

**RECLAIMING
FEMINISM**

the **F**
word

**WOMEN'S
CONFERENCE**

NOVEMBER 6-8, 2015

**CHELSEA HOTEL
DOWNTOWN TORONTO**



**Provincial
Women's
Committee**

Statement of Respect

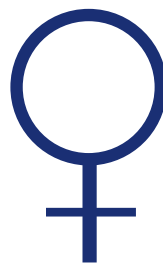
Harassment or discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated at OPSEU functions.

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 (Advisor), or Libby Zeleke (Human Rights Officer) for immediate assistance



OPSEU
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Goals of the 2015 OPSEU Women's Conference

Overall Goal: To educate and raise awareness about how women can engage in activism in an age of fight back to reclaim feminism.

SOME OF THE KEY GOALS OF THE CONFERENCE INCLUDE KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS OF:

- **What feminism is and its history**
- **Key feminist issues confronting women**
- **Different ways to practice and advocate feminism**
- **Differences in feminist practice and advocacy**
- **How to continue the fight back and organize as feminists and activists**



Friday, November 6, 2015

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.	Registration	Outside the Mountbatten Salon
5:00 - 9:00 p.m.	International Marketplace	Mountbatten Lane
5:30 - 6:00 p.m.	Smudging (Optional)	Mountbatten Salon
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.	Dinner	On your own
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Plenary : Feminism Present and Future <i>Septembre Anderson, Heather Jarvis, Farrah Khan and Naomi Sayers</i>	Mountbatten Salon
9:00 - 9:15 p.m.	Regional group photos	Mountbatten Salon

Saturday, November 7, 2015

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
Sunrise - 7:30 a.m.	Smudging Ceremony (Optional)	Outdoor courtyard patio (east entrance of the hotel)
8:00 - 9:30 a.m.	Breakfast	On your own
9:30 - 10:00 a.m.	Welcome to the Conference Message from <i>President Smokey Thomas, 1st VP/Treasurer, Eddy Almeida and EBM, Deb Tungatt</i>	Mountbatten Salon
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Key Note Speaker: <i>Judy Rebick</i> The history and possibilities for feminist organizing	Mountbatten Salon
11:00 - 11:15 a.m.	Break	
11:15 - 12:00 p.m.	Question Café and Close of Plenary	Mountbatten Salon
12:00 - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch	On your own
1:30 - 5:00 p.m.	Skills Building and Action Workshops	Fighting Poverty: <i>Baker and Wren</i> Women in Activism: <i>Rossetti and Scott</i> Challenging the Stigma - How to be an Ally to Sex Workers: <i>Carlyle and Turner</i>
5:00 - 7:30 p.m.	Dinner	On your own
7:30 - 9:00 p.m.	Special Presentation: <i>Life on the Line: Women Strike at Eaton's 1984-85</i>	Mountbatten Salon

Sunday, November 8, 2015

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
Sunrise - 7:30 a.m.	Smudging Ceremony (Optional)	Outdoor courtyard patio (east entrance of the hotel)
8:00 - 9:00 am	Breakfast	On your own
9:00 - 9:15 a.m.	Intro and Welcome	Mountbatten Salon
9:15 am - 11:00 a.m.	Film Presentation: She's Beautiful When She's Angry	Mountbatten Salon
11:00 - 11:15 am	Break	
11:15 - 12:30 pm	Catch the Wave: The Future of Feminism: (Action Group Discussions)	Mountbatten Salon
12:30 - 1:15 p.m.	Special Presentation: Truth Is	Mountbatten Salon
1:15 - 1:30 p.m.	Smudging Ceremony (Optional)	Mountbatten Salon

Childcare

TIME	DATE	LOCATION
6:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.	Friday, November 6, 2015	Stevenson/Seymour
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Saturday, November 7, 2015	Stevenson/Seymour
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Saturday, November 7, 2015	Stevenson/Seymour
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Sunday, November 8, 2015	Stevenson/Seymour





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About the Keynote Speaker



JUDY REBICK

A journalist by trade and activist by nature, *Judy Rebick* is leading the charge for social justice through print, broadcast and in person. From 2002 until 2010, Rebick held the Sam Gindin Chair in Social Justice and Democracy, having been appointed to it upon its creation. She is the former president of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, and has led her considerable expertise to Fair Vote Canada and Alternatives, a Quebec-based NGO. In the 1990s, Rebick hosted two national TV shows on CBC and continues as a frequent commentator on the airwaves. She is also the founding publisher of rabble.ca, Canada's most active independent online news and discussion site.

