

PSAC · Ontario

Public Service Alliance of Canada

SPEAKERS

Shanyn Elliott

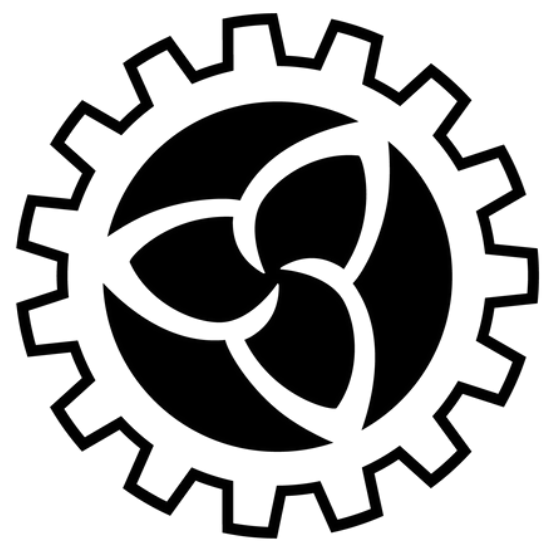


Shanyn Elliott serves as Chair of the Mobilization and Engagement Committee for the Air Canada Component of CUPE and is a dedicated flight attendant with Air Canada Rouge. She is deeply committed to fostering solidarity, empowering members, and defending the right to free collective bargaining. Shanyn firmly believes that authentic connection lies at the core of effective organizing and that, even in an increasingly digital world, the human element remains our most powerful source of strength.

Miles Lau

Immigrated to Canada from Hong Kong at age 13 with parents. Fluent in Cantonese & Mandarin. Worked in the Financial Industry before joining Canada Post as a Postal Worker in 2013. Started as the only shop steward in a 120 members depot and organized members to change the culture of that depot into one of the highest union density facility. Elected as first Rural Suburban Mail Carrier for Scarborough Local as a Full time Rep. in 2017. Currently holds position as Secretary Treasure for Scarborough Local, National CUPW Board of Trustee, and Postal Mandate Review Co-Ordinator for Ontario Region. Regular guest on Chinese Radio and TV talking about Postal issues.





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Patricia Derouin



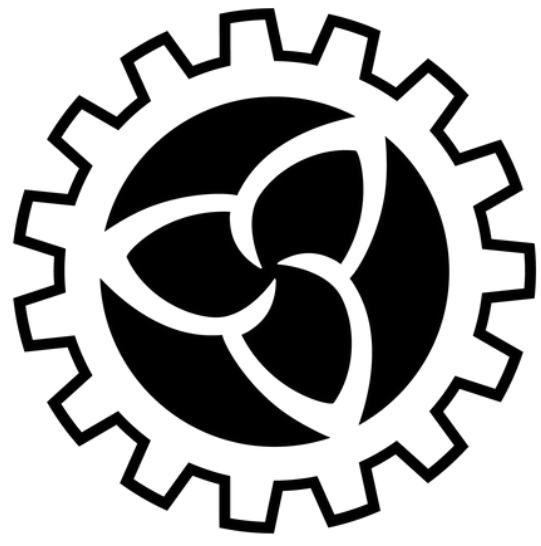
Sister Patricia Derouin is a fierce elder in the 2SLGBTQIA+ community who has been dedicated to activism, connection and protection of her community. A 72 year young old fashioned/old school butch lesbian currently living in the London ON region.

Her activism spans generations from rallies on Parliament Hill, marches on Elgin St. and Toronto. In 2023 she was recognized Ken Sadler Pride Award for her exceptional work in improving the lives of London's Queer and Two-Spirit communities. As well, she was the Grand Marshall of the 2025 London Pride Festival Parade. Most recently known as the founder of Drag Storytime Guardians and Guardians in Action, a province wide network of 1000 members who work tirelessly providing support and protection to the Queer community showing up on her signature battle vest covered in patches that tell a story of Queer history.

