

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

FRANKLIN MILLER

Tehahenteh (Franklin Miller) is Mohawk Turtle Clan from Six Nations of the Grand River. His first career was in art and advertising and proprietor of an advertising studio in Toronto, before getting involved with Mohawk Language. In 1992 he went back to university to get his Native Language Diploma for teaching and later his Ontario Teaching certificate. He first taught in elementary schools and then began teaching in the Adult Immersion Program, and he currently lectures at Brock, McMaster, and Wilfred Laurier University. This year he is teaching two university programs and tutors teachers at two Native Immersion programs. He is also working with Grand River Polytechnic, developing teaching curriculum for teachers of Language, Culture and History of the Six Nations People.

SANDY HUDSON

Sandy founded Black Lives Matter – Toronto in 2014. The organization is resolutely committed to Black liberation through a trans-feminist lens, and has secured victories across the province after two years of very public direct action strategies. As a result of some of her efforts, the province's Special Investigations Unit is under review, the province committed to eliminating carding and changes are occurring at Pride Toronto to meet the needs of racialized, indigenous and disabled communities. The organization also runs a summer program for Black primary school-aged children.

As a graduate student at the University of Toronto, she is also a co-founder of the Black Liberation Collective – Canada, a campus-based extension of the Black Lives Matter movement. With chapters on campuses from the University of British Columbia to Carleton University, the organization has already secured significant victories from the University of Toronto.

Sandy makes regular appearances in the media to discuss race issues and has had pieces published in the Toronto Star, Huffington Post and TVO.org. Her contributions to two volumes; Upping the Anti and New Framings on Anti-racism are to be published this year."

BONNIE BRAYTON

A recognized leader in both the feminist and disability movements, Bonnie Brayton has been the National Executive Director of the DisAbled Women's Network (DAWN) Canada since May 2007. During her tenure with DAWN Canada, Ms. Brayton has worked diligently to highlight key issues that impact the lives of women with disabilities in regards to health equity, housing, employment and violence.

In 2014, as part of Canada's 150th year Celebration of the Charlottetown Conference Ms. Brayton was named a Visionary, one of 23 Women in Canada, and in January 2015 was named one of Canada's 40 Women Change Makers by Canadian Living Magazine. In 2016, she was appointed for a two-year term as a member of the Federal Status of Women Minister's Advisory Council on Gender-Based Violence.

Ms. Brayton's is also the President of Coup de Balai – Clean Sweepers, an innovative social enterprise which provides home care services to people with disabilities and seniors in her Montreal community while creating employment, income and job security for women who were previously unemployed (primarily, immigrant and racialized women).

Ms. Brayton lives in Montreal with her partner Delmar Medford. She has two adult daughters, Leah and Virginia.

MANON MASSÉ

Manon Massé has been actively involved in the feminist, community and global justice movements since the 1980s. She helped to organize the Bread and Roses—Women March against Poverty in 1995, and the Women’s World March to End Poverty and Violence in 2000. In the summer of 2011, she participated in the Freedom Flotilla II and represented Québec solidaire on the Canadian Boat to Gaza, a humanitarian project attempting to break the Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip. Ms. Massé has been a Québec solidaire MP in the riding of Sainte-Marie—Saint-Jacques since 2014.

AMIRA ELGHAWABY

Amira Elghawaby obtained an honours degree in Journalism and Law from Carleton University in 2001. Since then, she has worked as both a full-time and freelance journalist, writing and producing stories for a variety of media including CBC Radio, the Ottawa Citizen, the Toronto Star and The Globe and Mail.

In 2012, she joined NCCM as Human Rights Coordinator to advocate for the human rights & civil liberties of diverse communities. In 2015, Amira became NCCM’s Communications Director in which she leads the NCCM’s media relations, public engagement and strategic communications.

SAMIAN

A member of the Abitibiwinni First Nation, Samian was born in Amos and grew up in the community of Pikogan in Abitibi-Témiscamingue and in several other cities in the province of Quebec. His father is Québécois and his mother is Algonquin. He was first noted by participating in the Wapikoni film project in 2004 and would later perform on stage with the Quebec Rap group Loco Locass.

In 2005, Samian collaborated on several projects with Canada's National Film Board, the Department of Indian Affairs and HARRO décrochage scolaire (school dropout Network), AIDS and problems related to compulsive gambling.

In 2006, he won first prize for best music video for his clip Courage at the United Indigenous Peoples Festival in Pau, France. The same year, he met with Anodajay and wrote the song "La Paix des Braves", which referred to the agreement signed respecting a new relationship between the Cree Nation and the Government of Quebec.

In 2014, Samian also took part in a program which was broadcast on APTN titled Le Rythme. Alongside Dany Bédar, Samian was the mentor of several Aboriginal musicians, singers, writers and performers, aged 18 to 30, guiding them through an artistic journey of intensive training, ultimately leading them to the recording of their first album as a group.

For the last few years, Samian has been focusing on photography and his exhibit entitled « Enfants de la terre » (children of the earth) has been shown in several communities across Québec.