

Parkland Institute's 27th Annual Fall Conference

Alberta at the Crossroads: Building the World We Want

November 17-19, 2023
UAlberta Campus & Livestream



parklandconference.ca

Alberta at the Crossroads: Building the World We Want

Alberta is at a crossroads. The status quo is not sustainable politically, economically, or ecologically. The decisions we make from now on will determine whether we join a worldwide movement towards building a more just future or if we go backward.

This conference is about ensuring Alberta moves forward. It is about dreaming big and making things happen. It is about how we push for change and envision a province that is just, equitable, and sustainable. It is about how we look to what others outside our borders have been doing, while also finding ways to support and expand the work that many among us have already been doing to build a more just province and world.

By bringing together thinkers, writers, and activists from Alberta and beyond, “At the Crossroads” will be a space where we can learn from each other and begin shaping the Alberta we want for us and for future generations.

We would like to thank the generous support of the following sponsors for helping to make this conference possible:



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Greetings from Parkland Institute Director

Jason Foster



Dear conference participants,

Welcome to Parkland Institute's 27th annual conference. It is always a highlight of the fall to gather at the conference to discuss the important issues of our times.

The provincial election this past spring exposed the deep divisions within Alberta. It also made very clear that as Albertans we are at a crossroads. The world is changing, and Alberta must change as well. Simply put, the status quo is no longer an option — it is not sustainable, politically, economically or ecologically. But which path do we take? That is what this year's theme is about.

A crossroad is more than a point of decision. It is also a moment of transition, where one path can smoothly shift to another. The road we have taken has brought us to this point. Oil and gas-fueled Alberta's prosperity. It also brought with it a series of social, economic and, in particular, environmental ills. In the past, Alberta opted to take the short path to quick money at the price of inequality, injustice and environmental degradation. Today we have the opportunity to make a different decision.

We need ideas to help us make that different decision. Big ideas. Bold ideas. That is part of what the Parkland conference does. We create a space for envisioning what the world can be if we prioritize justice, equality and sustainability.

But we also need action to make those ideas possible. We need to learn how to translate those big ideas into practical solutions. That is the other part of the conference. We create a space for activists and organizers to share their knowledge and collaborate to devise new and more effective strategies.

Globally we are in the midst of dark times. In moments like these we need to hold on even tighter to hope, love and humanity. As we make our way through this weekend, let us remain mindful that all of us are feeling shaken and vulnerable by events beyond our control. Please be kind and caring.

I hope you enjoy this weekend. Enjoy seeing old friends and meeting new ones. And along the way hopefully we can learn a bit more about how we can be a part of a brighter future for Alberta.

I also want to remind you that the work of Parkland relies on the support of people like you. So take a moment over the weekend to consider offering a donation to our work, signing up as an ongoing supporter, or even just letting our hardworking staff know how much you appreciate what they do.

Warm regards to all,

Jason Foster

Director

Parkland Institute

Friday

November 17, 2023

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
1-001, ETLC

OPENING KEYNOTE

Avi Lewis

See It so We Can Be It: The Power of a Holistic Vision to Build Momentum for Big Change

Let's be honest: the political landscape is not exactly encouraging for those on the left. Rightwing populism is surging, the climate is unravelling, and the algorithms of billionaires tug at us with toxic distraction to a privatized public square. But solutions to the cascading and connected crises all around us are bubbling up through the cracks in our broken systems. And connecting them together into a compelling vision of big change is the foundation needed for a new politics — one that pulls us all out of despair and into a big-tent movement for a world transformed.

Saturday

November 18, 2023

8:00 am
ETLC Lobby

Doors Open

9:00 am – 10:15 am
1-001, ETLC

PLENARY

Angella MacEwen

Building the Economy We Want

For decades we've been told that workers, communities, and the environment need to sacrifice for economic prosperity. But recent research has shown that the package of economic policies that Canada and other nations have been pursuing — lower corporate taxes, weaker labour and employment legislation, and privatization of public infrastructure and services — has only served to increase economic inequality at the expense of human and planetary health. The failure of the current model creates an opportunity for us to reimagine an economy that serves the needs of all people and the communities where we live and work. Alternative economic principles and evidence can guide us as we build a more just and equitable economy.

