

# LEARNING NETWORK SEXUAL VIOLENCE FORUM:

*WHAT REALLY INFORMS CONSENT?*

Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018

9:00 AM – 2:45 PM EST

Western



Centre for Research & Education on  
Violence Against Women & Children

LEARNING NETWORK

Funded by:



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# Live-Stream Link, Instructions & Social Media

## Live-Stream Link

<https://zoom.us/j/239270750>

## Social Media

Connect with us on social media throughout the event!

You can tag us on Twitter or Facebook:

 [@learntoendabuse](https://twitter.com/learntoendabuse)    [facebook.com/TheLearningNetwork](https://facebook.com/TheLearningNetwork)

[#InformingConsent](https://twitter.com/learntoendabuse) - Use this hashtag to join the discussion on Twitter

## Live-Stream Instructions

### Logging in

To join the meeting, please click on the above link. When entering a Zoom meeting for the first time from a computer you will need to download a small application file.

Before entering the meeting you will be prompted to enter a display name. Please input your name and/or organization.

A button will pop-up asking how you would like to join. Please use your computer for audio. Your microphone will be automatically muted throughout the event.

For a video example and further written instructions, please go to: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-How-Do-I-Join-A-Meeting->

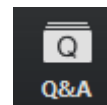
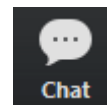


*Please click to view YouTube video with closed captions*

### Asking questions

There are two options you can use in order to ask questions during the Forum.

1. One option is to click the chat at the bottom of your Zoom box. A chat window will then open to right of your side of your Zoom Screen and you can type questions/comments there. A benefit of the chat box is that it is public so you can chat with others attending the live-stream.
2. Another option is to use a private question and answer box as shown at the bottom of your Zoom box. A question and answer window will then open. When using this box, only the organizers will see your questions/comments.



# About the Learning Network

The Learning Network is part of the Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women & Children (CREVAWC) at Western University.

The Learning Network is a provincial knowledge translation initiative on the continuum of gender-based violence (GBV). We are committed to principles of diversity, equity, and accessibility. We use a gender-based analysis in all of our work.

## Our work undertakes a range of objectives and activities. For instance, we:

- Identify gaps, emerging issues, and best practices on GBV prevention
- Develop and disseminate evidence-informed resources on GBV, including issue-based newsletters, learning briefs, fact sheets, and special reports
- Highlight current and relevant GBV research with a Canadian focus
- Support service providers and networks working to prevent GBV
- Create opportunities for sharing and constructing knowledge

## Our learning products include:

- [Electronic Resource Library on GBV](#)
- [Webinars](#)
- [Resource Production](#)
- Knowledge Exchanges
- [Videos](#)
- [Tools](#)

# Acknowledgements

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our speakers for contributing their knowledge and for their commitment to this event.

This Forum would not have been possible without our Planning Committee. They generously shared their time and wisdom with the Learning Network Team. Thank you –

- Kate Bojin, *White Ribbon*
- Krittika Ghosh, *Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants*
- Nicole Pietsch, *Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres*
- Serene Spence and Bonnie Wilson, *Ontario Native Women's Association*

We benefitted from the support of Vicky Gibson, Senior Program Advisor, Ministry of the Status of Women.

The live-stream video was made possible with the technical support of David Stevens from [Eyepowered Media](#), Don Coulombe, Mark Murray with [PSAV](#), and Jeremy Keeble from [Access Innovation Media](#).

This event was funded by the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of the Status of Women.

# Agenda-at-a-Glance

TIME	SPEAKER
9:00 – 9:20 AM	<b>TRADITIONAL OPENING CEREMONY</b> <i>Laureen (Blu) Waters</i> <b>OPENING REMARKS</b> <i>Dr. Linda Baker</i>
9:25 – 10:05 AM	<b>BEYOND CONSENT</b> <i>Dr. Lise Gotell</i>
10:10 – 10:20 AM	<b>MINDFULNESS SESSION</b> <i>Chenthoori Malankov</i>
10:20 – 10:35 AM	<b>BREAK</b>
10:35 – 11:35 AM	<b>THE LITANY OF RESISTANCE</b> <i>Yamikani Msosa with Berkha Gupta, Farrah Khan, Chenthoori Malankov, Nicole Pietsch, and Matt Schaaf</i>
11:35 – 12:05 PM	<b>LUNCH</b>
12:05 – 1:05 PM	<b>THE HIDDEN NARRATIVE: CONSENT IN A COLONIAL SYSTEM?!</b> <i>Brianna Olson</i>
1:10 – 2:25 PM	<b>THE GHOMESHI EFFECT: MEET THE ARTISTS</b> <i>Jessica Ruano, Leah Archambault, Marc-André Charette, Emmanuel Simon</i>
2:30 – 2:45 PM	<b>TRADITIONAL CLOSING CEREMONY</b> <i>Laureen (Blu) Waters</i> <b>CONCLUDING REMARKS</b> <i>Dr. Linda Baker</i>

