

2025 Conference Handout

# Stronger Together

Connect and Collaborate for Safer Communities



November 4th - 6th, 2025,  
Halifax, Nova Scotia



Canadian Centre for  
**Safer Communities**



Centre canadien pour des  
**communautés plus sûres**

# Welcome!

## We are so glad you are joining us.

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the Stronger Together: Connect and Collaborate for Safer Communities Conference here in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people, colonially known as Halifax.

This gathering brings together community members, practitioners, leaders, and advocates from across the country who share a common commitment: building safer, healthier, and more inclusive communities. Over the next few days, you will have the opportunity to engage in thought-provoking discussions, hear from inspiring speakers, and share knowledge and experiences that will strengthen our collective efforts.

We are especially proud to host this conference in Halifax, a city with a rich history of resilience, collaboration, and community spirit. We hope you take time to enjoy the local culture, hospitality, and the connections you'll make both inside and outside the sessions.

**Thank you for joining us and for bringing your voice, ideas, and passion to this important work.**

**Together, we are stronger, and together we can advance meaningful change.**



**Melanie Bania**

Executive Director  
Canadian Centre for Safer Communities

# Highlights

## When does the conference open/close?

Our conference starts on Tuesday, November 4th with doors opening at 5:30pm at [Pier 21](#). Two days of sessions follow with the conference closing at 4:30pm on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

## Where to find us:

We are hosting the conference at the [Lord Nelson Hotel](#) (1515 S Park St, Halifax NS B3J 2L2).

## What is the dress code?

Come as you are!

## What about COVID-19?

Per the [Nova Scotia Health Authority's](#) recommendations, we encourage attendees to:

- Wear a mask;
- Get vaccinated;
- Stay home if they're sick;
- Wash their hands, and practice cough and sneeze etiquette.

Masks and hand sanitizer will be available at the registration desk.

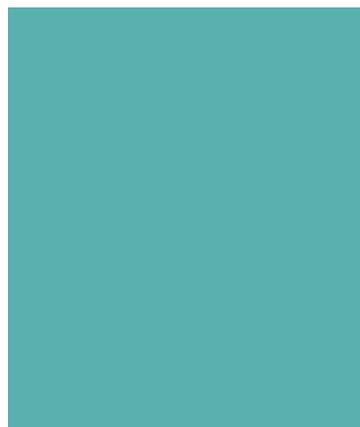
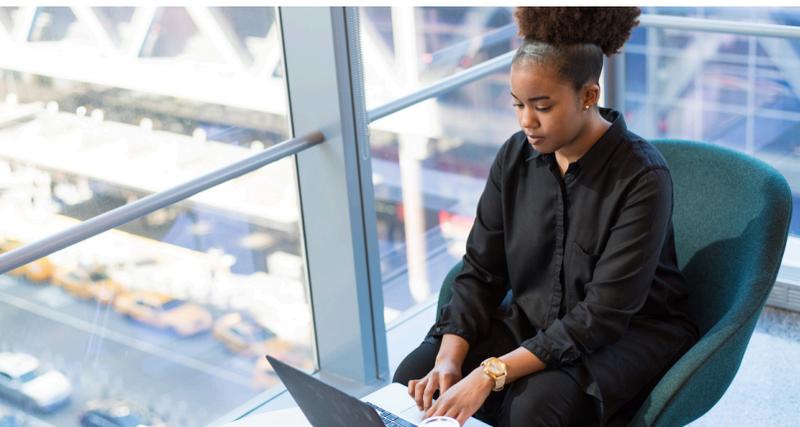
## Internet Access

