. Opportunities to do Better.

Location: MTL 4-5 | Anyone

When Morgan Wienberg, a well-meaning Canadian teenager, volunteers at a Haitian orphanage in the aftermath of the 2010 earthquake, her plans take a turn. She is part of an army of NGOs and volunteers with billions in promised aid, all rushing to respond to the disaster. But once on the ground, she begins to see their earnest actions have their own devastating impacts. Centered around the Not About Me documentary, this workshop will provide SMO and educator participants with the opportunity to explore important questions about the ethics of development aid through the lens of children's rights. Participants will learn about the issues around international aid, sustainable development, historical reconciliation, and the imperative to "flip the system" through ethical practices. This workshop will explore how to change mentalities and behaviours, challenging us to rethink how we help and give. Panelists will share a study guide developed alongside the film to provide tools for educators along with their impact campaign focusing on #InformedGenerosity. Attendees will receive a private link to watch the film in advance of the session.

SPEAKERS



Morgan Wienberg
Child & Family
Advocate, Speaker &
Facilitator. Co-Founder &
Executive Director, Little
Footprints Big Steps



Amy Lennon
Digital Co-Producer,
Not About Me



Kelly Milner
Producer, Director,
Not About Me

(16:45 - 17:15) Testimony: Supporting Evacuations of At-Risk Afghans

Location: MTL 4-5 | Everyone

The journey of a Canadian SMO supporting evacuations of at-risk Afghans, including coming to Canada but also other pathways to support evacuations for people in danger like women, human rights activists – through the pathways like a) third country arrangements; b) scholarships; c) advocacy for safe passage of Afghans in the region.

SPEAKER



Murwarid Ziayee

Senior Director,
Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan

(17:15 - 17:30) Closing Activity

Location: MTL 4-5 | Everyone

(18:00 - 19:30) Eat & Greet

Location: Terrasse du Salon Ville-Marie | Everyone

Come chat with other participants from across Canada in a relaxed atmosphere - enjoying some aperitifs and various food stations- in a spacious room with a terrace.

Complimentary meal provided + Cash Bar onsite.



Thursday, May 19, 2022

(8:00 - 8:30) Gentle Morning Yoga

Location: MTL 8 | Everyone

Start this second day by gently activating the energy through breathing and movement, thus inviting more inner peace to settle in you and more awareness and concentration for the rest of the day. No materials or experience required.

(9:00 - 9:45) Opening Session and A Testimony from Ukraine

Location: MTL 4-5 | Everyone

SPEAKER



Olena Suslova

Founder of Women's Information Consultative
Center, Ukraine

**(9:45 - 10:45) Obstacles to Peace and the Causes of Armed Conflict:
A History of Global Violence and Injustice**

Location: MTL 4-5 | Everyone

Peace is much more than the absence of war: this takes on its full meaning when we look at the root causes of war and militarization, which are intimately linked to the major issues relating to human dignity, protection of life, and justice. With our guests from several continents, this panel will discuss the obstacles and structural causes of armed conflict and their relationship to the dynamics of violence, repression and injustice: male/female and gender inequalities, North-South inequalities, systemic racism, exploitation of natural resources, human rights abuses by Canadian company working in Southern countries, etc. An in-depth conversation to better define our objectives and our actions in favor of peace.

SPEAKERS (On next page)



Remie Abi-Farrage
Senior Program
Officer - Global
Programs, Equality Fund



Amani Aruri
Palestinian women's
rights activist



**Javier Antonio
Escamilla
Hernandez**
Global Citizenship
Education Officer,
Comité de solidarité -
Trois-Rivières



Richard Rudashama
Mobilisation Officer,
Development and Peace -
Caritas Canada

(11:00 - 12:00) Supporting 2SLGBTQIA+ Communities Amid Violence to Make Lasting Peace

Location: MTL 4-5 | SMOs

Why is it essential to support 2SLGBTQIA+ people and communities and defend their rights in a context of armed conflict or high vulnerability to repression and violence? What are some particular issues faced by different 2SLGBTQIA+ people and communities in these contexts? Why is this so important in building peace? How can we properly support 2SLGBTQIA+ partners in such contexts? These questions will be explored in depth with speakers, who will discuss, among other things, the work of partners in Afghanistan, Cameroon, Colombia, Guatemala and Pakistan.

SPEAKERS



**Libertad Benito
Torres**
Gender Advisor,
Equitas



Bill Fairbairn
Latin America Program
Manager, Inter Pares



Pierre Mézama
Psychologist and
President, Chambre
Camerounaise des
Acteurs en Psychologie



Umair Ahad
Founder, Pamir
Canadian
Multiculturalism
Council

(11:00 - 12:00) Supporting 2SLGBTQIA+ Students and Queering Curriculum

Location: MTL 6-7 | School Representatives

A key part of peacebuilding includes engaging young people to build a world of peace through encouragement and dialogue in safer and affirming spaces. This session will focus on how to do so by supporting students belonging to 2SLGBTQIA+ communities and breaking gender stereotypes in school environments. Join us for a panel discussion with three educators who are actively Queering classrooms and fostering safer and affirming spaces for Queer students to feel supported and encouraged. This panel discussion will be followed by sharing circles with the selection of one of the following topics to learn more with peers and experts: breaking gender stereotypes at a young age, facilitating Queer-inclusive sexual health education discussions, and supporting Queer students to thrive in safer and affirming spaces. This session provides opportunities to ask questions, share your own experiences, and learn from others to maintain a Queer-affirming environment in your own classroom.

