

**HUMAN  
RIGHTS**

**COMPETING  
RIGHTS**

**EMERGING  
RIGHTS**

# **2014 OPSEU Human Rights Conference Program**



November 7, 8, and 9 at the Eaton Chelsea

# OPSEU STATEMENT OF RESPECT

Harassment or discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated at OPSEU functions.

Whenever OPSEU members gather, we welcome all peoples of the world. We will not accept any unwelcoming words, actions or behaviours against our union members.

We accord respect to all persons, regardless of age, political affiliation, including people of colour, women, men, First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, members of ethno-racial groups, people with disabilities, gays, lesbians, bisexual, transgender/transsexual people, and gender diverse persons, francophones and all persons whose first language is not English.

In our diversity we will build solidarity as union members.

If you believe that you are being harassed or discriminated against, contact Elizabeth Ha (Advisor) or Fridmar Facunda (Equity Officer) for immediate assistance.

## GOALS OF THE 2014 OPSEU HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

- ask questions on current human rights trends and on competing and emerging rights;
- participate in the use of table discussions and e-polling as a new and interactive way of conference participation;
- talk about the important role we each play in advancing our human rights work in our union and communities;
- understand that one person can truly make a difference;
- gain a better understanding of the importance of our human rights work in building a union that continues to be strongly connected to human rights advocacy and global solidarity;
- confidently speak about what they have learned from the conference to their local; and
- approach and connect with at least one (1) person in their local or community who has a keen interest in human rights.

# HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE PROGRAM AGENDA

## Friday November 7, 2014

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
5:00 to 7:00 PM	Registration and Welcome Speakers Corner	Outside the Mountbatten Salon Mountbatten Lane
5:00 PM	Smudging Ceremony	Mountbatten Salon
7:00 to 7:45 PM	Introduction to the Conference, President's Welcome & Introduction to e-polling	Mountbatten Salon
7:45 to 9:00 PM	Guest Speaker – Cheryl Perera (OneChild) and Question Café	Mountbatten Salon

## Saturday November 8, 2014

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
7:00 AM	Smudging Ceremony	Outdoor courtyard patio at the east entrance of the hotel
8:00 to 9:00 AM	Registration	Outside the Mountbatten Salon
9:00 to 9:10 AM	Conference Re-Opening	Mountbatten Salon
9:10 to 10:15 AM	Panel Discussion with Chris Ramsaroop, Paul Champ and Anya Kater	Mountbatten Salon
10:15 to 10:30 AM	Break	
10:30 to 11:45 AM	Question Café with Panelists	Mountbatten Salon
11:45 to 12:00 PM	Morning Wrap-up	Mountbatten Salon
12:00 to 1:30 PM	Lunch (not provided)	
1:30 to 2:00 PM	Welcome Back and Human Rights Resources on the OPSEU Website	Mountbatten Salon
2:00 to 3:15 PM	Keynote Address	Mountbatten Salon
3:15 to 3:35 PM	Break	
3:35 to 4:35 PM	Entertainment with Rosina Kazi and Murr	Mountbatten Salon
4:35 to 7:00 PM	Dinner (not provided)	
7:00 to 8:30 PM	OPSEU and International Solidarity – Presentations by Obispo Rosales Yax and OPSEU activist Peter Thompson	Mountbatten Salon

## Sunday November 9, 2014

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
7:00 AM	Smudging Ceremony	Outdoor courtyard patio at the east entrance of the hotel
9:00 to 9:15 AM	Conference Re-Opening and Video Presentation	Mountbatten Salon
9:15 to 10:15 AM	Screening of Documentary: 3rd World Canada	Mountbatten Salon
10:15 to 10:30 AM	Break	
10:30 to 11:20 AM	Q&A and e-polling with filmmaker Andrée Cazabon and youth from Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwig (KI)	Mountbatten Salon
11:20 to 11:45 AM	Taking it Back Home: I Make a Difference	Mountbatten Salon
11:45 to 12:00 PM	Conference Evaluation, Closing Comments	Mountbatten Salon
12:00 PM	Smudging Ceremony	Mountbatten Salon

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

## ABOUT THE GUEST SPEAKERS

### Cheryl Perera



Cheryl Perera began speaking about the horrors of child sexual exploitation and sexual tourism in high school at the age of 16, after reading about it for a school project. Soon after, she traveled to Sri Lanka, where she went undercover as a decoy in a sting to nab a pedophile. There, she was able to talk to the children themselves, hear their stories. When she asked them how she could help, they responded, "Tell my story."

Upon her return, she vowed to do just that. She mobilized the Canadian Travel and Tourism Industry to get involved in the fight against Child Sex Tourism, and she started OneChild Network and Support Systems Inc., an organization created and run by young people dedicated to ending the commercial sexual exploitation of children around the world. They made an in-flight video for Air Canada that warns all outbound international passengers against child sex tourism. This video is seen by over 400,000 people a month.