Given *Rebick's* vast experience, it's no surprise her most requested topics discuss equality issues for women, social equity and civic engagement. *Rebick* has designed and implemented employment equity programs, anti-racist training and leadership seminars and can bring effective, real-world strategies to the table that will have a positive impact on your organization. Fluent in English and French, Rebick is originally from the US and also takes a special interest in the social and political issues shaping the American landscape.

Rebick has authored several books, but feels her greatest skill is on the platform, where audiences are consistently impressed by her passion for her topics and her fiery, feisty style. Her personal story is also a must-hear for anyone needing inspiration or encouragement from a strong, successful, female perspective. An orator and activist at heart, *Rebick* is skilled in debate and unafraid to take on the most differing opinions in the advancement of equality and social justice for all.

About the Performers



SATURDAY SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

LIFE ON THE LINE: WOMEN STRIKE AT EATON'S 1984-85

An important piece of Canadian women's labour history has been brought to the stage. *Life on the Line: Women Strike at Eaton's 1984-85* is a play about the six month long strike of 1,500 retail workers against the T. Eaton Company in the grueling winter and spring of 1984-85. It offers an insight into the heart of a women's strike and tells the story of how standing up for themselves transformed their lives both personally and politically

PLAYWRIGHT

Patricia McDermott is a professor in the Social Science Department and the School of Gender, Feminist and Women's Studies at York University in Toronto. She works in the area of gender and socio-legal studies and her academic work has focused on women and unions, equal pay, and women's human rights.

DIRECTOR, CO-PLAYWRIGHT AND COMPOSER

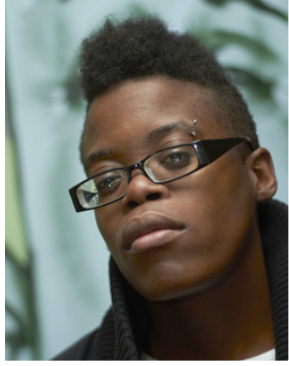
Vrenia Ivonoffski is the founding artistic director of ACT II STUDIO at Ryerson University. She is also on the acting faculty at George Brown Theatre School. She has directed over 40 shows and has written 12 plays which have been performed in theatres across Canada and in the US. She was awarded the Maggie Bassett Award for 2014 by Theatre Ontario for her contribution to theatre in the province

SUNDAY SPECIAL PRESENTATION: SHE'S BEAUTIFUL WHEN SHE'S ANGRY

This film resurrects the buried history of the outrageous, often brilliant women who founded the modern women's movement from 1966 to 1971. *SHE'S BEAUTIFUL* takes us from the founding of NOW, with ladies in hats and gloves, to the emergence of more radical factions of women's liberation; from intellectuals like *Kate Millett* to the street theatrics of WITCH (Women's International Conspiracy from Hell!). It does not shy away from controversies over race, sexual preference and leadership that arose in the women's movement, and brilliantly captures the spirit of the time - thrilling, scandalous, and often hilarious.



**SHE'S BEAUTIFUL
WHEN SHE'S
ANGRY**



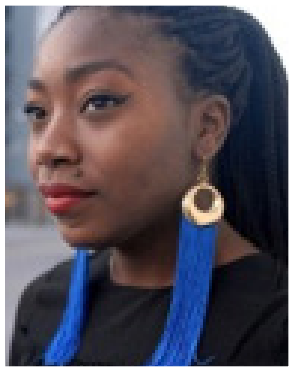
TRUTH IS

Over the years, through poetry and effective communication *Truth Is ...* has dedicated much of their time and all of their self to the betterment of community. They have headlined in several conferences focused on social equity, gender equality, labour safety and youth motivation. They are co-director of not for profit arts organization Guelph Spoken Word and has also been the recipient of the Min Sook Lee Labour Arts Awards.

A great leader and powerful public speaker of our time was noted for using thunderclap rhythm with a distinctive voice, blending ecstasy and despair. That has also been used as a description for the *Truth Is ...* style. Their passion is only surpassed by a desire to explore & express the truth itself and this becomes obvious when their poetry is spoken.