SPEAKERS



Danica Derksen

(Chair)
Teacher & Member
of the Conference
Advisory Committee



Peter Friedrichsen

(Chair)
Spur Change Youth
Champion, Prince Albert,
Saskatchewan



Nichelle Penney

Secondary Social
Studies Teacher,
unceded territory of the
Secwépemc People



Gabrielle Rogers

Classroom Teacher
and GSA Coordinator,
Mi'kmaq Territory



Julie Descheneaux

Doctoral Student in
Sexology, Université du
Québec à Montréal

(11:00 - 12:00 EN | 13:40 - 14:45 FR)

Workshop: Artistic and Collective Approach for Peace

Location: MTL 8 | Anyone

In the company of multidisciplinary artist, cultural mediator and pedagogue Javier Antonio Escamilla Hernandez, come live and experience an artistic and collective creation: who are we, individually, collectively and socially? What are our relationships? How can we build from this the foundations of a just and peaceful society? For Javier, “art is a visual and universal language which makes it possible to ‘summon’ citizens to reflect and to meet in a dialogue of knowledge in order to build together a society which is not limited to the virtual, but which proposes paths that are participatory and democratic.”

SPEAKER



Javier Antonio Escamilla Hernandez

Educator and Multidisciplinary Artist

(13:00 - 13:30) No Peace Without the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

Location: MTL 4-5 | Everyone

Since their appearance in 1945, nuclear weapons have posed a danger to all of humanity. Not only because of their extreme capacity for immediate destruction, but because of the climatic upheavals that their use can cause. Moreover, we have often come close to disaster. All this is known, scientifically established, but almost absent from our consciousness. This danger is not the subject of vast mobilizations, in-depth public debates, or government action plans, as is the case for global warming. And yet, it threatens us just as much. These days, the context of Russia's invasion of Ukraine has reminded us: no real peace is possible as long as nuclear weapons exist.

SPEAKER



Raymond Legault

Spokesperson for *Collectif Échec à la guerre*

(13:40 - 14:45) Testing Innovations to Advance Gender Equality

Location: MTL 6-7 | SMOs

The Fund for Innovation and Transformation (FIT) supports Canadian small and medium-sized organizations (SMOs) testing innovative solutions in partnership with local organizations to advance gender equality and empower women and girls in the Global South. From opportunities, to challenges, and lessons learned, discover what FIT-Funded SMOs and their local partners have experienced while testing their social innovations in complex environments: Add to your understanding of community engagement, gender equality initiatives and testing innovative solutions by attending this facilitated session. In Uganda, Embrace International Foundation is working on improving educational outcomes through self-directed e-learning for special needs children and girls. In Nicaragua, Change for Children focuses on improving educational outcomes through a remote digital database or resources and a training program for teachers. Following the main presentations from these SMOs, there will be an opportunity for Questions and Answers.

SPEAKERS



Christina MacIsaac
(Chair)
Director of Innovation,
Fund for Innovation and
Transformation (FIT)



Lorraine Swift
Executive Director,
Change for Children
(CFC)



Bev Carrick
Executive Director,
Embrace International
Foundation

(13:40 - 14:45) How to Make the Future a more Peaceful Place: Baby Steps from the Classroom to the World

Location: MTL 4-5 | School Representatives

Between global conflicts and pandemics, it seems impossible to know what might come next week. The future is a Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, and Ambiguous place. Roy Norris will take us through an understanding of the VUCA model as it applies to teachers. After this theoretical component, Kevin Lopuck will explore practical ways to create dialogical spaces in classrooms that help foster democratic citizenship and help us move toward a more peaceful place. Let's talk, listen, and learn from each other.

SPEAKERS (On next page)



Marthe Leclerc

(Chair)
Retired Teacher and
Member of the
Conference Advisory
Committee



Richard Grenier

(Chair)
Deputy Director, Comité
de solidarité - Trois-
Rivières



Kevin Lopuck

President, Manitoba
Social Sciences Teachers'
Association



Roy Norris

Learning support teacher
with the Louis Riel School
Division

(15:00 - 16:15) Peace Tools and Resources Fair

Location: MTL 1-2-3 | Everyone

In this resource-fair workshop, around 10 specialists, educators or representatives of small and medium organizations, will present tools and techniques that they use to promote peace in their school or with the public. During this session, you will be able to choose three to four workshops that you want to participate in to learn more about the tools and resources presented! What a great way to be better equipped to promote peace in your own community!

SPEAKERS

Tamara Larson | Peace Literacy Canada

Élise Dagenais | Réseau Outils de paix

Robyn Dalton | Love Canada

Tanya St-Jacques | CSSMB Enfants-du-Monde School

Dominique Bernier et Tommy Bureau | Mouvement ACTES

Hannah Slomp | Secondary School Teacher (Vancouver Island)

Richard Grenier | Comité de solidarité - Trois-Rivières

Patrice Labelle, Catherine Durot, Sabrina Lefebvre | La Mosaïque Elementary School

Raymond Legault | Collectif Échec à la guerre

(16:15 - 17:00) Closing Activity

Location: MTL 4-5 | Everyone

Showcasing collective art pieces, call to actions, and participatory evaluation.