10:15 am – 10:30 am
ETLC Lobby

BREAK
Coffee and pastries will be available

10:30 am – 11:45 am
A. 1-013, ETLC

CONCURRENT SESSION

Housing as a Right

Carolyn Whitzman, University of Calgary

Tools for Realizing the Right to Housing in Canada

Laura Murphy, Edmonton-based housing researcher and activist

Affordable Housing Solutions: The View from Edmonton

B. 1-003, ETLC

CONCURRENT SESSION

The Power of Arts and Culture

Ahmed "Knowmadic" Ali — Poet, writer, musician

Building Bridges: How Art Paves the Way in Connecting Communities

Carissa Halton — Author, keynote speaker, facilitator

Arts-Fueled Social Movements: A Historical Account

CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

11:45 am – 1:00 pm ETLC, Second Floor Foyer	LUNCH Catered by Upper Crust
1:00 pm – 2:15 pm 1-001, ETLC	PLENARY Dr. Courtney Howard, MD <i>Summer of Smoke and Fire: Climate Change, Health, and the North</i> <p>Climate change is the biggest health threat of our time, undermining the ecological foundations of both health and health systems. The summer of 2023 saw extreme wildfires in multiple jurisdictions across Canada, resulting in severe exposures to toxic wildfire smoke and large-scale evacuation of communities and health structures. We must integrate local, regional, and national-level work in order to reduce impacts from the wildfires we cannot now avoid and urgently reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Many elements of a low-carbon transition have immediate co-benefits for health and health systems. Reorienting our efforts to measure and maximize well-being can help us focus and integrate efforts across silos — setting us on a path to a healthier future.</p>
2:15 pm – 2:30 pm ETLC Lobby	BREAK
2:30 pm – 3:45 pm A. 1-013, ETLC	CONCURRENT SESSION <i>Alberta's Drug Poisoning Crisis</i> Heather Morris, University of Alberta Marliss Taylor, Boyle Street Community Services
B. 1-003, ETLC	CONCURRENT SESSION <i>Media in a Changing World</i> Sharon J. Riley, The Narwhal <i>The Role of Journalism in Democracy (In an Online World)</i> Jeremy Appel, Author <i>Promises and Perils of Independent Media</i>
3:45 pm – 4:00 pm ETLC Lobby	BREAK
4:00 pm – 5:15 pm 1-001, ETLC	PLENARY Dr. Paul Kershaw <i>Alberta Needs to Fix Its Broken Generational Deal</i> <p>Data show that hard work doesn't pay off for younger Albertans today by comparison with past generations. The root causes of this problem have less to do with younger generations than their treatment by older ones as a result of past policy decisions. Those decisions have created major problems now that were predictable then. While there remains time for Alberta Boomers to leave a proud legacy for their kids' and grandchildren's generations, the work to build a Better Generational Deal needs to start now.</p>

Sunday

November 19, 2023

8:00 am
ETLC Lobby

Doors Open

9:00 am – 10:15 am
1-001, ETLC

PLENARY

Dr. Stephanie Ross

Labour on the Upsurge? Strikes, Political Action, and the Fight for Democracy

The labour movement seems to be having a moment of renewed power and influence. In North America, workers are making organizing breakthroughs at Starbucks, Amazon, and other companies previously thought impossible to unionize. There is a wave of global labour unrest, whether in education, health care, the civil service, shipping and transportation, factories in China, and even amongst Hollywood writers and actors. How do we understand this renewed groundswell of workers exerting their economic power? How do strikes and workplace organizing contribute to building labour's political capacity? In this talk, Dr. Ross will examine the labour movement's upsurge in Canada and around the world. She will explore the drivers of this upsurge, including the experience of the COVID-19 pandemic, the post-pandemic changes to labour markets and workers' attitudes, and the long-term effects of policies that have fostered extreme economic inequality. She will make the case that both strikes and political action are essential to the fight for a more democratic society.

10:15 am – 10:30 am
ETLC Lobby

BREAK
Coffee and pastries will be available

10:30 am – 11:45 am
A. 1-013, ETLC

CONCURRENT SESSION

Health-Care Crisis

Lorian Hardcastle, University of Calgary

Building a Sustainable Health-Care System for Alberta

Rebecca Graff-McRae, Parkland Institute

A Series of Unfortunate Events: Lessons from Alberta's Health-Care Crisis

B. 1-003, ETLC

CONCURRENT SESSION

Organizing for a Stronger Democracy

Dave Meslin, University of Alberta

Democratic Reform in Canada: The Path to Participatory Politics and Common Sense Policy-Making

Emma Jackson, Organizer, writer, campaigner

Only Mass Movements Will Save Us and Only We Can Build Them

11:45 am – 12:00 pm
ETLC Lobby

BREAK

CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm
1-001, ETLC

CLOSING KEYNOTE

Lewis Cardinal

Realizing Genuine Reconciliation: So Many Questions

Lewis Cardinal is a communicator and educator; he has dedicated his life's work to creating and maintaining connections and relationships that cross-cultural divides. His long track record of public service currently includes; Board Member of Theatre Network Society, Vice-Chair of the Documentary Organization of Canada-Alberta, Chair of the Global Indigenous Dialogue of Initiatives of Change-Canada, and Trustee and Chair of the Indigenous Taskforce for the Council for a Parliament of World Religions.

Welcome to Parkland Institute's 27th Annual Conference

Your full conference registration includes:

- Friday and Sunday Keynotes
- All plenary and concurrent sessions
- Saturday Lunch

Food and Beverages

Coffee, tea, and water will be available during breaks. Pastries will be available Saturday and Sunday mornings.

We encourage you to use your own travel mug for coffee and tea. Lunch on Saturday is provided to all full-conference registrants, including volunteers and representatives of tabling organizations with badges. Lunch will include vegetarian options. Show your badge to gain entrance to the lunch room.

You are also welcome to bring your own lunch, and there are food vendors available a short walk away at the Students' Union Building (SUB).

If You're Late

If you arrive late for keynotes or plenaries, please enter through the south side rear door so as not to interrupt the speaker.

Parking

We recommend you park in the Windsor Car Park located at 116 Street and 92 Avenue. Friday evening after 6 pm on Saturday, as well as Sunday parking is available for a flat fee of \$5.50. Hourly parking is available on 116 Street for \$3.50/hour.