Cheryl's passion and inspiration have touched more than 20,000 young people as she's traveled the world, speaking out for the protection of children. The problem of child sexual exploitation is world-wide, and if young people around the globe, working with the model Cheryl created with OneChild, get involved in working to end child sex trafficking and tourism, they can make a difference.

### Paul Champ



Paul Champ is a human rights and labour lawyer in Ottawa. He regularly represents individuals and trade unions as well as organizations such as Amnesty International, the BC Civil Liberties Association, the Council of Canadians with Disabilities, the Elizabeth Fry Society, and the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society. Paul and his clients have established legal precedents in Charter rights, privacy, occupational health and safety, discrimination, prisoners' rights, corporate accountability for abuses in foreign countries, and access to information. In 2010, Paul was the recipient of the Reg Robson Civil Liberties Award and in 2013 he was honoured by

the International Commission of Jurists with the Walter S. Tarnopolsky Human Rights Award for outstanding contributions to domestic and international human rights.

### Anya Kater



Anya Kater has a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Toronto, where she specialized in social policy development. Anya has been with the Ontario Human Rights Commission since 2003, when she started as a human rights investigator. Since becoming a Senior Policy Analyst, she has done work in a number of different areas, including human rights and affordable housing, special programs, policing, and pregnancy. Most recently, she led the development process for and co-wrote the Policy on preventing discrimination based on mental health disabilities and addictions.

## Chris Ramsaroop



Chris Ramsaroop is an organizer with Justicia for Migrant Workers (J4MW), a grassroots collective of community, labour and migrant activists. J4MW has chapters in Ontario and BC and works with migrant workers employed under Canada's Temporary Foreign Workers Program.

## Obispo Rosales Yax and PLSM



OPSEU Social Justice Fund and Horizons of Friendship present: Guatemalan educator, Obispo Rosales Yax and the struggle for access to Indigenous education in Guatemala

PLSM works with unionised teachers in Guatemala and with other civil society organizations regionally to ensure that Indigenous children have access to education in both their Indigenous language and Spanish. Currently, through their grassroots networks of intercultural bilingual teachers, PLSM reaches over 17,000 children. They are a great example of how a grassroots organization can have a large impact.

## Peter Thompson



Peter Thompson is an OPSEU member who works for the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC). He started work in the Assessment Department in 1989 in the Toronto office and then moved to full time employment in Windsor.

For many years he has been actively involved in his community and has been involved in the labour movement for 20 years, which includes working on various committees and caucuses. Currently, Peter is the Chair of the Workers of Colour Caucus (WOCC). In 2012, he was part of an OPSEU delegation to Southern Africa.

## Andrée Cazabon



Andrée Cazabon is a Gemini nominee and inspirational speaker whose films have amassed over 1 million viewers on CBC- Newsworld, TVA, Canal D, Radio-Canada, and CBC Television.

Her films have also prominently featured at several film festivals, including: The Vancouver Film Festival, the Sudbury Film Festival, the Toronto Blue Light Film Festival and the Yorkton Film Festival. In 2006, her documentary *Wards of the crown* received an award for 'Best social-political documentary' at the Golden Sheaf Awards.

Her work in her community as youth advocate has not gone unnoticed by the media either. Her work has been featured on Canada AM, the Vicky Gabreau show, and CTV.

Andrée's activism also involves offering professional development through her films and speaking at a number of conferences across North America. Her professional memberships include the Documentary Organization of Canada DOC - (Ottawa- Gatineau chapter) and the Francophone FRIC - Front des réalisateurs indépendants du Canada.

Andrée is also a passionate volunteer on youth-at-risk and youth in foster care projects. Championed by the Senators Foundation and the Max Keeping Foundation, She has helped raise over \$360,000 for youth in care.

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## ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

### Rosina Kazi and Murr



Rosina Kazi is a Toronto-based Bengali singer, poet and activist. She performs solo as well as with her band LAL. Rosina's performances are a mixture of song, poetry and spoken-word that also incorporate interaction with the audience. She is widely known as a musician with a deeper social message.

Born in Barbados, Murr is a composer and producer of electronic music. He is a member of the band LAL and the music production company Da Grassroots.

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## ABOUT THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

### Eve Haque



Eve Haque is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies at York University who brings a history of community activism to inform her current academic work. She has also served as co-chair of the Equity and Diversity Council at the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT). Eve's research and teaching interests include multiculturalism, white settler nationalism and language policy, with a focus on the regulation and representation of racialized im/migrants in white settler societies. She has published in such journals as *Critical Ethnic Studies*,

*Social Identities*, and *Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development* among others. She is also the author of, *Multiculturalism within a Bilingual Framework: Language, Race and Belonging in Canada* (University of Toronto Press, 2012).