# Presentation Descriptions

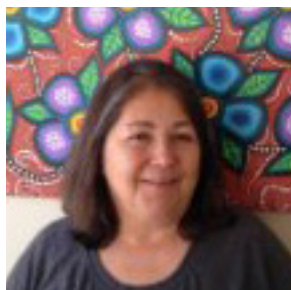
TIME	SPEAKER
9:00 – 9:20 AM	<p><b>TRADITIONAL OPENING CEREMONY</b> <i>Laureen (Blu) Waters</i></p> <p><b>OPENING REMARKS</b> <i>Dr. Linda Baker</i></p>
9:25 – 10:05 AM	<p><b>BEYOND CONSENT</b> <i>Dr. Lise Gotell</i></p> <p>In the aftermath of the Ghomeshi trial, and in the current context of the #MeToo movement, we have begun to have a national conversation about sexual violence. In this politicized context, there has been a renewed push for sexual assault prevention with an emphasis on consent education. Canada has a relatively strict legal standard for consent best captured by the phrase “only yes means yes.” The premise of consent education is to make people aware of this standard, and of the obligations of consent-seeking. However, I want to draw attention to some of the limitations of this focus on consent education. What is the problem with emphasizing consent? What gets left out when we emphasize the idea of consent as a dividing line between sexual assault and so-called normal sex? Who falls through the cracks of an affirmative consent standard? In this presentation, I emphasize the importance of understanding sexual violence through a power-sensitive and intersection lens and argue that when we focus on the moment of consent, we tend to ignore how sexual assault functions as a tactic of power – of patriarchy, racism, homophobia, transphobia, and colonization. What are some of the political tools we can use to move beyond consent in the struggle to end sexual violence?</p>
10:10 – 10:20 AM	<p><b>MINDFULNESS SESSION</b> <i>Chenthoori Malankov</i></p>
10:20 – 10:35 AM	<b>BREAK</b>

- 10:35 – 11:35 AM **THE LITANY OF RESISTANCE**  
*Yamikani Msosa with Berkha Gupta, Farrah Khan, Chenthoori Malankov, Nicole Pietsch, and Matt Schaaf*
- “...When we speak we are afraid our words will not be heard nor welcomed but when we are silent we are still afraid.  
 So it is better to speak remembering we were never meant to survive”  
 - Audre Lorde (Litany of Survival)
- This workshop challenges liberal practices of “inclusion” within conversations/ practices of anti-sexual violence frontline work with an emphasis on education. Participants will have the opportunity to (r)envision what it means to operate from an intersectional perspective that takes into account systems of power and privilege within the anti-sexual violence movement. This interactive workshop will engage folks representing local/provincial organizations and individuals that seek to challenge “one size fits all models” of addressing sexual violence.
- 11:35 – 12:05 PM **LUNCH**
- 12:05 – 1:05 PM **THE HIDDEN NARRATIVE: CONSENT IN A COLONIAL SYSTEM?!**  
*Brianna Olson*
- This interactive presentation will first explore the powerful roles held by Indigenous women prior to European contact and then explain how colonization deliberately set out to destroy, not just the roles, but the bodies of these women. It will then take up how and why sexual violence towards Indigenous women and girls continues at astounding rates, but that Canadians can choose to end this by actively participating in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action.
- 1:10 – 2:25 PM **THE GHOMESHI EFFECT: MEET THE ARTISTS**  
*Jessica Ruano, Leah Archambault, Marc-André Charette, Emmanuel Simon*
- In the wake of #MeToo, the team behind The Ghomeshi Effect - a documentary dance-theatre performance on sexual violence and the legal system in Canada – will perform selections from the show, share the history of the production and what they learned from listening to and interpreting real stories of sexual assault and gender-based violence, and discuss how they intend to continue this important conversation with future audiences.
- 2:30 – 2:45 PM **TRADITIONAL CLOSING CEREMONY**  
*Laureen (Blu) Waters*
- CONCLUDING REMARKS**  
*Dr. Linda Baker*