Volunteers

The Parkland Conference would not be possible without the support of the volunteers who perform many hours of work on our behalf. Please help us thank them.

Special Thanks

The A-Team Volunteers (you know who you are)
Rob Butz, our webmaster
Flavio Rojas, our graphic designer

We All Have a Story to Tell

We all have a story to tell, but the precious few minutes afforded us at the end of each session for dialogue is not the time to tell it!

Parkland people are remarkably diverse, and our conferences bring together a special blend of academics, activists, students, and community members — every one of whom has an incredible story to tell. That's why we've ensured multiple ways for attendees to converse with each other and our guests.

Please help ensure that the question-and-answer time at the end of each session is enjoyed by everyone by following these simple rules:

- Keep your remarks short and to the point. Questions or comments that require lengthy background information are not well suited to this format. If you cannot adequately ask a question within 30 seconds, consider saving it for another opportunity.
- Don't hog the microphone. People who have not yet had the opportunity to speak will be given priority.
- Participant speaking lists may be altered to balance representation by age, gender identity, race, ethnicity, or other identities. Just because you put your hand up first doesn't mean it's your turn.
- Value dialogue. Everyone has something to contribute.
- Please do not interrupt speakers, facilitators, or other conference-goers.
- Do not campaign at the mic. It is inappropriate to ask your fellow conference-goers to support your cause, no matter how important it is.
- Be conscious of how your behaviour impacts others. Practice stepping up/stepping back so we can ensure that everyone is able to contribute.

Friday

November 17, 2023

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Room 1-001, ETL

Opening Keynote



Avi Lewis

See It so We Can Be It: The Power Of a Holistic Vision to Build Momentum For Big Change

Let's be honest: the political landscape is not exactly encouraging for those on the left. Rightwing populism is surging, the climate is unravelling, and the algorithms of billionaires tug at us with toxic distraction to a privatized public square. But solutions to the cascading and connected crises all around us are bubbling up through the cracks in our broken systems. And connecting them together into a compelling vision of big change is the foundation needed for a new politics — one that pulls us all out of despair and into a big-tent movement for a world transformed..

Avi Lewis is a documentary filmmaker, journalist, and educator. His 30-year journalism career has spanned directing and producing award-winning theatrically-released documentaries, The Take and This Changes Everything to hosting and reporting for TV networks worldwide including City TV, CBC, UK's Channel 4 and Al Jazeera English. In 2015, he was a co-author of The Leap Manifesto, a climate justice manifesto that was signed by more than 50,000 Canadians. Avi has also been deeply involved in the emergent frame of the Green New Deal — producing the animated short film Message from the Future with Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, which was viewed 12 million times and nominated for an Emmy Award. Avi is an Associate Professor at UBC where his teaching focuses on climate justice and documentary filmmaking.

Saturday

November 18, 2023

8:00 am
ETLC Lobby

Doors Open

9:00 am – 10:15 am
Room 1-001, ETLC

Plenary



Angella MacEwen

Building the Economy We Want

For decades we've been told that workers, communities, and the environment need to sacrifice for economic prosperity. But recent research has shown that the package of economic policies that Canada and other nations have been pursuing — lower corporate taxes, weaker labour and employment legislation, and privatization of public infrastructure and services, have only served to increase economic inequality at the expense of human and planetary health. The failure of the current model creates an opportunity for us to reimagine an economy that serves the needs of all people and the communities where we live and work. Alternative economic principles and evidence can guide us as we build a more just and equitable economy.

Angella MacEwen is a senior economist at CUPE National, a research associate with the CCPA, and a policy fellow with the Broadbent Institute, and has worked as a labour economist in Ottawa since 2012. She sits on the board of Canadians for Tax Fairness, is co-chair of the Trade Justice Network, and is active with the Green Economy Network. She follows a wide range of economic issues that impact workers, such as understanding precarity and inequality in the Canadian labour market, evaluating the impact of international trade and investment treaties, and investigating the role of fiscal policy and tax policy on income distribution and wealth inequality. Angella writes a quarterly newsletter for CUPE with economic analysis from a worker's perspective: "Economy at Work". She provides expert advice to governments, both as a member of advisory panels and through parliamentary committees. Angella is co-author of a book on wealth inequality and tax policy in Canada: "Share the Wealth! How we can tax Canada's super-rich and create a better country for everyone". Angella was born and raised in Treaty 6 territory in rural Saskatchewan. She received her MA in Economics from Dalhousie University.

10:15 am – 10:30 am
ETLC Lobby

Break

Coffee and pastries will be available.

Saturday

November 18, 2023

10:30 am – 11:45 am
Room 1-013, ETLC

Concurrent Session

A. *Housing as a Right*



Carolyn Whitzman

Housing Assessment Resource Tools for Progressively Realizing the Right to Housing in Canada

The Housing Assessment Resource Tool project (HART) researches data-based solutions to Canada's housing crisis. This presentation will overview our housing need, land, and acquisitions tools, and their policy implications. Based on 2021 census data, we estimate four million households are in need of deeply affordable non-market rental housing, and two million households are in need of affordable private market rental housing. This quantum is achievable if all levels of government collaborate, using the same definitions and data, as well as land and finance instruments and an industrial approach, to progressively realize the right to housing.