Truth is ... is a multiple time individual slam champion, a 9x national & 7x regional spoken word team member; participating in well over 300 slams and they have graced the prestigious stage of the Annual 'When Sisters Speak' spoken word concerts 4x. In addition to slams and a long list of feature performances across North America *Truth Is...* has also opened up for Canadian Hip-Hop idol K-OS and legendary activist Angela Davis.

About the Panel Speakers



SEPTEMBRE ANDERSON

As a writer, editor, and social and cultural critic with six years of experience in the Canadian journalism industry, *Septembre Anderson* is a force to be reckoned with.

Septembre's published work has covered topics such as fashion, beauty, lifestyle, culture, world issues, current events, social justice and, health and wellness. Her pieces have appeared in publications that include Flare, Metro, Huffington Post Canada, Vice Canada, Complex Canada, OpenFile Toronto, Slice.ca, and Shameless Magazine.

For *Septembre*, writing isn't just a profession but a part of her activism and article topics include Eurocentric dress codes, unrealistic beauty ideals, internships and labour exploitation, call out culture and, mostly recently, the societal discomfort with women's bodies and why some images are scrutinized while others are not.

In addition to her work as a writer and editor, she has also spoken on a number of panels, radio shows and TV programs including CBC Day 6, The Agenda with Steve Paikin, CBC q Radio, Global News, Canadaland Commons the BABBI panel “Three Things Toronto Needs” and the What Makes A Man? Conference.

Find her on Twitter, at @SeptembreA, where she shares her opinions and critical analysis on everything from gender and misogyny to social to fashion and pop culture.



HEATHER JARVIS

Heather Jarvis is a queer feminist activist. With experience in gender studies, social work and community activism she has spent several years supporting and initiating projects around sexuality, gender, education and health, anti-violence efforts and creating safer spaces for support.

As a survivor of sexual assaults, this past year *Heather* was upon hearing a slut-shaming and victim-blaming comment made by a representative of the Toronto Police force when discussing safety. Having had enough, she co-founded SlutWalk in early 2011 – a small idea that began in Toronto to fight sexual violence and has since spread across the world.

Identifying with sex - and body - positive politics, Heather Jarvis constantly aims to shed shame around sex and sexuality. She has a fascination with language and identities, striving to utilize language to interrogate ideas and blend important conversations across oppression, desire and expression. Described as an eternal optimist by some who know her, *Heather* refuses to believe things cannot change. She is determined to continuously work on improving this world through increased respect, consent, understanding and acceptance. Through her politics and her work she has become a speaker, advocate and educator.