Wi-Fi Network: Hotel Conference

Password: oceanwind

## Contact Information:

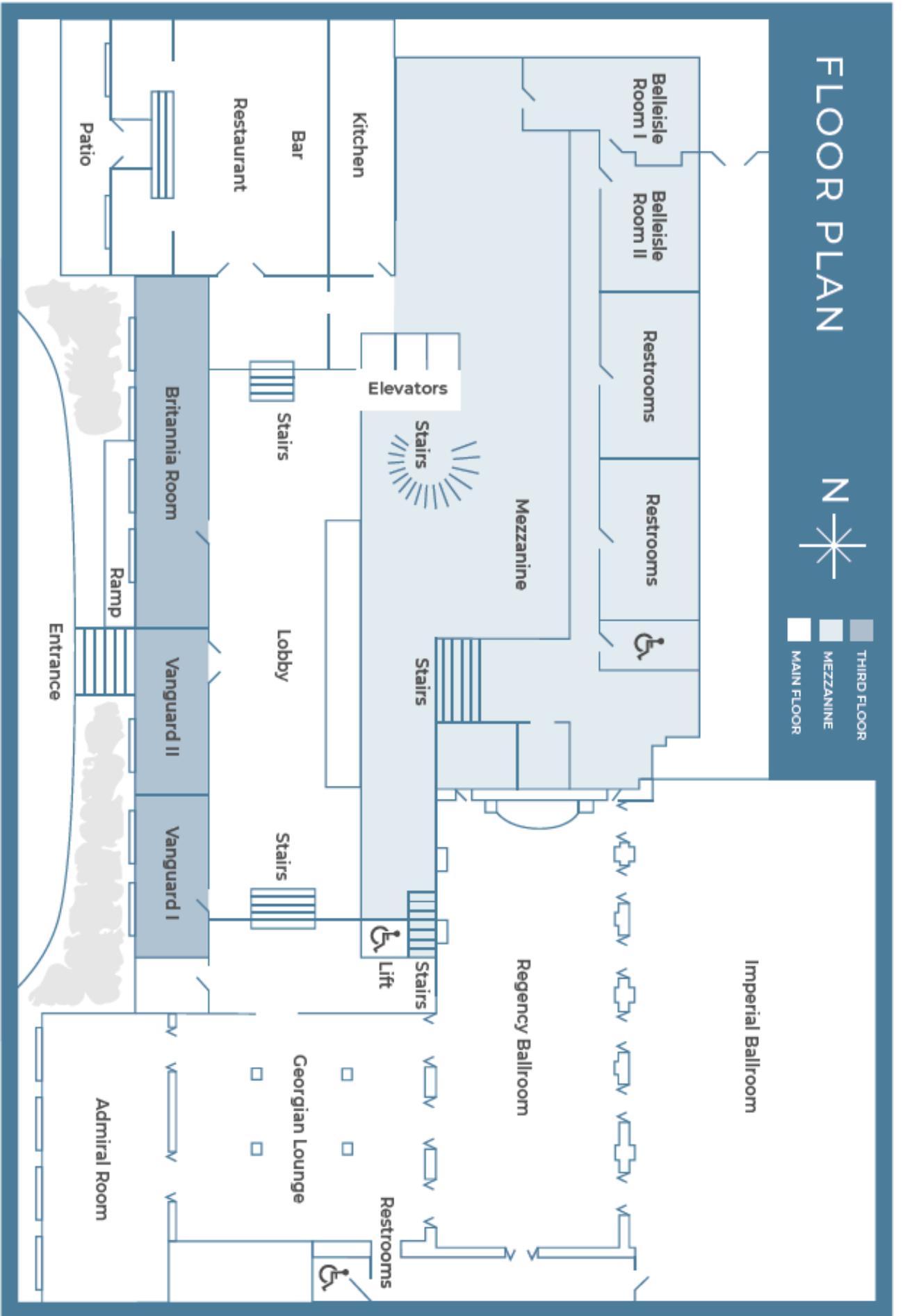
Questions and inquiries about the conference, venue or other logistical needs, please contact Jade at [jade@ccfsc-cccs.ca](mailto:jade@ccfsc-cccs.ca).



# FLOOR PLAN



- THIRD FLOOR
- MEZZANINE
- MAIN FLOOR



SOUTH PARK STREET

SPRING GARDEN ROAD

# TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Schedule

Join us Tuesday evening at 5:30 p.m for an engaging program of dialogue, creativity, and connection. After an opening by Elder Geri, MLA Stoilov will offer remarks, while Angela Doyle-Faulkner will follow with drumming. Youth will take the stage with a short presentation and introduce a powerful art gallery showcase to explore at your own pace. Enjoy drinks, appetizers, and plenty of networking opportunities as we come together to share ideas and strengthen community safety.

→ **5:30 PM**

Event begins at Canadian Museum of Immigration at [Pier 21](#).

→ **6:00 PM**

**Opening**

Elder Geri honors us with a welcome, blessing and smudge.