Carolyn Whitzman is in the middle of her third career as a researcher, consultant, and advocate, focused on housing and planning policy that advances the right to the city. In her first career (1989-99), she worked for the City of Toronto as a senior policy planner, developing integrated policy to prevent gender-based violence. In her second career (2003-19), she was a professor of Urban Planning at the University of Melbourne. Professor Whitzman is the author, co-author or editor of six books related to 'the right to the city' in both a contemporary and historical perspective. These include: How to Home: Fixing Canada's Housing Crisis (UBC/ On Point Press, 2024), Clara at the Door with a Revolver: the scandalous Black suspect, the respectable white son, and the murder that shocked Toronto (UBC Press/ On Point Books, 2023), Building Inclusive Cities: Women's Safety and the Right to the City (Routledge, 2013); Suburb, Slum, Urban Village: Transformations in a Toronto's Parkdale Neighbourhood 1875-2002 (UBC Press, 2009), and The Handbook of Community Safety, Gender, and Violence Prevention: Practical Planning Tools (Earthscan, 2008). She is also the author or co-author of over 50 book chapters, articles, and published conference presentations on housing policy, children's independent mobility, women's safety, and disability rights. She frequently provides policy advice to local, state, and national governments and to the UN, including addressing the plenary at the Habitat III Conference in Quito, Ecuador in September 2016.

Saturday

November 18, 2023



Laura Murphy

Affordable Housing Solutions: The View from Edmonton

This presentation will put forth Edmonton-specific data around the growing crisis of housing availability and affordability, and suggest possible solutions arising out of the research of the U of A Affordable Housing Solutions Lab and her years of experience on the ground.

Laura is an Edmonton-based housing researcher. She was the research coordinator for the Affordable Housing Solutions Lab at the University of Alberta, and is Past Chair of the Edmonton Coalition on Housing and Homelessness.

10:30 am – 11:45 am
Room 1-003, ETLC

Concurrent Session

B. The Power of Arts and Culture



Ahmed “Knowmadic” Ali

Building Bridges: How Art Paves the Way in Connecting Communities

Join Ahmed ‘Knowmadic’ Ali, a Somali-Canadian poet, writer, actor, musician, and youth activist, in a transformative session where art transcends as the bridge to understanding. Amidst Alberta’s pivotal crossroads, this dialogue delves into how artistic expressions forge connections, foster empathy, and build the cultural bridges necessary for a future that is not only envisioned but also co-created by all members of our community.”

Award-winning Poet Laureate Ahmed Ali, better known as Knowmadic, is a multi-disciplinary artist, community organizer, public speaker, and youth worker who has dedicated his time to enabling and empowering diverse communities around the world. Ahmed’s poetry has been featured in anthologies in North America and is taught in schools across Canada. Ahmed emphasizes the importance of equitable representation on all levels of government, and he is passionate about the arts and education.

Saturday

November 18, 2023



Carissa Halton

Arts-Fueled Social Movements: A Historical Account

As a historical fiction writer, Carissa loves research and she'll share some of the stories she's discovered of artists who used their craft to bring social justice to the masses.

Carissa Halton is an award-winning writer, speaker, and facilitator. Her essays have appeared in Today's Parent, Alberta Views, Globe and Mail, and Postmedia newspapers, among others. Her creative non-fiction have been anthologized, won both Alberta and National Magazine Awards, and is featured in her debut book, Little Yellow House: Finding Community in a Changing Neighbourhood. A sweet, funny exploration about life, heartbreak, and resilience in Alberta Avenue, the book was a finalist for the 2019 Edmonton Book Prize. Raised in the Crowsnest Pass, a community rich with stories, she currently lives in Edmonton with her husband, three kids, two cats, many fish, and a bee hive. Her historical novel will be published by NeWest Press in Fall 2025.

11:45 am – 1:00 pm
ETLC, Second Floor Foyer

Lunch – Catered by Upper Crust

Save the Date!

Parkland Seasonal

**OPEN
HOUSE**
December 14

5 pm–9 pm • Salter Room 3-95 – Third floor, Humanities Centre, UofA

Saturday

November 18, 2023

1:00 pm – 2:15 am
Room 1-001, ETLC

Plenary



Dr. Courtney Howard, MD

Summer of Smoke and Fire: Climate Change, Health, and the North

Climate change is the biggest health threat of our time, undermining the ecological foundations of both health and health systems. The summer of 2023 saw extreme wildfires in multiple jurisdictions across Canada, resulting in severe exposures to toxic wildfire smoke and large-scale evacuation of multiple communities and health structures. We must integrate local, regional and national-level work in order to reduce impacts from the wildfires we cannot now avoid and urgently reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Many elements of a low-carbon transition have immediate co-benefits for health and health systems. Reorienting our efforts to measure and maximize well-being can help us focus and integrate efforts across silos—setting us on a path to a healthier future. .

