

# Ethics. Insight. Innovation.

## 2019 Annual Meeting and Education Day

Part of the Glenda McDonald Educational Series

Thursday, June 13, 2019

Toronto, Ontario

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Metro Toronto Convention Centre  
North Building, Lower Level

Ontario College of  
Social Workers and  
Social Service Workers



Ordre des travailleurs  
sociaux et des techniciens  
en travail social de l'Ontario

## Conference Overview

**8:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.** Registration

**9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.** Annual Meeting

**10:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.** Break

**11 a.m. – Noon** Keynote Address

**Noon – 1:30 p.m.** Lunch

**1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.** Breakout Session A

**2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.** Breakout Session B

## Keynote Address

11:00 a.m. – Noon



### **Reconciliation and Social Work and Social Service Work Practice** *Jeffrey Ansloos, PhD*

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada helped put a spotlight on the ugly history and legacy of Canada's residential school system. In his keynote address, Indigenous rights scholar Jeffrey Ansloos will draw upon his extensive experience in the community, clinical and social policy settings to discuss the work of the TRC and how members

of the College can take up the TRC's calls to action for reconciliation. Jeffrey will explore how social workers and social service workers can integrate and apply their knowledge in relation to those calls to action.

# Breakout Session A

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

## **A1: From “Living to Die” to “Dying to Live”**

***Yvonne Bergmans, MSW, RSW, PhD***

In this workshop, participants will be introduced to a formulation of understanding suicidality from “living to die” to “dying to live,” with a focus on understanding and responding to recurrent suicide attempts. Intervention strategies commensurate with the fluidity of phases and dealing with one’s own fears and concerns will be discussed, based on Dr. Yvonne Bergmans’ clinical work, which includes social work psychotherapy, risk assessment and consultations for people at risk for suicide throughout the Mental Health Department at St. Michael’s.

## **A2: Learning from the Kaswenta: Contemporary Social Work/Social Service Work, Indigenous Sovereignty and the Therapeutic Alliance**

***Emily Claire Blackmoon, MSW, RSW***

The Kaswenta, or Two Row Wampum, is a 1613 treaty agreement between the Haudenosaunee and the Dutch settlers of New York State. How can the Kaswenta, with its teachings on self-determination and “separate but equal” alliances between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, teach contemporary social work and social service work practice?

How does this apply to therapy? Using the guiding teachings of the Kaswenta, this workshop seeks to support social workers and social service workers in deepening their understanding of allyship, ethics and advocacy when working in support of Indigenous peoples in Canada.

## **A3: Social Work at the Public Library** ***Rahma Hashi, MSW, RSW***

Public libraries provide important social and community spaces that promote the inclusion and well-being of everyone. By collaborating with social services, libraries are building partnerships with their communities in innovative ways. This session explores the link between social work and librarianship in the Toronto Public Library (TPL) system. Best practices on how to serve vulnerable persons and respond to their unique information and service needs is presented. It is through such alliances that public libraries can become responsive and relevant to the changing needs of their communities.

## Breakout Session A (Continued)

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

### **A4: Love in The Time of The Opioid Crisis – Humanizing Addiction and Dismantling Stigma**

***Sarah Keast***

What if shame and stigma could be eliminated? What if you could replace them with empathy and compassion? How many lives could you save? Sarah Keast, the widow of a social worker who died of an accidental overdose, is a writer, public speaker and activist.

She humanizes addiction by painting a full and complete picture of what addiction in families looks like and how it impacts daily life. Sarah will share powerful tools that each one of us can adopt in order to dismantle stigma, cultivate compassion and ultimately save lives.

## Breakout Session B

2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

### **B1: Human Trafficking in Our Communities**

***Shelley Gilbert, BSW, RSW***

This session will explore the elements of human trafficking and how recruitment, coercion and exploitation interconnect to perpetrate the crime of human trafficking. Case studies will be utilized to assist participants in identifying root causes and preventative strategies. As different sectors often attribute “types or labels” to human trafficking, the session will explore this need as well as the similarities and differences

in providing supports to various populations such as international and domestic survivors, Indigenous communities, men and women, youth and LGBTQ2S communities.