→ **6:15 PM**

Member of the Legislative Assembly Stoilov with remarks

→ **6:30 PM**

Drumming with Angela Doyle-Faulkner

→ **6:45 PM**

**Presentation**

Listening to Youth Voices for Safer Communities

[\*Learn more.\*](#)

→ **8:00 PM**

Feel free to stay and mingle for some networking with attendees.



# WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 5

Schedule

→ 8:00 AM

Registration Opens & Breakfast

→ 9:00 AM

## Welcome

We'll begin with a blessing and smudge from **Elder Geri**, followed by a libation held by **Ayo Aladejebi**. CCFSC (**Melanie Bania & Colleen Cornock**) will share opening remarks, leading into a welcome from **Rachel Boehm**, who will introduce the **Mayor of Halifax**. Mayor Fillmore will then offer words of welcome as we officially open the conference.

→ 10:15 AM

## Break

→ 10:30 AM

## Keynote

Robert S. Wright

[Learn more.](#)

→ 11:30 AM

## Break

→ 11:45 AM

## Concurrent Sessions

Conversations that Matter

[Learn more.](#)

Bringing Civilian-Delivered Mobile Crisis Services to Nova Scotia

[Learn more.](#)

→ 12:45 PM

## Lunch

→ 1:45 PM

## Concurrent Sessions

Inclusive People-Based Safety in Public Spaces

[Learn more.](#)

Monitoring & Evaluation in Community and Urban Safety

[Learn more.](#)

→ 2:45 PM

## Break

→ 3:00 PM

## Concurrent Sessions

Provincial Approaches to Supporting Local CSWB Efforts

[Learn more.](#)

Collaboration and Multi-Sectoral Approaches in Preventing Hate, Polarization, and Violent Extremism

[Learn more.](#)

→ 4:00 PM

## Closing

→ 5:00 PM

## Site Visits

[Learn more.](#)

# THURSDAY NOVEMBER 6

Schedule

→ **8:00 AM**

Registration Opens & Breakfast is available

→ **9:00 AM**

**Panel**

Strengthening Community Safety Through Collaboration

[Learn more.](#)

→ **10:00 AM**

**Break**

→ **10:15 AM**

**Our Safety, Our Way**

Youth Panel

[Learn more.](#)

→ **11:15 AM**

**Break**

→ **11:30 AM**

**Concurrent Sessions**

Global Perspectives on Community Safety & Well-Being Strategies

[Learn more.](#)

Interactive Breakout Room on CSWB Planning / Troubleshooting

[Learn more.](#)

→ **12:30 PM**

**Lunch**

→ **1:30 PM**

**Drummers From Home**

[Learn more.](#)

→ **1:45 PM**

Project Upstream Presents: A Spotlight on Municipalities Strengthening Multi-Sectoral Partnerships to Prevent Extremist Violence in Canada  
[Learn more.](#)

→ **2:45 PM**

**Break**

→ **3:00 PM**

**Concurrent Sessions**

Neighbourhood-Based Approaches to Social Cohesion and Safety  
[Learn more.](#)

Spaces that Keep Us Safe: A Fireside Chat on Urban Design and Community Safety

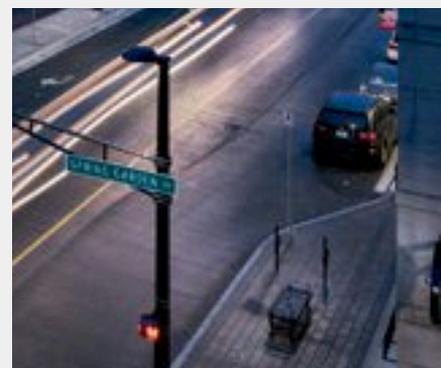
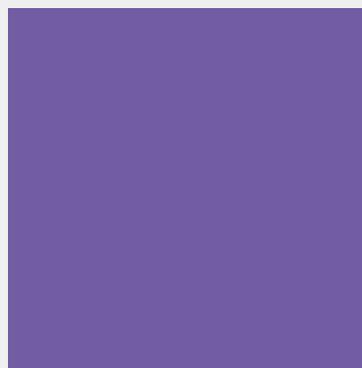
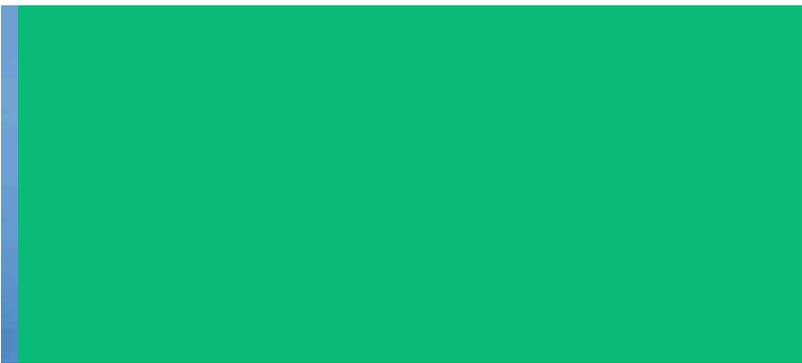
[Learn more.](#)