Dr. Courtney Howard is an emergency physician in Yellowknives Dene Territory, a clinical associate professor at the University of Calgary, and a community research fellow in Planetary Health at the Dahdaleh Institute for Global Health. The vice-chair of the Global Climate and Health Alliance, she is completing a master's degree in Public Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government at Oxford, where she has focused on the next steps towards economies built around well-being. Dr. Howard's clinical work over the past fifteen years in Canada's subarctic and arctic, as well as six months spent in Djibouti resuscitating children on a pediatric malnutrition project with Médecins Sans Frontières, drive much of her work on climate-related mitigation and adaptation. She has researched menstrual cups and wildfires, and led policy work and advocacy regarding eco-anxiety, vaccine equity, movement-building, active transport, plant-rich diets, fossil fuel divestment, carbon pricing, coal phase-out, hydraulic fracturing and with regards to Canada's oil sands. She led the 2017-2019 Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change Briefings for Canadian Policymakers and was the 2018 international policy director for the Lancet Countdown. Dr. Howard was the first woman president of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment and sits on the board of the Canadian Medical Association and the Communications and Advocacy Subcommittee of the WHO-Civil Society Working Group on Climate Change and Health. She is on the steering committee of the Planetary Health Alliance, and the editorial advisory boards of the Lancet Planetary Health and the Journal of Climate Change and Health. When not in the ER or deep in a literature review, she can often be found dancing with her two young daughters on the shores of Back Bay in Canada's subarctic.

2:15 pm – 2:30 pm
ETLC Lobby

Break

Saturday

November 18, 2023

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm
Room 1-013, ETL C

Concurrent Session

A. Alberta's Drug Poisoning Crisis



Heather Morris

Alberta's Drug Poisoning Crisis: How Did We Get Here and Where Do We Need to Go?

Canada is in the depths of a drug poisoning epidemic which has claimed the lives of over 36,000 Canadians since 2016. At the present time, five Albertans are dying every day from drug poisoning while many individuals continue to experience an increased risk of drug-related harms. The overall purpose of this presentation is to discuss the nature and extent of the current crisis, reflect upon current evidence supporting the adoption of harm reduction and treatment strategies for preventing drug poisoning deaths as well as review new and emerging health and social service approaches to supporting people who use drugs.

Heather Morris (pronouns she/her) is a registered nurse with a PhD in Health Services & Policy Research from the School of Public Health, University of Alberta. As a former public health nurse, her research interests focus on substance use and harm reduction, public perceptions of harm reduction and how individuals with lived and living experience engage in political advocacy to shape drug policy reform in Canada. Heather's doctoral work was supported by a variety of sources, including the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Women and Children's Health Research Institute, and the Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Scholarship. Heather is currently a postdoctoral fellow with the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Alberta and the Inner City Health and Wellness Program, Royal Alexandra Hospital. In partnership with Boyle Street Community Services, she and her team members recently conducted a large cross-sectional study with over 500 participants to better understand the health and social service needs of structurally vulnerable people who use illegal drugs in Edmonton's inner city. Heather has just started a new position as an assistant professor in the Faculty of Nursing, University of Alberta.

Chivers Carpenter

On Side with Alberta Workers

The lawyers of Chivers Carpenter represent labour organizations and workers in all levels of court and facets of labour relations, human rights, administrative, professional regulatory and employment law.

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Saturday

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Marliss Taylor, RN, BScN

Alberta's Drug Poisoning Crisis

This session will look at issues that are contributing to the record number of drug poisonings and deaths in Alberta, the roles of Recovery and Harm Reduction, myths surrounding the drug poisoning crisis, and the interplay between the drug war and environmental issues. It will look at some of the current programming and possible solutions.

Marliss Taylor is the manager of the Streetworks Program and director of Health Services at Boyle Street Community Services in Edmonton. She received her diploma in Nursing in 1982 and a degree in Nursing in 1992. After working for 11 years in adult and pediatric Intensive Care Units in Regina, Edmonton, and San Antonio Texas, she moved to the high Arctic. There, she received her certificate in Advanced Practice Nursing and worked as a nurse practitioner in the community of Kugluktuk, and nurse manager in the community of Gjoa Haven, Nunavut. In 1995 she returned to Edmonton as the program manager of the Streetworks program. She has worked in the downtown core for the past 28 years. Marliss was the first to initiate the use of community-based naloxone in Canada in 2005. She created the HER Pregnancy program – an innovative model of care for women who are street-involved and who face multiple barriers to having a healthy pregnancy. She has been involved in health promotion/harm-reduction initiatives in Siberia and Guyana, and a multitude of local, provincial, and national research and advocacy projects. She was a member of the Alberta Health Services board of directors from 2015-2019, and was a member of the Minister's Opioid Emergency Response Commission for the time of its existence from 2017-2019. She is an honorary member of the Advocacy Normalizing Sex Work Through Education and Resources Society and the chair of the Canadian Drug Policy Coalition.

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm
Room 1-003, ETLC

Concurrent Session

B. Media in a Changing World



Sharon J. Riley

The Role of Journalism in Democracy (in an Online World)

The Narwhal is an online magazine with a digital audience. As algorithms increasingly dictate the content readers encounter online, and as reaction to bill C-18 limits access to journalism online, reporters, editors, and publishers face a difficult question — how to reach new audiences? The Narwhal has long sought to “complicate the narrative” around environment and energy issues with a goal to diffuse polarized beliefs with complex storytelling. But as tech giants increasingly limit access to news, reaching beyond ‘the choir,’ is increasingly difficult online. As society becomes more deeply entrenched in polarized politics, complicated journalism is more important than ever.