### **B2: Anti-Oppressive Practice as a Transformational Tool**

***Donna Hinds, MSW, RSW, RSSW***

How can we situate anti-oppressive practice as a transformational tool within the contexts of our everyday practice relationships as social workers and social service workers?

# Breakout Session B (Continued)

2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Professor Donna Hinds will clarify anti-oppressive practice within the context of the presentation and link it to the transformational leadership approach. Donna will examine key themes, including anti-oppressive practice as a navigating tool; anti-oppressive practice and the self; the reframing of the mind; social work ethics, insight, and anti-oppressive practice as a transformational paradigm; and our professional responsibilities as social workers and social service workers.

## **B3: Why Health Equity Matters in Child and Family-Centred Care**

***Robyn Lippett, MSW, RSW & Karen Sappleton, MEd, MSW, RSW***

How do we ensure providers are practising with an anti-oppressive practice lens and are properly equipped to work with people who are not like themselves? We know that quality health care and social services to any marginalized population involves ensuring that providers feel equipped and knowledgeable. Organizations must also have equitable practices, policies and procedures that are accommodating and meeting the needs of vulnerable populations. Join Robyn and Karen, who will share their experiences, perspectives and thoughts on how social justice and equity shape the work they do at SickKids.

## **B4: #socialwork: Informal Use of Information and Communication Technology in Social Work and Social Service Work Practice**

***Faye Mishna, MSW, RSW, PhD***

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) have transformed “helping professions” yet, despite the ubiquity of ICTs, there are significant knowledge gaps regarding informal ICT use in social work, social service work and other fields. Many practitioners are unaware of ICT workplace policies and do not talk with peers or supervisors about their informal ICT use. Join Professor Faye Mishna, whose scholarly publications have recently focused on cybertechnology in social work clinical practice, for an exploration of informal ICT use among social workers and social service workers, and its impact on working relationships.

# Speakers

## **Jeffrey Ansloos, PhD**

A member of Fisher River Cree Nation (Ochekwi-Sipi; Treaty 5), noted policy advisor and psychologist Dr. Jeffrey Ansloos is an assistant professor of Indigenous mental health and social policy at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE). As part of his research field, Jeffrey researches digital ecologies of Indigenous youth political mobilization, specifically at the intersections of criminal justice reform, suicide prevention, racial justice and migration, and Indigenous rights. He is the author of *The Medicine of Peace: Indigenous Youth Resisting Violence and Decolonizing Healing* (Fernwood, 2017), as well as a blogger and media commentator on current affairs with Maclean's magazine and HuffPost.

## **Yvonne Bergmans, MSW, RSW, PhD**

Yvonne is a social worker psychotherapist (Urgent Care Program) and suicide interventionist at the Suicide Studies Research Unit of the Arthur Sommer Rotenberg (ASR) Chair in Suicide Studies at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto. For the past 20 years, she has led the development, coordination and facilitation of the 20-week Skills for Safer Living/PISA intervention for people with recurrent suicide attempts at the Suicide Studies Research Unit at St. Michael's. She is actively involved

in several research projects and education activities related to suicide at St. Michael's and in collaboration with communities in and outside of Canada.

## **Emily Claire Blackmoon, MSW, RSW**

As a social worker and counsellor for high-risk adults and youth in Toronto's urban Indigenous community, Emily Claire Blackmoon provides holistic mental health support that combines the methodologies of Gestalt therapy, anti-oppressive practice and Indigenous (Anishnawbe) philosophies. With a private practice in the Annex and as a member of The Healing Collective in Toronto, Emily believes that authenticity brings integrity and meaning to the therapeutic relationship. She is a Two-Spirited (bisexual) woman, Eagle Clan, of French-Canadian, U.K. and Algonquin descent.