→ **4:00 PM**

**Closing**

[Learn more.](#)

# Site Visits



# HALIFAX PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Come explore the trailblazing role Halifax Public Libraries plays in strengthening community ties and fostering equitable opportunity for everyone. Through dedicated positions like Community Navigators, the library connects people, including residents experiencing homelessness, poverty, or social vulnerability, to critical services such as housing and health supports. All of this takes place in one of the most iconic and breathtaking buildings in the city, awarded the Governor General's Medal in Architecture for its outstanding civic design, community impact, and inviting, playful public spaces.

**Location:** Halifax Public Libraries, 5440 Spring Garden Road (four blocks east of Lord Nelson Hotel)

**Date:** Wednesday, November 5th

**Time:** 5pm-6:30pm

**Details:** Meet at the Lindsay Children's Room on the 2nd floor the library. Refreshments will be served.

***Limited to 25 people.***

[Register here.](#)



# AFRICVILLE MUSEUM

Located on the historic site of Africville, this museum stands as a powerful symbol of resilience, community, and cultural pride. Once home to a thriving Black community that was demolished in the 1960s, Africville remains a cornerstone of African Nova Scotian history. The museum—housed in a replica of the Seaview African United Baptist Church—honours the legacy of the families who lived there, sharing stories of strength, displacement, and reclamation.

**Location:** Africville Museum (5795 Africville Rd, Halifax, NS B3K 2R9)

**Date:** Wednesday, November 5th

**Time:** 5pm-6:30pm

**Cost:** \$10

***Limited to 25 people.***

[Register here.](#)



# YOUTHWORX

Join us for a tour of YouthWorx at THE CAFÉ - Zatzman Sportsplex Location (110 Wyse Road, Dartmouth).

Operated by the Halifax Regional Municipality, YouthWorx offers 24 weeks of paid job and life skills training for youth facing barriers to employment. This youth-led visit will give conference attendees an inside look at the program and its impact.

**Location:** Communicated with attendees upon registration

**Date:** Wednesday, November 5th

**Time:** 5:30 pm

**Details:** Meeting place and transport will be communicated with attendees. Please note: this is first come first serve and registration to the conference is required to attend. The site visit will also only be in English, apologies for the inconvenience.

***Limited to 20 people.***

[Register here.](#)



# Programming Details



# Listening to Youth Voices for Safer Communities

This session is an invitation to listen with mind, heart, and soul to the voices of youth as they share their aspirations for safer communities. Youth will present their perspectives on where they feel safe, where they do not, and how they reimagine safety in Halifax.

These insights stem from the Youth Voices for Safer Communities workshop, co-organized by CPN-PREV (the Canadian Practitioners Network for the Prevention of Extremist Violence) in collaboration with the Halifax Regional Municipality and community organizations. Grounded in dignity-based prevention approach, the workshop offered a participatory process for youth to express, reflect, and co-create visions of safety.

Over two days in September 2025, the youth engaged in creative exercises, dialogue circles, and collaborative mapping to explore the textures of safety and unsafety that shape their daily lives. Their reflections expose systemic inequities and barriers while illuminating the conditions that foster care, respect, and belonging.

This session is a time for deep listening and shared accountability, a reminder that building safer communities begins by centering youth voices and co-creating spaces where they can Thrive.



# Keynote

Robert Seymour Wright is a queer, African Nova Scotian Social Worker and Sociologist whose 36 year career has spanned the fields of education, child welfare, forensic mental health, trauma, sexual violence, and cultural competence. He served as the founding Executive Director of both the Peoples' Counselling Clinic and the African Nova Scotian Justice Institute and continues at the Peoples' Counselling Clinic as Director Emeritus, Consultant and Therapist. Robert as recently appointed as a full-time, tenure track assistant professor at Saint Mary's University Department of Criminology. Robert's identity and work are grounded in his integrated and activist spirituality.