Sharon J. Riley is an award-winning journalist based in Edmonton. She is the Prairies bureau chief for The Narwhal, an online magazine focusing on the issues related to the environment and energy. She has worked for The Narwhal since 2018 — in that time the

Saturday

November 18, 2023

organization has grown from two staff to more than 20 and has expanded to include bureaus in B.C., the Prairies and Ontario. The Narwhal is a leader in non-profit journalism in Canada and is supported by more than 5,000 members and we collaborate with a range of other journalism outlets, including the Toronto Star, VICE World News, Chatelaine, The Weather Network, the Winnipeg Free Press and The Globe and Mail. Sharon's writing has also been published by The Walrus, Harper's, The Tyee and Maisonneuve, among others. Her work for The Narwhal has been nominated for a Canadian Association of Journalists award and a Digital Publishing Award. She was also named a finalist in the 2017 National Magazine Awards' Best New Magazine Writer category, was a 2017 recipient of the Access Copyright Foundation's Marian Hebb Research Grant for literary arts and won the Allan Slaight Prize for Journalism in 2020. Sharon was born and raised in rural Alberta, and if she's not at her computer she's probably in the Rockies with her family.



Jeremy Appel

Promises and Perils of Independent Media

Independent progressive media in Canada has exploded in recent years as legacy corporate media jobs become increasingly scarce. While this development is itself worthy of applause, it's not without its pitfalls. Journalist and author Jeremy Appel will guide you through how we can seize the opportunity afforded by alternative media to build a more engaged, informed citizenry with a healthy distrust of authority, and whether there's a role to play for legacy media in this equation.

Jeremy Appel is the author of the forthcoming book Kenneyism: Jason Kenney's Pursuit of Power, which will be published by Dundurn Press in February. Part biography, part rigorous critique of his ideology, the book examines how Kenney was able to successfully shift the Canadian mainstream rightwards, the human toll of his policies and his ultimate undoing. Few Canadian conservatives, save for Stephen Harper, Mike Harris and Ralph Klein, had as major an influence on Canadian politics. Appel moved to Alberta in 2017 from the Toronto area in pursuit of journalism work. Appel gained notoriety as a reporter and columnist at the Medicine Hat News, due to his unsparing criticisms of Jason Kenney and the UCP. A COVID layoff led to him becoming a freelancer before moving to Calgary to serve as the city hall report for The Sprawl, covering the lead-up to the 2021 civic election. After getting laid off from The Sprawl, Appel returned to freelancing and started The Orchard newsletter on Substack, which provides news and analysis from an unapologetically progressive angle, with particular attention to the intersection of politics, media and corporate power. His work has appeared in various mainstream and independent outlets, including CBC News, the Canadian Jewish News, Jacobin, PressProgress, The Progress Report, The Maple, Ricochet, The Breach and The Tyee.

3:45 pm – 4:00 pm
ETLC Lobby

Break

Saturday

November 18, 2023

4:00 pm – 5:15 am
Room 1-001, ETLC

Plenary




Dr. Paul Kershaw

Alberta Needs to Fix Its Broken Generational Deal

Data show that hard work doesn't pay off for younger Albertans today by comparison with past generations. The root causes of this problem have less to do with younger generations than their treatment by older ones as a result of past policy decisions. Those decisions have created major problems now that were predictable then. While there remains time for Alberta Boomers to leave a proud legacy for their kids' and grandchildren's generations, the work to build a Better Generational Deal needs to start now.

Dr. Paul Kershaw is a tenured professor at the University of BC, public speaker, regular media contributor, and founder of Generation Squeeze. Gen Squeeze is a think and change tank promoting well-being for all generations by championing generational fairness to preserve what Canadians hold sacred — a healthy childhood, home, and planet. Kershaw received the UBC President's Award for Public Education through the Media in 2023; the award for Academic of the Year in 2016 from the Confederation of University Faculty Associations of BC; and twice the Canadian Political Science Association has honoured Kershaw with national prizes for his gender and politics research. He received the award for BC's Affordable Housing Champion in 2017, and the Government of Canada's award for excellence in moving "Knowledge to Action" on housing in 2018. His work has directly influenced many policy areas, including \$10/day child care, the National Housing Strategy, pollution pricing, taxation of housing wealth, and commitments to generational fairness. Kershaw is the director of the Master of Public Health program in the UBC School of Population & Public Health.



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Sunday

November 19, 2023

8:00 am
ETLC Lobby

Doors Open

9:00 am – 10:15 am
Room 1-001, ETLC

Plenary



Dr. Stephanie Ross

Labour on the Upsurge? Strikes, Political Action and the Fight for Democracy

The labour movement seems to be having a moment of renewed power and influence. In North America, workers are making organizing breakthroughs at Starbucks, Amazon, and other companies previously thought impossible to unionize. There is a wave of global labour unrest, whether in education, health care, the civil service, shipping and transportation, factories in China, and even amongst Hollywood writers and actors. How do we understand this renewed groundswell of workers exerting their economic power? How do strikes and workplace organizing contribute to building labour's political capacity? In this talk, Dr. Ross will examine the labour movement's upsurge in Canada and around the world. She will explore the drivers of this upsurge, including the experience of the COVID-19 pandemic, the post-pandemic changes to labour markets and workers' attitudes, and the long-term effects of policies that have fostered extreme economic inequality. She will make the case that both strikes and political action are essential to the fight for a more democratic society.