# Presenter Biographies

## **LAUREEN (BLU) WATERS**

*Elder, Peel  
Aboriginal Network*



Laureen (Blu) Waters; Istchii Nikamoon- Earth Song

Cree/Métis/Micmac from the wolf clan member of the Metis nation of Ontario

Blu's family is from Big River Saskatchewan, Athabkooop Reserve and Bra'dor Lake, Eskasoni First Nation, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. She is currently working at Peel Aboriginal Network as an elder providing Traditional teachings and individual counseling, full moon ceremonies and workshops, and at Seneca College as an elder on campus providing Traditional teachings and counseling.

Blu is also a grandmother to one of the commissioners on the National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls, and travels with the Inquiry to the hearings and testimonies. Blu grew up with her grandmother and learned about traditional medicines, performing healings, care of the sick, Sweat Lodge and pipe ceremonies, and 2spirit teachings. Blu's teaching came from community elders such as Rose Logan, Pauline Shirt, Harry Snowboy, and others.

She studied landscaping and horticulture for four years and has studied herbal medicine. Blu was also the national caucus representative for the Toronto Urban Aboriginal Strategy for 5 years working with the community of Toronto and the Government. She also is a graduate of DeVry Institute of Technology receiving her business software, micro computer architecture, and A+ certification.

She is a mother of 3, a grandmother of 3, a Sun dancer, and a pipe carrier.

## **DR. LISE GOTELL**

*University of Alberta*



Dr. Lise Gotell is a Professor in Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Alberta. She has published widely in the area of gender, sexuality and law.

Much of her recent work concerns the legal regulation of sexual violence.

Professor Gotell has engaged in studies analyzing the legal standard for consent in Canadian law and the efficacy of provisions restricting sexual history evidence and access to complainant's confidential records. Her work has been cited by the Supreme Court of Canada and in law reform initiatives in Australia, New Zealand, England and Wales and Scotland. She is currently the National Chair of the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund.



**CHENTHOORI  
MALANKOV**

*Sexual Violence  
Advocate*



Chenthoori Malankov is the daughter of the Tamil diaspora who is an activist from Toronto. Utilizing alternative platforms such as arts and education models she designs and facilitates workshops and trainings on ending violence against women across the province and within the Immigrant and Refugee communities with the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants. Chenthoori is currently a trauma informed yoga practitioner cultivating spaces of healing to address resilience in the face of violence within marginalized and racialized communities.

**YAMIKANI MSOSA**

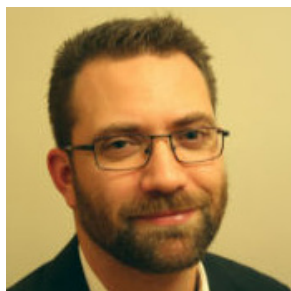
*Consent Comes  
First Office, Ryerson  
University*



Yamikani Msosa is a grassroots feminist anti-violence advocate and support worker. In September 2017 she joined Ryerson University Office of Sexual Violence Support and Education as a Specialist. Originally from Ottawa by way of Lilongwe, Malawi. She completed her Master's degree in Women and Gender Studies at Carleton and was employed at the Sexual Assault Support Centre of Ottawa as the Public Education Coordinator for eight years. She has given trainings all over the country on issues of Sexual Violence, including Ontario Police College, Ministry Labour, Status of Women and more. Her feminist activism started at Ottawa Coalition to End Violence against Women, then transitioned to Immigrant Women Services of Ottawa. Yami currently sits on the Advisory Council for MATCH International Global Fund for Women & Youth Advisory for the Equality Project at Ottawa University Law Department where she is researching Intersectionality & Bystander Intervention on Campus Universities across Canada.

**MATT SCHAAF**

*Ottawa Coalition  
to End Violence  
Against Women*



Matt Schaaf coordinates the MANifest Change project at the Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women. Matt's work in the field of violence prevention includes collaborations with communities in Colombia, Mexico, Anishnaabe Treaty #3 territory and Winnipeg's inner city.