Robert was an early practitioner of what has come to be known as Equity, Diversity and Inclusion work and developed a model for understanding and practicing Cultural Competence that continues to be a useful framework for the many practitioners and organizations that have used it.

He pioneered the introduction of Impact of Race and Culture Assessments (IRCAs): A specialized, forensic, clinical presentence report for people of African descent. This latter work has received national attention. In August of 2021 the Government of Canada funded him to expand the implementation of IRCAs nationally.

Robert is the father of two grown children and the uncle of so many. He was orphaned in January 2023 when the last of his caregivers passed. Robert cared for his mother and godparents and facilitated them each passing peacefully at home in their own beds from 2020 through 2023.



Robert S. Wright

November 5<sup>th</sup> 11:45 AM  
Imperial Room

# Bringing Civilian-Delivered Mobile Crisis Services to Nova Scotia

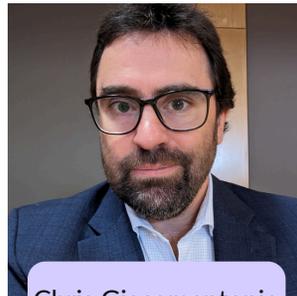
Across Nova Scotia, the police are the default first responders to people experiencing mental health or substance use crises. Although demands to decrease police involvement in crisis calls have spanned decades, advocacy efforts have recently moved from the margins to the mainstream. Several major reports in Nova Scotia have pointed to the need to reduce reliance on police for dealing with health and social issues. As such, efforts are underway to establish civilian-delivered crisis services in Nova Scotian communities. This panel will explore two initiatives introducing civilian mobile crisis teams in Halifax and West Hants, highlighting the distinct opportunities and challenges of implementing such services in both urban and rural settings. Panelists will share insights into the planning, rollout, and evaluation of civilian mobile crisis teams in Nova Scotia, situating these efforts within the broader movement towards non-police crisis intervention.



Amy Siciliano



Kimm Kent



Chris Giacomantonio



Jamie Livingston

*See website for more speaker details.*

# Conversations That Matter: Innovative Approaches for Navigating Complexity

The Students Commission leads the Centre of Excellence for Youth Engagement, collaborating with academics across Canada on research into safety, social cohesion, and violence prevention. We develop big-picture strategies with practical plans for governments, municipalities, schools, and organizations. Our intergenerational work fosters youth voice, leadership, and knowledge exchange. Everywhere we work, we hear challenges around controversial conversations.

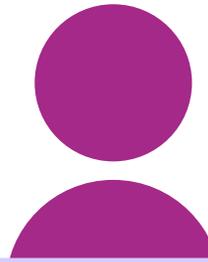
In this mini workshop, participants will engage in meaningful dialogue through movement and learn practical techniques. Activity 1, Step Into the Circle, uses prompts on polarization and cancel culture to promote low-risk, kinesthetic engagement. Activity 2, Red Flag, Green Flag, Yellow Flag, uses visual cues to explore controversial scenarios and promote healthy conflict. Activity 3, Dream Tree, builds on earlier insights to co-create high-level plans, supported by discussion and optional kinesthetic sculpture-building.



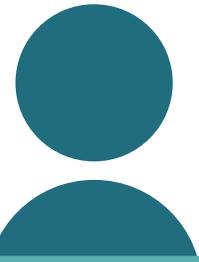
Chantelle Edwards



Jocelyn Gallant



Kadane Headley



Emma Cognet

*See website for more speaker details.*

November 5<sup>th</sup> 1:45 PM  
Imperial Room

# Inclusive People- Based Safety in Public Spaces

This panel will showcase three innovative initiatives from Kelowna, Saskatoon, and Calgary that are enhancing safety in public spaces. Each initiative demonstrates the power of community collaboration and creative problem-solving to build safer, more inclusive environments for everyone. Beyond improving public safety, these initiatives also help create meaningful employment opportunities that empower marginalized community members and community members with lived experience to play an active role in fostering community well-being. Together, these examples highlight how community-driven approaches can transform public spaces into places of belonging and connection for all community members.