Dr. Stephanie Ross is an associate professor in the School of Labour Studies at McMaster University. Her teaching and research focus on the politics and dynamics of labour movements, especially how unions deal with key questions of internal democracy, bargaining priorities, political vision and strategy, and collective identity. She is most concerned with strategies to renew the power of working people's organizations and the new forms of organizing taking place across the labour movement. She is currently the principal investigator on a five-year research project called Union Politics in the 21st Century, which seeks to understand the most effective strategies unions are using to influence public policy and improve workers' lives. She has co-edited three books, Rethinking the Politics of Labour in Canada, Public Sector Unions in the Age of Austerity, and Labour Under Attack: Anti-Unionism in Canada. Her latest book, Building a Better World: An Introduction to the Labour Movement in Canada (4th ed), was published in early 2023. A frequent commentator in the media about unions, labour relations, and collective action, she was the founding president of the Canadian Association for Work and Labour Studies between 2013-2018 and is a member of the board of the Workers' Arts and Heritage Centre in Hamilton.

10:15 am – 10:30 am
ETLC Lobby

Break
Coffee and pastries will be available

Sunday

November 19, 2023

10:30 am – 11:45 am
Room 1-013, ETLC

Concurrent Session

A. *Health-Care Crisis*



Lorian Hardcastle

Building a Sustainable Health-Care System for Alberta

This presentation will explore some of the pressing policy challenges affecting Alberta's health-care system and the legal, governance, and political barriers to achieving change. For example, these barriers include a contentious relationship with the federal government, an ideological preference for privatization, and a politicization of public health issues. The presentation will examine and critique recent and forthcoming legislative and policy changes in Alberta's health sector. It will also describe the kinds of sustainable and evidence-based reforms that health policy-makers ought to pursue in the future, including discussion of how those reforms might be made more feasible in Alberta's political climate.

Lorian Hardcastle is an associate professor in the Faculty of Law and Cumming School of Medicine at the University of Calgary. She has a JD (with Health Law and Policy Specialization Certificate) from Dalhousie University and a master's and doctorate in law from the University of Toronto. She also completed a fellowship at the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University. Lorian's research focuses on health law and policy, with a particular interest in the regulation and finance of the health-care delivery system, governance and liability issues in the health sector, and the governance of public health. She is a member of the Conjoint Health Research Ethics Board and the One Health Executive Committee at the University of Calgary. Lorian's research has been published in various health policy, medical, and legal journals and her op-eds and commentaries have appeared in many Canadian newspapers and publications. She is a frequent commentator on local and national health law and policy issues in print, on radio, and on television.

Sunday

November 19, 2023



Rebecca Graff-McRae

A Series of Unfortunate Events: Lessons from Alberta's Health-Care Crisis

Health-care systems across Canada — and, indeed, many countries around the world — have been struggling on multiple fronts since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. While the pandemic placed huge pressures on crucial aspects of healthcare provision, it wasn't the sole or even primary cause of many of the current challenges around staffing, diagnostic testing, primary care, or wait times for surgical procedures or ambulance services. The roots of these challenges can be traced to policy decisions going back decades. In this presentation, Rebecca Graff-McRae untangles the complexities and exposes the implications of these decisions as political choices. Drawing on lessons — often painfully learned — from Alberta's experiences with laboratory services, privately contracted surgeries, emergency medical services, and seniors' care, Rebecca offers the beginnings of a blueprint for what not to do as we attempt to rebuild.

Rebecca Graff-McRae completed her undergraduate and doctoral studies at Queen's University Belfast (PhD Irish Politics, 2006). Her work, which interrogates the role of memory and commemoration in post-conflict transition, has evolved through a Faculty of Arts fellowship at Memorial University Newfoundland and a SSHRC post-doctoral research fellowship at the University of Alberta. She has previously worked with the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland and Edmonton City Council. At Parkland, Rebecca has authored research reports on issues related to health care in Alberta, among them "Misdiagnosis: Privatization and Disruption in Alberta's Medical Laboratory Services" and "Alberta in Context: Health Care Under NDP Governments."



SCAN ME

Save Our CPP!

Danielle Smith and the UCP are threatening our public pensions.

We're going to stop them.



Sunday

November 19, 2023

10:30 am – 11:45 am
Room 1-003, ETL

Concurrent Session

B. Organizing for a Stronger Democracy



Dave Meslin

Democratic Reform in Canada: The Path to Participatory Politics and Common-Sense Policy-Making

Our political landscape is characterized by polarization, disengagement, distorted election results, regressive economic legislation and corporate lobbyists controlling the direction of public policy. We can do better. Dave Meslin wrote *Teardown: Rebuilding Democracy from the Ground Up*. The best-selling book is a recipe for change, a cure for cynicism and a war on apathy. There is a path forward. We'll never get the public policies we need, if the underlying operating system of our democracy is broken.

