



## **A Future Without Poverty: National Dialogue 2025**

### **Panel Speakers**

## **Host**

### **Leila Sarangi**

**Senior Director, Strategy & Innovation, Family Service Toronto**

**National Director, Campaign 2000**



Leila Sarangi is the Senior Director of Strategy and Innovation at Family Service Toronto ([www.familyserVICEToronto.org](http://www.familyserVICEToronto.org)), a multi-service organization with community programs for people with mental health challenges, who have experienced gender-based violence, and for adults and children labeled with developmental disabilities. As part of this role, she serves as the National Director of Campaign 2000: End Child and Family Poverty, a pan-Canadian coalition of over 120 organizations that came about in response to a 1989 unanimous all-party federal resolution to end child poverty by the year 2000 ([www.campaign2000.ca](http://www.campaign2000.ca)).

Leila brings with her over 25 years of non-profit leadership, coalition-building and advocacy experience. She is a seasoned community builder and facilitator with a deep passion for connecting lived experiences to social action and public policy development to achieve

long-term systemic change using intersectional and trauma informed praxis.

Leila has successfully initiated, led and contributed to numerous anti-poverty and development initiatives locally and nationally, including Localizing Canada's Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals ([www.sdg.campaign2000.ca](http://www.sdg.campaign2000.ca)), CERB Amnesty Campaign, 2SLGBTQ+ Poverty in Canada, Alternative Federal Budget, Women and Micro Enterprise, and Gender in the Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy. She is the lead author of the annual national Child and Family Poverty Report Card and Disability Poverty Report Card.

In her current role, Leila is invited regularly to testify at various Canadian House of Commons committees and has appeared at City Council Committee on issues including income security, accessible public services including childcare and housing, decent work, public health, gender equity and budget and legislative changes. Leila was a member of the Mayor's Community Committee on Poverty Reduction, has co-chaired numerous community and research committees, and is currently the Chair of the Board of Directors of Social Planning Toronto and a Board of Directors member at large of Child Care Now, Canada's national childcare advocacy

association. Leila is frequently sought out by local and national media outlets to comment on current issues related to poverty and poverty eradication.

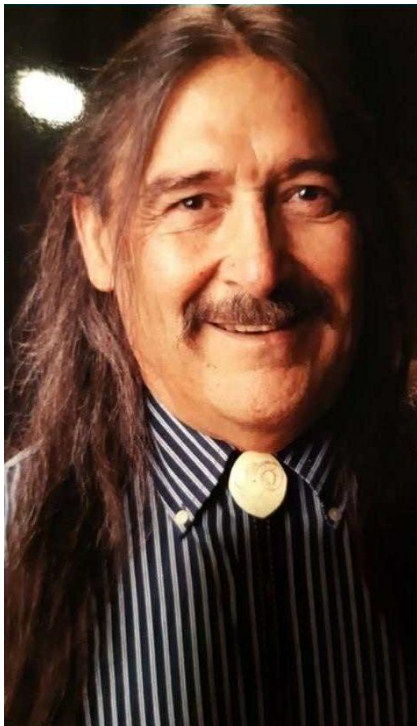
Leila spent many years in her early and mid-career working in homeless women's and violence against women's shelters throughout the City of Toronto. It was through this work Leila learned that those who experience systemic marginalization and discrimination are often the furthest away from decision-making. Leila is driven by her belief that in sharing power, collaboration and connecting across issues that we can build a more equitable, sustainable and just society.

## **Presenter 1**

### **Jack Bogaard**

**Community leader and advocate from the Skeetchestn Shuswap Nation**

**Founder of Voices Influencing Change**



Jack Bogaard is from Skeetchestn Shuswap Nation and has been supporting people living on the streets for many, many years. Jack sat on the Safe at Home Steering committee in 2017 as a person with lived experience of homelessness and saw firsthand the importance of his voice, and the need for more people with lived expertise to be at decision making tables. He was the impetus for the Voices Influencing Change program. Jack is a keen listener, a leader and teacher. He is known for his ability to live with an open heart and an open mind which leads him to remind us to "create a good day". He gets strength from drumming, carving with mammoth ivory and cedar wood, biking and walking on the land.

## **Presenter 2**

**Jasmine Ramze Rezaee**

**Director of Policy and Community Action; Right to Food**



Jasmine Ramze Rezaee brings a human lens to the policy decisions that shape our lives. As Director of the Poverty Action Unit at Right To Food (formerly Community Food Centres Canada), she leads strategic efforts to confront poverty and uphold food as a basic human right. A respected political and social commentator, Jasmine offers clear, compelling insights into the intersections of food security, equity, and progressive policy.



### **Presenter 3**

**Rabia Khedr**

**National Director of Disability Without Poverty**

**CEO of DEEN Support Services.**



Rabia is dedicated to equity and justice for persons with disabilities, women, and diverse communities. Rabia most recently served as a Director on the Accessibility Standards Canada board and a Commissioner on the Ontario Human Rights Commission. She sits on the Minister's Disability Advisory Group. She is the National Director of Disability Without Poverty and CEO of DEEN Support Services. A founder of Race and Disability Canada, she is also a board member of the Muslim Council of Peel and the Federation of Muslim Women. A motivational speaker and documentary commentator, Rabia draws on her lived experience of being blind and advocating for siblings with intellectual disabilities. Rabia has received numerous awards for her humanitarian services, including a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal and the Daniel G. Hill human rights award. Rabia holds a Bachelor of Arts

(University of Toronto) and a Master of Arts (York University).