James Dixon



Amanda Eveson



Erin Welk



Jazlyn O'Bonsawin

*See website for more speaker details.*

November 5<sup>th</sup> 1:45 PM  
Admiral Room

# Monitoring and Evaluation in Community and Urban Safety

This interactive session will explore good practices in monitoring and evaluating individual safety and well-being programs, and larger multi-sectoral safety and well-being strategies. Includes the soft launch of CCFSC's new Community and Urban Safety Monitoring toolkit/website.



Melanie Bania



Sabrina Paillé

*See website for more speaker details.*

November 5<sup>th</sup> 3:00 PM  
Imperial Room

# Collaboration and Multi-Sectoral Approaches in Preventing Hate, Polarization, and Violent Extremism

Hate, polarization, and violent extremism are increasingly affecting communities across Canada, highlighting the need for coordinated, multi-sectoral approaches to prevention. Drawing on local experiences and broader lessons from research, practice, and community engagement, this panel will examine how collaborative infrastructures can be built and sustained to address complex social challenges in ethical, locally grounded, and innovative ways. It will explore how partners from diverse sectors can move beyond traditional silos to address the root causes of interconnected forms of violence and foster more resilient communities. The session will highlight concrete examples of regional collaboration, as well as key grounding principles for collaboration work that is ethical, caring, and rooted in justice. Together, these perspectives will offer both conceptual grounding and practical strategies for practitioners, policymakers, and community actors working to strengthen collaborative prevention efforts.



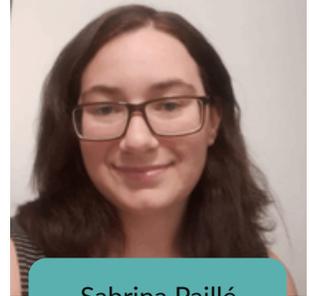
Zeina Ismail-  
Allouche



Cameron Ketchum



Jan Fox



Sabrina Paillé

*See website for more speaker details.*

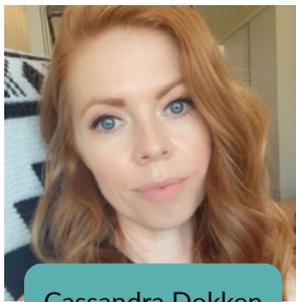
November 5<sup>th</sup> 3:00 PM  
Admiral Room

# Provincial Approaches to Supporting Local Community Safety and Well-Being Efforts

Throughout Canada, provincial and territorial governments are supporting Community Safety & Well-Being (CSWB) planning in municipalities in different ways. This panel will share the strategies being used at the provincial level to support greater investment in CSWB, and the successes, challenges, and lessons learned along the way.



Gavin Naime



Cassandra Dokken



Shamitha  
Devakandan



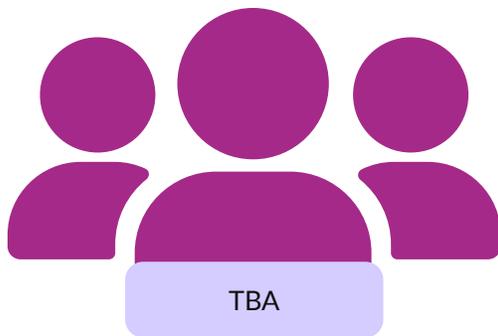
Katie Cook

*See website for more speaker details.*

November 6<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM  
Imperial Room

# Strengthening Community Safety Through Collaboration

Community Mobilization Teams (CMTs) are local volunteers who coordinate resources, debriefings, and information sharing during critical incidents. Since 2017, CMTs have promoted safety, healing, and cultural connection by bridging gaps between communities and service providers. Each team reflects its community's unique culture and history. Focused on prevention, preparedness, and response, CMTs operate in seven HRM communities facing systemic inequities. Using a trauma-informed approach, they prioritize trust-building and recovery. Activities include mapping resources, volunteer training, crisis response, healing circles, and community events. Monthly meetings provide space for reflection and connection. CMTs collaborate with government, education, health, and policing, though gaps remain in trauma, mental health, and youth support. Partnerships with CCRP and PART-WG strengthen their work.