**BERKHA GUPTA**  
*Lesbian Gay Bi  
Trans Youth Line*



Berkha Gupta (@berkhs) is currently the Executive Director of the LGBT Youth Line (@LGBTYouthLine), an organization that offers peer support and leadership opportunities to 2SLGBTQ youth across Ontario. In the last ten years, most of their work has focused on engaging and supporting 2SLGBTQ, youth, and POC (People of Colour) communities in the City of Toronto and Peel region, including work at organizations such as Planned Parenthood Toronto, Peel HIV/AIDS Network, and Earth Day Canada. Berkha also frequently leads workshops for service providers, educators, and youth on various topics related to increasing safety, reducing isolation, and building capacity to create more anti-oppressive spaces. As a transmasculine (non-binary) person of colour, they are committed to creating and supporting community spaces for racialized queer, trans communities and have co-led the creation of projects such as the Q? Y Art? Project, a colour deep, and a monthly QTBIPOC meetup in Mississauga.

**FARRAH KHAN**  
*Consent Comes  
First Office, Ryerson  
University*



Farrah Khan, a nationally recognized advocate and educator with over 16 years experience supporting survivors of sexual violence, is the coordinator of Ryerson's Office of Sexual Violence Support and Education. It is her responsibility to oversee university-wide activities related to awareness, education, training, support and response to sexual violence in the Ryerson community. She leads and coordinates the design and implementation of strategic initiatives aimed at reinforcing our commitment to fostering a safe, healthy, supportive environment for all students, faculty and staff, and the development and delivery of appropriate supports for sexual violence survivors.

**NICOLE PIETSCH**

*Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres, Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention Services of Halton*



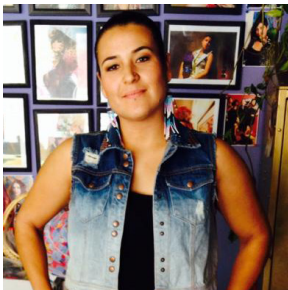
Nicole Pietsch is a Coordinator of the Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres. The Coalition's membership includes 29 community-based sexual assault centres from across Ontario.

Since 1998, Nicole has assisted women and youth living with violence, including immigrant and refugee women and survivors of sexual violence. In recent years, Nicole has worked with youth and adult survivors of violence who are incarcerated, those living in an institutional setting, and Deaf youth. Nicole has a particular interest in the ways in which social constructs of sex, gender, age and race inform Canadian social policy, including law.

Nicole's written work has appeared in York University's Journal of the Association for Research on Mothering, the University of Toronto's Women's Health and Urban Life, and Canadian Woman Studies/les cahiers de la femme.

**BRIANNA OLSON**

*Social Worker, Wikwemikong Unceded First Nation*



Brianna Olson is a social worker, diverse multi-media artist and member of Wikwemikong Unceded First Nation, currently undertaking her Masters in Social Work through the Indigenous Trauma and Resiliency specialization at the Factor-Inwentash at the University of Toronto. As an Indigenous woman and practitioner, Brianna has spent the last decade committed to supporting Indigenous families and other marginalized communities through the arts and harm reduction. She is currently residing in Toronto and developing a deeper understanding of trauma in the MSW program, as well as focusing her energy on sharing her gifts of Indigenous artistry and leadership with the community. She has contributed her work at various agencies around the GTA such as the Native Canadian Center of Toronto, Native Women's Resource Center, Native Child and Family Services, Canadian Roots Exchange, and is currently serving as a teaching and research assistant at Ryerson University. Recently, she has been scheduled to deliver educational workshops at the Faculty of Social Work on topics such as sexual violence and human trafficking. She is an avid volunteer, lending her time and support to the University of Toronto First Nations House and the Walking with Our Sisters memorial installation, as well as fundraising for numerous important causes. Brianna has received a Harm Reduction award (Kaiser Foundation, 2006), Top 100 women in business, (Wanderer, 2013), Esquao award (Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal women, 2013), Top 30 under 30, (Centre for Global cooperation/ 2014) and Human Rights award (John Humphrey centre for Peace and Human rights, 2015).