## **Presenter 4**

### **Executive Director of the National Council of Youth in Care Advocates (NCYICA)**

### **Adjunct Professor at McGill University and Université Laval**



Dr. Doucet has been working to improve the lives of youth in care for over 20 years, starting in her home province of New Brunswick, and now based in the unceded traditional territory of the Kanyen'kehá:ka (Mohawk) Nation in Montreal, Quebec. She is a former youth in care, holds a PhD in Social Work, is an expert consultant, an Adjunct Professor at the McGill University School of Social Work and Université Laval, a member of the McGill Centre for Research on Children and Families (CRCF) and the Executive Director of the newly established lived experience-led organization, the National Council of Youth in Care Advocates (NCYICA). Prior to relocating to Montreal, Dr. Doucet was a Project Officer for the Government of N.B.'s award winning Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) project for

children and youth with emotional, behavioural and mental health issues, and was pivotal to its province-wide implementation. Her doctoral research, Relationships Matter for Youth 'Aging Out' of Care, received national attention and provided a platform for youth from care in the Greater Vancouver Area to develop child welfare research, policy and practice recommendations based on their lived experience expertise. Dr. Doucet is a renowned public speaker on the importance of equitably supporting youth in and from care from a rights-based and humane perspective. Her work has received high-level acclaim including a Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation Doctoral scholarship, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) grants, and most recently, the Erminie Cohen Compassion Award. Dr. Doucet's research aims to provide a platform for the voice of youth from care in proposing specific recommendations relevant to child welfare policies, programs and intervention strategies targeted to young people in care transitioning to adulthood. She is a passionate mentor to and advocate for youth involved in the child welfare system and is currently leading the Equitable Transitions to Adulthood for Youth in Care project alongside the members of the National Council of Youth in Care Advocates.

## **Presenter 5**

### **Amanda Therrien**

#### **Feminist Lawyer and Researcher at the National Association of Women and the Law (NAWL)**



Amanda Therrien is a Feminist Lawyer and Researcher for the National Association of Women and the Law. Amanda obtained her Juris Doctor from Osgoode Hall Law School in 2022 and, prior to her role with NAWL, was a lawyer in private practice where she focused on advancing the rights of workers and tenants in the realms of housing and employment law. As a Feminist Lawyer and Researcher at NAWL, Amanda puts this

employment law background to use advocating for women's economic security and prosperity. In her spare time, she can be found speed puzzling, reading, or hanging out with her dog Zuko.



## **Presenter 6**

**Stacia Stewart**

**Director, Research, Policy and Communications**

**Social Planning Toronto**



Stacia Stewart is a community visionary, researcher, and change-maker with more than 27 years of experience in health equity, community wellness, and developing community-led initiatives across the health, education, and social services sectors. She has worked at the local, provincial, and national levels, leading interdisciplinary teams, shaping public policy, and advancing equity through research, stakeholder engagement, and culturally responsive program design. Her work spans maternal and child health, gender-based violence prevention, newcomer settlement, and LGBTQ+ inclusion, with a proven record of strengthening community initiatives and driving systemic change. Beyond her professional

work, Stacia is a proud parent of three & auntie to many, and a dedicated community mentor.



## **Presenter 7**

**Scott MacAfee**

**Chair, National Advisory Council on Poverty**

**Community Development and Poverty Reduction Specialist**

**Former Senior Advisor, Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation  
(Government of New Brunswick)**



Social Enterprise.

Scott is a student of life, seeking out the new, innovative and interesting and connecting them to each other and existing systems. He lives and works from a strength-based approach, where all people have something to contribute.

He spent 19 years with the Government of New Brunswick, working on poverty reduction through the department of Social Development and the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation.

Scott supported the creation and evolution of the Community Inclusion Networks and has helped with the development of over 500 community-based poverty reduction projects.

Scott is passionate about Asset Based Community Development, Storytelling, Literacy, Community Transportation and

## **Moderator**

### **Michael Redhead Champagne**

#### **Community leader, public speaker and author**



Michael Redhead Champagne is working towards a revolution that dismantles harmful systems and builds up new ones based on justice, equity and love. A community leader from Winnipeg's North End with family roots in Shamattawa First Nation, Michael is host, helper, published author, on-screen personality and sought after public speaker. Michael happily shares his words, wisdom and welcoming energy across Canada and around the world.

Michael believes Indigenous knowledge will save the world and this can be seen in his commitment to Ininew concepts such as wahkotowin, mino bimaadisiwin & more. He is actively working on reclaiming his Ininew language and in 2023 started a language nest at the St John's Public Library. Whether it's eliminating poverty, ending homelessness or increasing supports for children, youth and families, he is relentless in his pursuit of a more compassionate world. He organizes the annual North End Grad Walk, the North End

Historical Society and is a board member for Fearless R2W & the Manitoba Health Coalition.

You can find him speaking out about poverty, politics and reconciliation on social media, podcasts, video projects and in the news. Featured on multiple TEDx Talks, APTN's Michif Country & First Contact, Michael is also developing a number of storytelling and multi media projects. He loves family friendly jokes, Tetris, Stevie Wonder music and celebrating the successes of others

## **Call to Action**

### **Natalie Appleyard**

#### **Socio-Economic Policy Analyst at Citizens for Public Justice**



Natalie Appleyard (she/her) is the Socio-Economic Policy Analyst for Citizens for Public Justice (CPJ), an organization of members “inspired by faith to act for justice”. CPJ seeks to equip and mobilize communities and individuals across the country to advocate for just policies in the areas of poverty, refugee and migrant rights, and climate justice using intersectional, rights-based approaches. Natalie uses her background in education to help convene, share knowledge, and build solidarity among a variety of communities and organizations. She is a Board member of the Canadian Health Coalition, a co-convenor of the We Go Together Network, a member of the Steering Committee for Campaign 2000, and represents CPJ on the Canadian Council of Churches’ Commission on Justice and Peace.