## **Shelley Gilbert, BSW, RSW**

A noted expert and speaker on human trafficking, Shelley Gilbert is the coordinator of social work at Legal Assistance of Windsor (LAW), where she is responsible for the creation and coordination of community development initiatives. Shelley has also acted as the Chair of Windsor-Essex Fights the International Growth of Human Trafficking (WEFiGHT), an organization which she founded in the early 2000s. Through WEFiGHT, Shelley advocates

## Speakers (Continued)

for victims of human trafficking, and pushes for policy changes to help this population. In 2016, she received the Attorney General's Victim Services Award of Distinction, in honour of her work in raising awareness of human trafficking and supporting its victims.

### **Rahma Hashi, MSW, RSW**

A social justice advocate, Rahma combines therapeutic and systemic lenses in social work practice. She has an MSW from the University of Toronto and is a Certified Change Agent (CCA). Rahma supports the delivery of library services to vulnerable populations and is aiming to foster impactful and productive partnerships with the community. Prior to the Toronto Public Library, she designed and delivered programs to vulnerable populations in the non-profit sector, where she addressed issues of violence and bullying, diversity, social inclusion, as well as access and equity. In addition, she supported the implementation of a human-centred design project in the public sector.

### **Donna Hinds, MSW, RSW, RSSW**

As a full-time professor at Centennial College, Donna integrates different theoretical stances and critical pedagogy to encourage students to challenge themselves to analyze power structures and inequality to create their own

interpretation and meaning. Her areas of intellectual curiosity include transformative learning, power, privilege, oppression, understanding of the self, social injustices, poverty and marginalization of the poor. She reviews social work-related textbooks for some of Canada's leading publishers and is a motivational speaker. In 2017, Donna was a recipient of the George Wicken Memorial Award for Teaching Excellence at Centennial College. She is currently completing her Doctor of Education in Organisational Leadership.

### **Sarah Keast**

Through her *Adventures in Widowed Parenting* blog and, most recently, her TEDx talk, Sarah Keast explores the topics of love and loss, mental health and substance use disorder, shame and stigma, and the power of empathy, compassion and connection. She is a widow, a mom of two young girls and a wannabe Wonder Woman, whose writing has also been published in *Chatelaine*, *Today's Parent*, and *The New Family*. Sarah believes in the powerful magic of a good yoga class, Netflix binging, vanilla lattes, laughing with friends and laughing at yourself.

## Speakers (Continued)

### **Robyn Lippett, MSW, RSW**

(pronouns: they/them) is a non-binary trans social worker, currently working at the Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) as its patient and family engagement coordinator, providing training, support and overall coordination of all things related to enhancing authentic partnerships with patients and families.

Robyn has experience working in child welfare, non-profit management, and queer and trans healthcare. They are passionate about health equity, critical disability perspectives on social work, and working with youth.

### **Faye Mishna, MSW, RSW, PhD**

A noted author and expert on the topic of bullying and cyberbullying in Canada, Dr. Faye Mishna is Dean and Professor at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto and is cross-appointed to the Department of Psychiatry. Faye holds the Margaret and Wallace McCain Family Chair in Child and Family. She has conducted research on bullying, cyberbullying, cybercounselling and the impact of cybertechnology in traditional face-to-face counselling and interventions with vulnerable children and youth. She has a small private practice in consultation and therapy.

### **Karen Sappleton, MEd, MSW, RSW**

(pronouns: she/her) is the senior manager of child and family-centered care and health equity at SickKids. She is responsible for the Office of Patient and Family Experience, the Family Centre, and the Interpreter Services Department. She also manages the TDSB schooling program at SickKids as well as the RMHC Toronto Family Room partnership. In her tenure at SickKids, she has been a clinical social worker, clinical research project manager, inter-professional education specialist, a transition specialist, and a manager. Through these multi-faceted roles, Karen uses her social work lens to promote change and improve the care provided to our patients and families.