*See website for more speaker details.*

November 6<sup>th</sup>, 10:15 AM  
Imperial Room

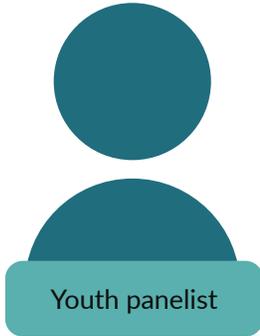
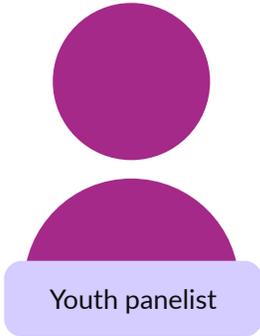
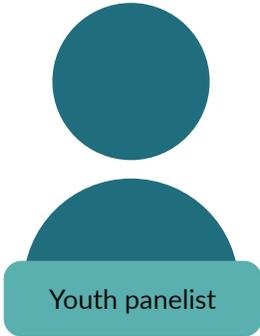
# Our Safety, Our Way: Visions of Safety Beyond the System

LaMeia Reddick is convening youth in community spaces across Halifax to hold honest discussions about public safety while centering their voices, stories, and solutions, leading up to the conference.

The insights gathered from youth will shape a panel presentation that is both current and grounded in real community experiences. Designed to spark reflection, dialogue, and action, the session will offer the audience fresh perspectives and meaningful points for discussion.



LaMeia Reddick



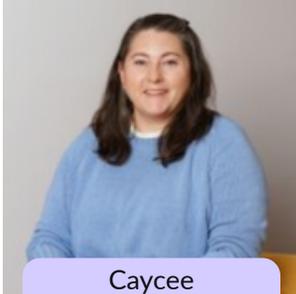
*See website for more speaker details.*

November 6<sup>th</sup> 11:30 AM  
Admiral Room

# Interactive Breakout Room on Community Safety & Well-Being Planning & Implementation Troubleshooting

Individuals interested in CSWB Plans are invited to participate in an interactive session featuring representatives from Kelowna, BC, who will discuss their experiences developing and implementing their community's inaugural safety plan. The session will examine key challenges, share insights, and highlight significant milestones achieved throughout the process.

Kelowna's Community Safety Plan is now entering the final stage of its five-year journey—a collective impact initiative focused on five key priorities, with 15 recommendations and 30 actions.



Caycee  
Zimmerman



Colleen Cornock



Paul Lang

*See website for more speaker details.*

November 6<sup>th</sup> 11:30 AM  
Imperial Room

# Global Perspectives on Community Safety & Well-Being Strategies

Across Canada, Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) planning has gained significant momentum, helping communities build stronger, more coordinated approaches to prevention. Yet around the world, innovative models are also emerging that reimagine how governments, civil society, and communities can work together to create safer, more equitable, and more connected societies. This panel will bring a global perspective to the CSWB conversation, exploring how different countries and international organizations are advancing safety and violence prevention through inclusive governance, evidence-informed prevention, and community-driven action. Panelists will share lessons and promising practices from diverse global contexts, highlighting ideas, approaches, and tools that can inspire and inform ongoing efforts in Canada.



Rachel Locke



Melanie Bania

*See website for more speaker details.*

November 6<sup>th</sup> 1:30 PM

# Drummers From Home

Drummers From Home is a unique collective of individuals who have come together out of their love of African and world beat rhythms. Over the years the group has developed a unique chemistry and work hard to incorporate the various backgrounds and personalities of the players.



## Khalifa Jallo-Hamilton

Is the youngest member of the group. Born and raised in Nova Scotia he began playing the djembe at the age of 5 with his Father, Wayn (who is also a member of the group). Khalifa has a dynamic, percussive style and pushes the others to play over and under his rhythm patterns.

## Robert Leek

Is originally from New Brunswick, Robert brings strong Caribbean and African rhythms to the group. His spacing and accents give creativity to our play list.

## Ayo Aladejebi

Has been drumming since he was a youngster in Nigeria. His drumming has strong Yoruba roots. Ayo helps to anchor many of the compositions with polyrhythms beats.

## Sobaz Benjamin

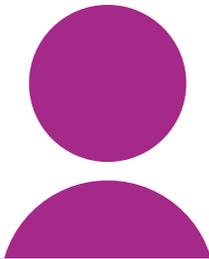
Was born in Grenada but now calls Halifax home after living in the UK for some time. Sobaz has added depth as the 5th drummer with strong tenor and tempo lines.

## Wayn Hamilton

is the last founding member of Drummers From Home. Wayn played drums and percussions in Halifax for several music projects. He brings the foundation and direction to the ensemble.

