

United Way BC Public Policy Institute
Spring 2024 Vancouver Alumni Event #1
Tuesday, April 23, 2024

WiFi: Public access, enter your email, accept terms



Working with communities in
BC's North, Interior, Lower Mainland,
Central & Northern Vancouver Island

WE ARE THRILLED YOU HAVE JOINED US!

The United Way BC Public Policy Institute has been graduating participants since 2011. We have a faculty of six that lead our learning space that runs each year from January to June. It is for staff from non-profit organizations or registered charities and intake for the program takes place in September each year. For more information on this program go to: [Public Policy Institute | United Way British Columbia \(uwlm.ca\)](#). Email us at ppi@uwbc.ca if you work for an non-profit or registered charity and are interested in enrolling in our 6-month Public Policy Institute program.

Our program takes place at UBC Robson Square each year. Today's event is happening at SFU Harbour Center due to a new collaboration with SFU. We are pleased to welcome a few SFU Masters of Public Policy Students to this event, as well as members of the public that our SFU partners recommended attend. Welcome all!



MEET CAROLE JAMES (she/her)

Carole is the lead Faculty of the Public Policy Institute and served as Minister of Finance and Deputy Premier of the Government of BC, Leader of the Official Opposition, and Member of the Legislative Assembly for Victoria Beacon Hill.

She has been recognized for her work and leadership through her many elected appointments, locally, provincially, and nationally, serving in elected roles for over 25 years. In her retirement from political office, she continues her commitment to public service.

GRATITUDE

[Indigenous Youth Roots](#) is an organization that runs various services and programs for Indigenous Youth aged 18-29. Their Policy School is a **tuition-free** program with no academic or professional requirements. Youth can be at any level of learning and understanding about policy. We will be encouraging participants to express their gratitude for the program by going to this link to [donate to this organization](#) or by using the QR code.



Jenna Johannsen graduated from the Indigenous Youth Policy School and will be attending the event and offering a testimonial of her experience and current work.

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SHAPE OF THE DAY

10:00 a.m. Doors open
10:30 a.m. Event starts

Welcome and Elder Blessing
Current State
Q&A

Elder Roberta Price
Carole James

Networking Activity: Speed dating

Say your name, organization and give your 30 second elevator pitch. You will do this in pairs, after each doing a short 30 second elevator pitch of your passion policy project, you will need to pair up with someone new. For students or special invitees in our midst, please share your name, how you were invited to this space and why you are at this event.

11:15 a.m. BREAK (15 minutes)

10 minutes Testimonials



David Lee, Director of Employment, Language, Social Enterprise at MOSAIC, recognized the need for strategic advocacy to address these barriers. Enrolling in United Way BC's Public Policy Institute (PPI), Lee embarked on a journey to enhance his skills in influencing policy change, with a focus on improving credential recognition for healthcare professionals from other countries.



Margaret Young is a 2021 PPI alumni. Margaret is the Founder of Age Knowble and the Chair of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People. She notes that while we have universal frameworks for children, women, people with disabilities and other populations, we have yet to establish a human rights framework for our older person population. She will be sharing on what her journey has been like since graduating from the Public Policy Institute and will share on the work she and others are doing.

25 minutes Open Sharing by the larger group

We heard in the alumni survey responses that the opportunity to share about our work in order to connect further was a must. This is the time for 2 – 3 minute shares from PPI alumni. We want to hear about your successes and also your challenges. Tell us how you worked through those challenges. If you are facing a current challenge, is there a question you wish to pose to the group?

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10 minutes

Morning Recap

Together let's recap on what we heard. What has inspired us? What was a new learning? What connections are we wanting to continue? Perhaps consider these two questions: "What stood out for you from this morning? What is a word to describe what you heard from people?"

12:15 p.m.

LUNCH (45 minutes)

1:00 pm.

Intro: Advancing Truth and Reconciliation through Policy Work



SFU alumnus Chris (Syeta'xtn) Lewis has enriched the university community, from serving as a member and chair of the Board of Governors to co-leading the Aboriginal Reconciliation Council. In 2021, Syeta'xtn was recognized with the Chancellor's Distinguished Service Award for his significant contributions and commitment to building a better SFU. He is currently the Director of Indigenous Initiatives and Reconciliation at SFU.

Panel Discussion: Advancing Truth and Reconciliation and Equity through Policy Work

Moderator: Carole James

We will have four panelists today for you. Ginger Gosnell-Myers serves as faculty for the United Way BC Public Policy Institute. Farrah Shroff and Esther Hsieh are PPI alumni from 2016 and 2017 respectively, and Chris (Syeta'xtn) Lewis, Director of Indigenous Initiatives and Reconciliation at SFU.

MEET OUR PANELISTS



Ginger Gosnell-Myers (she/her)

Ginger Gosnell-Myers is on the Faculty of the Public Policy Institute. Ginger is from the Nisga'a and Kwakwak'awakw Nations and is passionate about advancing Indigenous rights and knowledge through public policy and engagement processes.

Truth is the pathway to reconciliation, and her award-winning projects have broken down barriers while co-creating new approaches for systemic change.



Farah Shroff (she/her)

Dr. Farah Shroff is a 2016 Public Policy Institute graduate. She is a visionary Canadian public intellectual with expertise in global public health research and education. The emphasis of her work is on envisioning and developing Health for All.

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Her research areas are integrative health approaches such as Ayurveda and yoga, and social/environmental justice - from a feminist anti-racism decolonial lens. Speaking French, Spanish and English, she has worked in many nations as an educator in academia and other communities. She founded and leads Maternal and Infant Health Canada, a global public health collaborative aiming to improve the wellbeing of women, young ones and the environment. Harvard School of Public Health recently awarded her a mid-career fellowship, recognizing her expertise in global public health. She works as an independent consultant, faculty member at the University of British Columbia and teacher of yoga, dance, meditation and other mind-body activities. Dr Shroff is regularly featured in the media.



Esther Hsieh (she/her)

Esther Hsieh is a 2017 Public Policy Institute graduate. She is a consultant who has been working and volunteering in the social justice sector for over twenty-five years, locally and internationally – including organizations like Medicins Sans Frontieres and Habitat for Humanity.

Her heart is in working with grass-roots organizations who are working toward equity through community-led systems change. Esther is a bi-racial person and the former executive director of Umbrella Multicultural Health Co-op, who has advocated at the municipal, provincial, and national level for enhancing equity for immigrants and refugees accessing government health services. Through this work, she has been learning about the similarities and differences of the equity struggles facing Indigenous People. As a humble student, she stands in solidarity with Indigenous People working towards decolonization and striving to be an ally.

Chris Lewis (he/him)

Director of Indigenous Initiatives and Reconciliation at SFU

30 minutes

Q&A

everyone

2:45 p.m.

Closing Remarks

everyone

Gather in small groups and discuss what you heard, then share out to the larger group.

3:00 p.m.

Event ends with a further 30 minutes for informal connection time.



On behalf of United Way BC, I want to thank everyone who made this event possible. I am so grateful for our collective shared interest in policy, advancing Truth and Reconciliation and bringing equity into policy spaces and conversations. We hope to see you at a future alumni event and we hope you will refer others to apply in September to be a part of our **Public Policy Institute**. Kindly, Esther Moreno