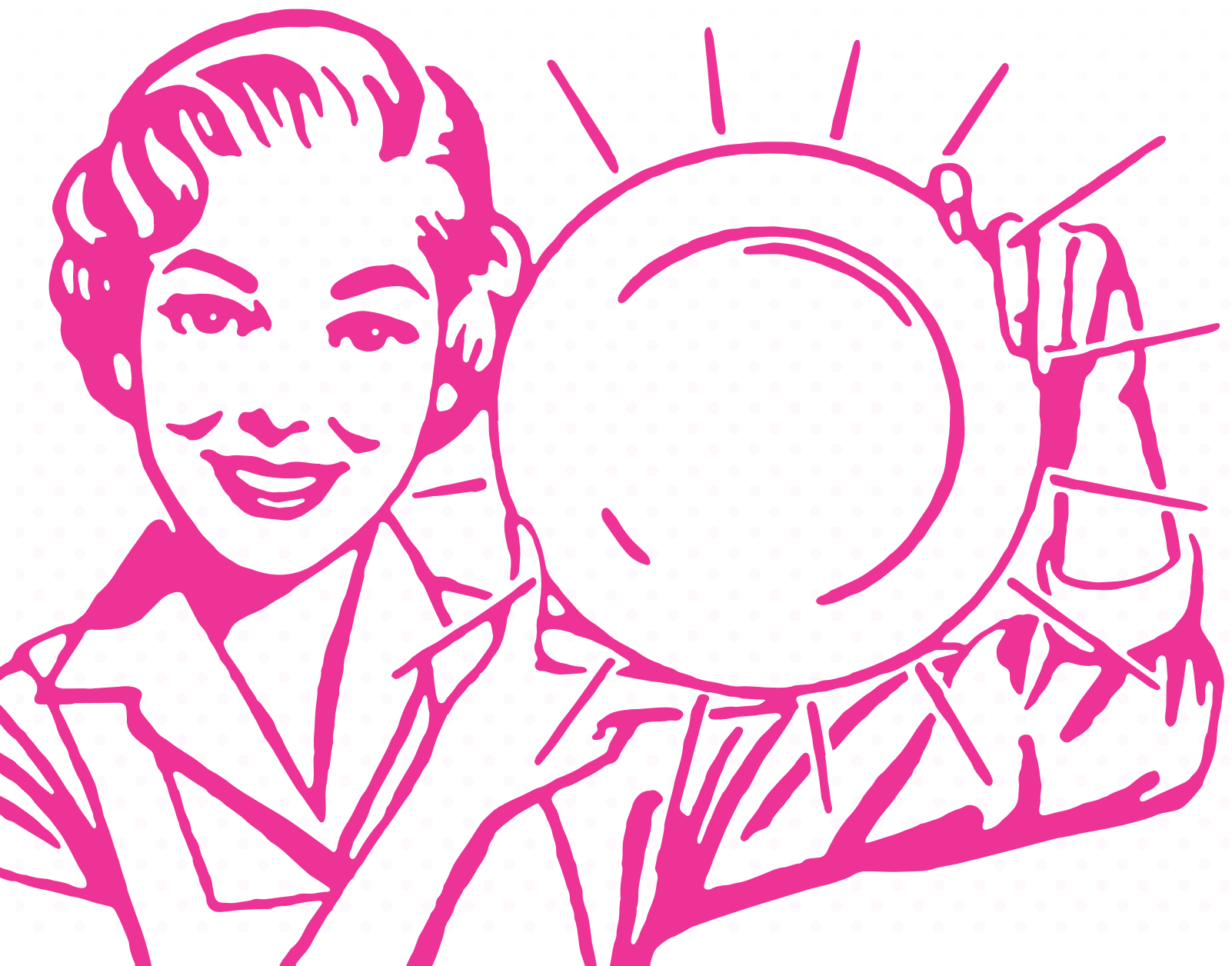
FARRAH KHAN

Farrah Khan has 16 years of experience addressing gender-based violence as a counsellor, artist and educator. She holds a Master’s degree from the University of Toronto, Faculty of Social Work and is co-chair of the provincial Roundtable on Violence Against Women. *Farrah* has co-created innovative initiatives to address gender based violence including Outburst! Young Muslim Women Project, Heartbeats the IZZAT Project, Use the Right Words. For her community work, *Farrah* has been presented with various awards including the Toronto Community Foundation’s Vital People Award.



NAOMI SAYERS

Naomi Sayers is an indigenous feminist, activist and writes at kwetoday.com. She is in her second year of the English common law program at the University of Ottawa, and she graduated from Western University with an honours specialization in criminology and a minor in women's studies. *Naomi* is the founder of South Western Ontario Sex Workers and she is a part of the Native Youth Sexual Network. *Naomi* enjoys community organizing and community building. She is also a strong believer in working collaboratively within and across communities, especially with other criminalized/over-policed communities, to help build support networks and to help build capacity.



Vendors at the Conference include:

BIG VILLAGE

DELIGHT CHOCOLATE

KYNK HAIR

DENIMURAL

POETICART

GENDER WAGE GAP/EQUAL PAY INFORMATION BOOTH

HYDRO ONE MOBILIZERS

ONTARIO HEALTH COALITION MOBILIZERS

OPSEU PROVINCIAL FRANCOPHONE COMMITTEE

AND MUCH MORE...

Provincial Women's Committee Members:

REGION 1: CHRISTINE LAVERTY (CHAIR)

REGION 2: SHANA SHIPPERBOTTOM

REGION 3: ANGELA BICK ROSSLEY

REGION 4: JANET HEYMAN

REGION 5: LAURA THOMPSON (VICE-CHAIR)

REGION 6: CHARLENE LEGACY

REGION 7: ELAINE KERR (TREASURER)





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Word