Sarah Jama

Sarah Jama was the former Member of Provincial Parliament for Hamilton Centre. She is a community organizer from Hamilton, Ontario and co-founder of the Disability Justice Network of Ontario (DJNO). She holds a Social Sciences degree from McMaster University, and a Lead Organizer Certificate from the Centre for Labour Research and Education from Berkeley University. She is now the founder of the Disability Justice Network of British Columbia and works at the Disability Alliance of British Columbia





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SPEAKERS

Vanessa Brousseau



Vanessa Brousseau is a proud Inuk woman and a family member of a Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP). As a survivor of abuse, neglect, racism, and poverty, Vanessa speaks from lived experience — realities that continue to impact Indigenous peoples across Turtle Island.

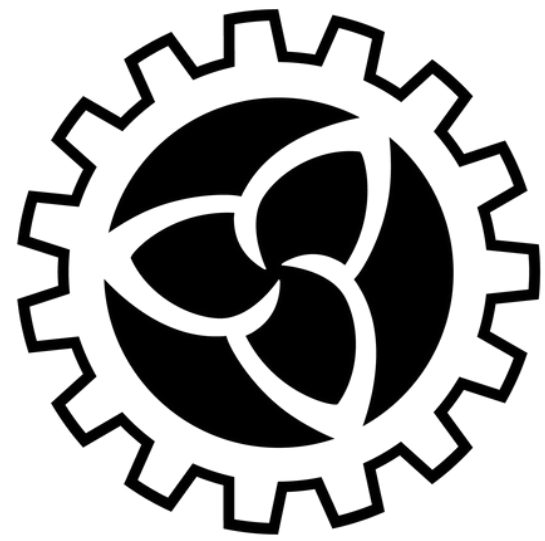
In May 2021, she began reclaiming her healing through traditional art, creating red dress awareness pieces made from beads and sealskin. What started as a personal act of decolonization has grown into a powerful movement — one that sparks conversation, educates communities, and honours the lives of those taken too soon.

Today, Vanessa offers both virtual and in-person presentations on Indigenous identity, MMIP awareness, Intergenerational trauma, allyship, and red dress sealskin workshops. With over 23 years of experience leading impactful workshops, she brings a voice that is both fierce and compassionate — grounded in truth, resilience, and a commitment to justice.

Everyone is invited to take part in Resilient Inuk's powerful virtual and in-person presentations — a meaningful step forward on the path to truth and reconciliation. Whether you're a student, educator, organization, or ally, these sessions are designed to spark dialogue, deepen awareness, and inspire real change.

Vanessa's sister Pamela Jayne Holopainen has been missing for over 21 years. Her spirit inspires her to create beautiful red dress pieces to share with you all. No More Stolen Sisters!

No More Stolen MMIP.



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SPEAKERS

Elder Valarie King

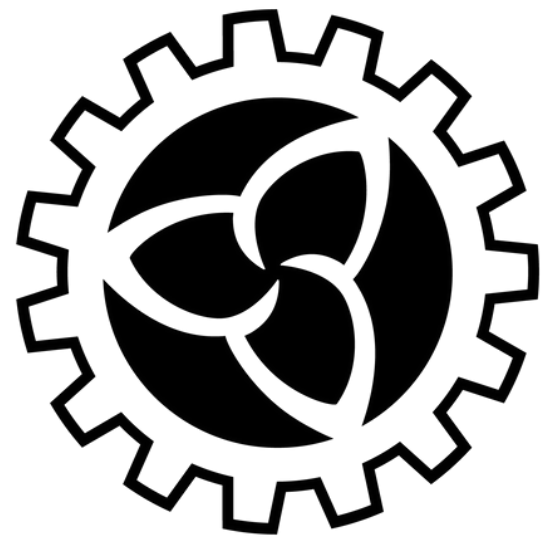


Edebwed Ogichidaa Kwe-“She who speaks the Truth Warrior woman leader”. Mkwaa dodem. Bear Clan. New Credit doonjibaa. English name is Valarie King. She has lived on Mississaugas of the Credit all her life. She has been a skaabayis (helper) in the community and off reserve in various employment and volunteer or grass root positions for over 35 years. She is a mother to 7 children and a nookomis to 8 grandchildren. She and her family are carriers of songs and hand drum singers. For the last 30 years, she strived to bring the sacred bundles of traditional teachings back to the people. Ceremonies and rites of passages such as Grandmother moon ceremonies, fastings, traditional teachings workshops, drumming, singing, and feasts. She has been working with the Traditional medicines and opened Dancing Moon Holistic centre offering traditional programs for healing, herbal products to help with the connection to spirit. She does activism work for families of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and for the sacred water. She is a holistic counsellor, a Chartered Herbalist, has completed her ECE, Bachelor Arts in Health and Women Studies and a minor in Indigenous Studies, Masters in Indigenous Social Work and an Ojibwe Immersion Program. She is an instructor at McMaster and Laurier University teaching various Indigenous courses. She is part of Indigenous research projects with Guelph University.

