

**United Way BC Public Policy Institute**  
Spring 2024 Victoria Alumni Event #1  
Friday, May 31, 2024 12:30 – 4:30 p.m.  
C112 Clearihue Building, UVic



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

[Here](#) is the Wi-Fi info. General Parking Lots are located across campus, please [have a look at this map](#) to determine which one works best for you and to get oriented ahead of time. Parking rates are available [here](#).

## **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](mailto:ppi@uwbc.ca) if you work for a 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. This event is happening at the University of Victoria due to a new collaboration with UVic. We are pleased to welcome a few University of Victoria Public Policy Masters students to this event, as other non-profit people who are interested in policy and learning more. 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.



**Meet Esther Moreno** (she/her) is the Capacity Building Specialist at United Way BC. She is the program coordinator for this program and is integrating guiding principles of being relational, inclusive and decolonizing into all her work.

## **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.



As a way of supporting truth and reconciliation and expressing your gratitude for this event, we invite you to support the capacity of Indigenous youth by making a donation of \$5 or 10 today.

# “DECOLONIZING SYSTEMS THROUGH COLLABORATION”

## SHAPE OF THE DAY

12:30 p.m.	Doors open	1:00 p.m.	Event starts
Welcome			Esther Moreno
Land Acknowledgement			Elder Skip Dick
Current State			Carole James
Q&A			

**1:30 p.m.**                      **Testimonial**                      **Marcie DeWitt**  
Marcie will speak to work she is now involved in and how her next steps are to work with local government to build more equitable engagement processes.



Marcie DeWitt is a United Way BC Public Policy Institute graduate of 2012. She has been a consultant engaged in systems and social change initiatives for over a decade. She has had the privilege to be involved with projects leading multidisciplinary networks, conducting community engagement, planning, and advocacy initiatives aimed at increasing health equity and addressing complex social issues.

**1:40 p.m.**                      **Networking Activity: Speed dating**  
Say your name, organization and share some of your ideas on how you feel collaboration can be more equitable. In other words, Pre-Question: “What do we know, what knowledge do we each bring into this space?” You will do this in pairs, each of you speaking for 2 mins before turning it over to your partner. We are aiming to do this three times, to give you a chance to meet someone new and for us all to get a sense of the knowledge and wisdom in the room.

**1:55 p.m.**                      **A bit about our program**                      **Esther Moreno**

2:00 p.m.                      BREAK (15 minutes)

**2:15 p.m.**                      **Context Setting**                      **Mary Clare Zak**  
Mary-Clare will share about the outcomes of shifts in engagement in her work at the City of Vancouver.



Mary-Clare Zak has over thirty years of experience in public service including senior and local government, as well as the non-profit sector, advocating for the health and wellbeing of communities, with a focus on the rights of equity-deserving groups. She is continually inspired by communities' creative efforts and resilience.

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## “DECOLONIZING SYSTEMS THROUGH COLLABORATION”

### **2:30 p.m. Engagement #1: Table Discussion**

**Esther Moreno**

When you are setting the table make sure there is space for everyone, for those of the population that are often not represented. So at your tables consider this question set.

Question Set #1: When you are setting the table make sure there is space for everyone, for those of the population that are often not represented. What will you need to do to have people feel like equal partners at the table? What does making space look like? feel like? How would you set the table together?

### **2:50 p.m. Government and People**

**Andrew Callicum (caaqiyuuš)**

Andrew will be speak to how he is beginning to see those who have been immersed in colonial approaches to engagement, shifting and adopting Indigenous ways of working together.



Andrew serves as the Indigenous Priorities Director at United Way BC. He is a member of the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation on Vancouver Island, Andrew has an academic background in First Nations Studies and has previously worked in leadership roles in both the First Nations and not-for-profit space.

### **3:00 p.m. Engagement #2: Vertical Spaces**

**Esther Moreno**

Government structures are embedded in systems of hierarchy, less people at the top and the people being served at the bottom.

Question Set #2: How are you working with government to help them hear the voices of the people you are advocating for? How can the government decolonize their approaches to better hear the voices of those that often go unheard?

### **3:20 p.m. Final Context Setting**

**Marcie DeWitt**

Marcie will share more on her work, where she started, and how using a decolonized approach transformed the work.

### **3:30 p.m. Engagement #3: Apply your Learning**

**Esther Moreno**

You have heard various personal testimonials of the work of decolonizing systems and the changes that have transpired through collaboration.

Question Set #3: Is there a problem a question you want to pose to the group around decolonizing systems through collaboration? Is there a scenario you can describe and a question you can pose to draw on the wisdom on the room?

### **4:00 p.m. Final words**

**Esther Moreno**

Followed by 30 minutes of informal networking time. Event ends at 4:30 p.m.

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