## THE GHOMESHI EFFECT

*A verbatim dance theatre performance on sexual violence in Canada*

### ACTORS:

Jessica Ruano, Leah Archambault, Marc-André Charette, Emmanuel Simon



Jessica Ruano is an Ottawa-based theatre director, producer, and writer. She has an M.A. in Theatre Theory and Dramaturgy from the University of Ottawa, and she wrote her thesis on new works of theatre that have toured the Canadian festival circuit. In 2013, she directed the London premiere of *Sappho...in 9 fragments*, applauded for its aerial scenography, that played to sold out houses and toured across Canada and to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. She also recently directed the Ottawa premiere of *Seven*: a documentary play for Inter Pares, a social justice organization. She volunteers as a support worker for the Sexual Assault Support Centre (SASC) of Ottawa, and is very passionate about education around sexuality and sexual violence.

Leah Archambault has a Masters degree from York University in Dance, and her performance interests and background include dance/theatre, performance art and hardcore punk vocals. She has performed at Toronto's Harbourfront Centre, Buddies In Bad Times Theatre, and in *Nuit Blanche Toronto*. For several years she volunteered with the Toronto Rape Crisis Centre/Multicultural Women Against Rape (TRCC/MWAR).

Marc-André Charette has been working as a professional actor in Ottawa-Gatineau for the past 20 years. Recent credits include *La Soupe de Kafka* (Théâtre de l'Île), and *Turbulences* (Ottawa Dance Directive / Centre de danse contemporaine), *Copeaux* by Mishka Lavigne and *Et si un soir* by Lisa L'Heureux (Théâtre Rouge Écarlate), *Écume* (Théâtre du Trillium) for which he was nominated for a Rideau Award, and *#PigeonsAffamés* (Théâtre du Trillium) which toured Canada in 2017. He is a keen marathon runner and foster dad.

Emmanuel Simon is an-Ottawa based neo-soul jazz vocalist. He has performed across North America, in South America, and in Europe. He has performed with Josh Groban and Lyle Lovett, to name a few. Emmanuel's classical training has also led him to perform at the historic Carnegie Hall. He has appeared on Off Broadway productions of *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Notre Dame de Paris* and *42nd Street*. Ten years ago, he and Jessica Ruano worked together on the Ottawa premiere of Canadian Parliamentary Poet Laureate George Elliott Clarke's jazz libretto *Québecité*.

# Learning Network Team

**Linda Baker**, Learning Director

**Elsa Barreto**, Digital Media Specialist

**Dianne Lalonde**, Research Associate

**Jassamine Tabibi**, Research Associate



## Contact Us

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**TWITTER:** [@LearnToEndAbuse](https://twitter.com/LearnToEndAbuse)

# Learning Network Provincial Resource Group

**CORA MCGUIRE-CYRETTE**

[Ontario Native Women's Association](#)



**CAROL BARKWELL**

[Luke's Place](#)



**KATE BOJIN**

[White Ribbon Campaign](#)



**SLY CASTALDI/  
NICOLE PIETSCH**

[Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres](#)



**ESTHER ENYOLU**

[Women's Multicultural Resource & Counselling Centre of Durham](#)



**SHARON FLOYD/  
MARLENE HAM**

[Ontario Association of Interval  
and Transition Houses](#)



Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses

**KRITTIKA GHOSH**

[Ontario Council of Agencies  
Serving Immigrants](#)



Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants

**PETER JAFFE/  
BARBARA MACQUARRIE**

[Centre for Research & Education  
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Violence Against Women & Children

**SHEILA SCHUEHLEIN**

[Elder Abuse Ontario](#)



**Elder Abuse Ontario**

Stop Abuse - Restore Respect

**Maltraitance des personnes âgées Ontario**

Arrêtez les mauvais traitements - Restaurez le respect

**WENDY KOMIOTIS**

[METRAC](#)



**METRAC**

ACTION ON VIOLENCE

**ROXANE MANITOWABI**

[Ontario Native Education  
Counselling Association](#)



**MAÏRA MARTIN**

[Action ontarienne contre la  
violence faite aux femmes](#)



**ROBIN MASON**  
[Women's College Hospital](#)



**NNEKA MCGREGOR**  
[WomenatthecentrE](#)



**NADINE SOOKERMANY**  
[Springtide Resources](#)