# Registration Information

We are pleased to offer this event free of charge and do our best to accommodate all members who would like to attend. Unfortunately, fire codes and other restrictions limit the number of attendees that we can accommodate. Registrations are available on a first-come, first-book basis and we encourage members to register online for immediate confirmation.

**No registration is confirmed until you receive a confirmation number.**

**CANCELLATION POLICY IN EFFECT — 72 HOURS' NOTICE IN WRITING MANDATORY.**

You MUST receive confirmation that your cancellation was received. You will be provided with a cancellation number to maintain for your reference.

Registrants must agree to this cancellation policy before their registration will be processed.

Our event continues to have registrants who do not show up without cancellation notice, leaving many on the waiting list without a fair opportunity to attend. Members who register and do not provide 72 HOURS notice of their cancellation in WRITING (email cancellation to [AMED@ocswssw.org](mailto:AMED@ocswssw.org)) and who do not show up will be given second priority of attendance in future years. We will strive to make the event available to as many as possible and appreciate your cooperation.

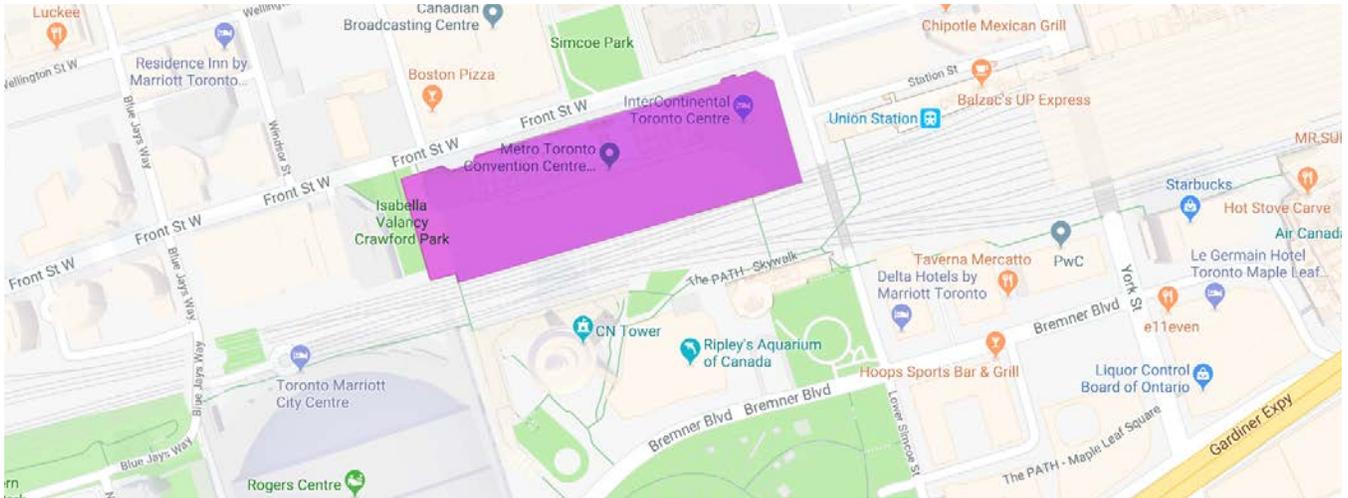
## How to Register

Complete your online registration at [ocswssw.org](http://ocswssw.org). Once you have registered online you will receive an email confirmation within 30 minutes. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please contact [AMED@ocswssw.org](mailto:AMED@ocswssw.org) to confirm your registration was processed.

## Let's Connect

The College will also be live-tweeting AMED on its Twitter feed and encourages members to connect with us on Twitter during the event, using the #AMED2019 hashtag.

# Location



## Metro Toronto Convention Centre

The Metro Toronto Convention Centre, North Building is located at 255 Front Street West, Toronto. Our event is on the lower level of the MTCC. It is easily accessible from major highways and public transit.

For directions, please visit <http://www.mtccc.com/locations/getting-here/>.

## First-Come, First-Book

Registration is on a first-come, first-book basis, so sign up today!

A confirmation number must be obtained in order to attend.

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