Joel Luska

Joel Luska is a 3rd generation postal worker currently working as a letter carrier in Niagara Falls. He is the President of CUPW Local 574 and in January of this year was elected Vice President of The Niagara Regional Labour Council. As a trained facilitator, he is a firm believer in labour education and its role in strengthening member engagement.





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Elizabeth Ha



Elizabeth Ha is from Windsor, Ontario, Canada. She is the mother of two young kids. She is a Property Valuation Analyst and a member of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU/SEFPO).

Elizabeth Ha is a Labour and Community Activist and a Mother of two amazing kids. Currently, she holds several positions in the labour movement. She is Vice Chair of OPSEU/SEFPO Coalition of Racialized Workers (CORW), Organizer of Justicia for Migrant Workers (J4MW), Executive to Windsor District Labour Council (WDLC), a member of the Asian Canadian Labour Alliance (ACLA), a member of the Coalition of Black Trades Unionist (CBTU), and the alternate VP at the Ontario Federation of Labour representing Black and Racialized Workers. Elizabeth is the first Chinese Canadian to sit the OFL Executive Board as a Vice President.

Elizabeth was recently given the King Charles III Coronation Medal in recognition of her significant contribution to Canada and her community.

Clement Nocos

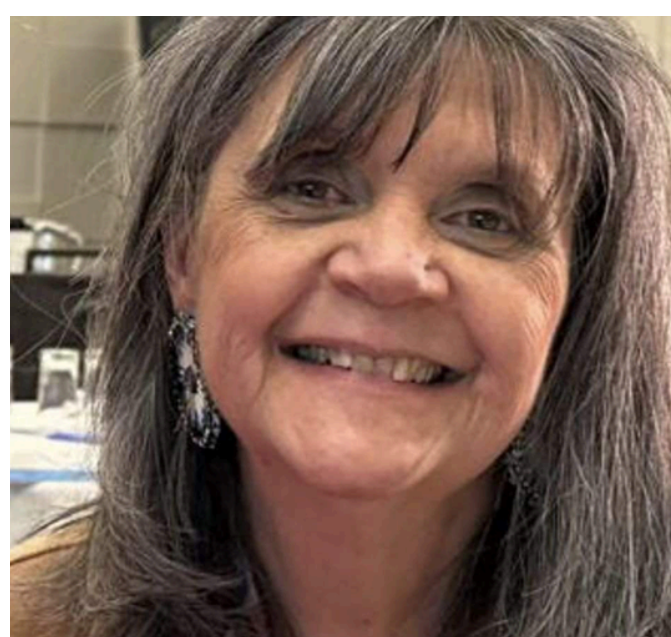
Clement Nocos is the Broadbent Institute's Director of Policy and Engagement, working with the Broadbent Fellows network to build policy agendas that support progressive change. He is also the Editor-in-Chief of the Broadbent Institute's publication [Perspectives: A Canadian Journal of Political Economy and Social Democracy](#).

Before joining the Institute, Clem was a policy analyst for the federal government, and has previous experience working on progressive campaigns and in international affairs. As a political economist, he is interested in how varied institutional arrangements between states and markets produce different social, economic, and political outcomes. Clem's writing and analysis has previously appeared in GQ, The Globe and Mail, and Canadian Dimension.

He holds a dual Master of Public Policy from the Hertie School in Berlin, Germany and the University of Tokyo Graduate School of Public Policy in Japan, as well as B.A. in History, Political Science and Sociology from the University of Toronto.



Tina Vincent



Tina comes from the Algonquin communities of Barrière Lake and Kitigan Zibi First Nations and is from the bear clan. She has spent more than thirty years working for her Anishnabe people in the field of addictions recovery, trauma recovery and violence against Anishnabe women and children.

She follows in her grandmother's footsteps, encouraging families towards a healthy lifestyle choices, strong parenting skills and pride in their Anishnabe culture and traditions.