*Dave Meslin is the creative director of Unlock Democracy Canada. A passionate transpartisan political disruptor, Dave has spent the last 25 years as a political biologist, exploring the strange and mysterious worlds of protest movements, party politics, and non-profit organizations. His TED talk about apathy has more than 2 million views, and his 90-second video clip from the 2015 Canadian election coverage, which uses colourful stacks of Lego bricks to explain how our voting system fails us, has over 2.5 million views on Facebook alone. Wearing a suit and tie one day and shouting through a megaphone the next, Dave has worked as an executive assistant at both city hall and the provincial legislature, painted do-it-yourself bike lanes on the street, organized hundreds of volunteers, started a handful of non-profits, worked as federal lobbyist, helped draft provincial legislation, survived tear-gas riots in three countries, buried his car, and got thrown in jail. Not in that order. Dave's best-selling book, *Teardown: Rebuilding Democracy from the Ground Up*, is a roadmap for change and a cure for cynicism. The book is being adapted into a six-part docuseries by TVOntario. Dave's thesis is simple: We're stronger and smarter when we're all involved. By replacing cynicism with a culture of participation, we can re-imagine our role in the world and the possibilities of the future.*

Sunday

November 19, 2023



Emma Jackson

Only Mass Movements Will Save Us and Only We Can Build Them

We're in a moment of populist anger — and rightfully so. Grocery workers can't afford to buy food off the same shelves they stock. Young people are being priced out of entire cities amidst rising rents and stagnating wages. And all the while, the climate crisis is coming to bear on our lives in the form of floods, fires, and heatwaves. While the Right obfuscates who's responsible, the Left builds insular movements for those who already agree with each other 93% of the time. But if we're to stand any chance of toppling the status quo, we must build mass movements that can go head-to-head with the billionaire class and their political cronies. We must hone our organizing skills, craft compelling narratives that galvanize popular support, and re-politicize our previously depoliticized spaces and institutions. While the work won't be easy, it will be worth it. We have entire worlds to be won, and no time to lose.

Emma Jackson is an organizer, writer, and campaigner based on Treaty 6 territory in Edmonton, AB. She grew up in the Canadian labour movement and first cut her organizing teeth in the student fossil fuel divestment movement. She now works for the global climate justice organization 350.org, organizes locally with Climate Justice Edmonton, and sits on the board of the Alberta Workers' Association for Research and Education (AWARE). She's passionate about how we can build transformative mass movements, defeat Pierre Poilievre and the rise of the far-right, and win the world working people deserve.

11:45 am – 12:00 pm
ETLC Lobby

Break

Sunday

November 19, 2023

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm
Room 1-001, ETLC

Closing Keynote



Lewis Cardinal

Realizing Genuine Reconciliation: So Many Questions

A closer look at Canada's "Reconciliation era" through colliding ideas of what Reconciliation is or isn't. We may be able to find a common understanding of Reconciliation through uncommon questions like "Is Reconciliation a destination or a Journey and where's the map?" "Do we know the difference between Reconciliation and Reconsililyation?" "Is Reconciliation a neo-colonial trap?" "Reconciliation is fast becoming the 'R-word' and there is a list of concomitant R-words we need to know for us to see what genuine Reconciliation looks like. What are they?" "Is Reconciliation the right word to use for what we hope to achieve?" And "Is Reconciliation a noun or a verb?"

Lewis Cardinal is a communicator and educator; he has dedicated his life's work to creating and maintaining connections and relationships that cross-cultural divides. His long track record of public service currently includes; Board Member of Theatre Network Society, Vice-Chair of the Documentary Organization of Canada-Alberta, Chair of the Global Indigenous Dialogue of Initiatives of Change-Canada, and Trustee and Chair of the Indigenous Taskforce for the Council for a Parliament of World Religions.

Lewis has received Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee Medal for Public Service and the Platinum Jubilee Medal for his contributions to the Province of Alberta, as well as, the IndSpire Award for Public Service (awarded by the Indigenous peoples of Canada), the Province of Alberta's Centennial Medal for his work in Human Rights and Diversity, the Distinguished Alumni Award from Grant MacEwan University, and the Honorary Degree of "Doctor of Sacred Letters" from St. Stephen's College at the University of Alberta.

Lewis is Woodland Cree from the Sucker Creek Cree First Nation in Treaty No. 8 in northern Alberta, Canada. His consulting company, Cardinal Strategic Communications, specializes in Indigenous education, communications, and project development. He is also owner, CEO, Head Storyteller, and Chief Storykeeper of Red Earth Blue Sky Productions. Currently, Lewis is Project Manager for "kihcihkaw aski-Sacred Land" in the City of Edmonton, the first designated urban Indigenous ceremony grounds in Canada.

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Please hand in your nametag to the volunteers in the front lobby and return your mugs to one of the beverage stations. We will reuse the nametags to save money and the environment. The mugs are rented and we will have to pay a replacement fee for every mug that we lose.

Save the Date!

Parkland's Annual Fundraising Gala
and Silent Auction

February 29, 2024
Faculty Club, UofA

[illegible]

NOTES & THOUGHTS

[illegible]

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STRONG TOWNS

Is coming to Edmonton!

We're excited to welcome Chuck Marohn, the founder of the American-based Strong Towns movement, to Edmonton.

Strong Towns operates with the mission of replacing America's post-war pattern of development, the Suburban Experiment, with a pattern of development that is financially strong and resilient. We advocate for cities of all sizes to be safe, livable, and inviting.



Event One

Wednesday Dec 13th, 7:00PM
Metro Cinema

Event Two

Thursday Dec 14th, 9:00AM
Student Union Building,
University of Alberta

Scan or visit

[michaeljanz.ca/
strongtowns](http://michaeljanz.ca/strongtowns)



This event is organized and hosted by the U of A School of Urban and Regional Planning, Councillor Ashley Salvador, and Councillor Michael Janz.