# Project Upstream Presents: A Spotlight on Municipalities Strengthening Multi-Sectoral Partnerships to Prevent Extremist Violence in Canada

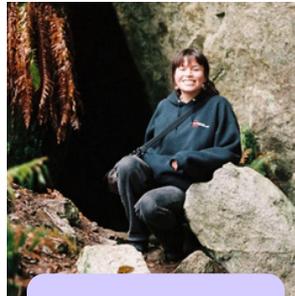
Project UPSTREAM (Upskilling Prevention by Strengthening Readiness, Engagement and Multisectorality) is a two-year project that aims to pilot and scale up local multi-sectoral partnerships across Canada to address issues of social polarization and hate that can lead to violence or violent extremism. But who is this project really for? Who does it seek to support, how and why? Data can give us the answers but only stories can paint the picture.



Kamil Ahmed



Bronte Jones



Kristin Mowatt



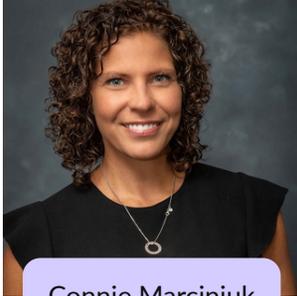
Erin McEachran

*See website for more speaker details.*

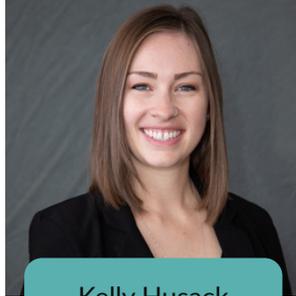
November 6<sup>th</sup> 3:00 PM  
Admiral Room

# Neighbourhood-Based Approaches to Social Cohesion and Safety

This panel highlights innovative approaches to community safety and well-being at the neighbourhood-level. In Edmonton, the Neighbourhood Organizing Initiative (NOI) empowers residents to lead locally-driven projects, and the Neighbourhood Empowerment Team (NET) is a partnership between the City, the Edmonton Police Service, and The Family Centre, that works with other groups, businesses, and organizations to implement data informed, prevention strategies that impact contributing factors of crime and social disorder. Attendees will learn practical strategies for combining community engagement and data-driven decision-making to create safer, more equitable, and vibrant neighborhoods.



Connie Marciniuk



Kelly Husack



Stacey Colliver

*See website for more speaker details.*

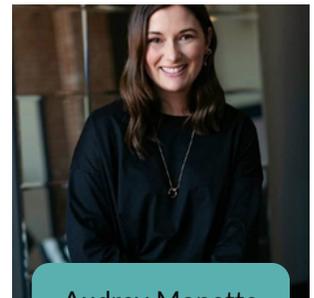
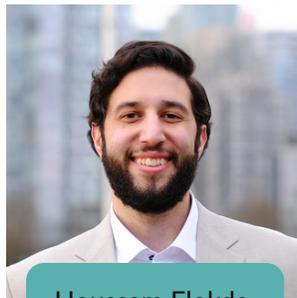
November 6<sup>th</sup> 3:00 PM  
Imperial Room

# Spaces that Keep Us Safe: A Fireside Chat on Urban Design and Community Safety

Community safety is often discussed in terms of programs, services, and risk mitigation, but the ways in which we perceive and experience safety are also profoundly shaped by both the social and built environments around us. This fireside chat will explore the intersection of urban design, public space, and community safety and well-being, inviting participants to reconsider safety not merely as the absence of harm, but as the presence of connection, trust, and social cohesion.

Drawing on insights from the emerging science of happiness, the conversation will examine how the design and experience of public spaces influence our sense of safety and belonging. Panelists will also reflect on how factors such as identity, visibility, and marginalization shape people's lived experiences of safety, including the realities of hate, exclusion, and discrimination in public spaces. The discussion will consider how thoughtful design, policy, and engagement can create environments that foster dignity, inclusion, and well-being for all.

Finally, panelists will explore alternative, community-centered approaches to safety that move beyond traditional enforcement measures, highlighting strategies that empower communities, celebrate diversity, and broaden how we think about creating safe and vibrant public life. Participants will leave with a deeper appreciation of how space, design, and community connection interact to shape perceptions of safety, along with actionable ideas for fostering environments rooted in equity, belonging, and collective well-being.



*See website for more speaker details.*



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