



PARKLAND INSTITUTE'S 22ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

◀ **ALBERTA 2019** ▶

FORCES OF CHANGE

NOVEMBER 16-18

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

PARKLANDCONFERENCE.CA

ALBERTA 2019

FORCES OF CHANGE

Parkland Institute's 22nd Annual Conference takes a deep dive into history, economy, and social conflicts to better understand Alberta's past, present, and future.

In 2015, Alberta elected a New Democratic government for the first time. It was a stunning moment in history. For some, it was a wrenching experience; for others, a moment of exhilaration, the results of which have continued to reverberate ever since. Four years on, we examine the forces at work that will determine Alberta's and Canada's future – forces of change and forces that resist change – and the means by which progress and resistance are themselves changing for 2019 and beyond.

From Parkland Institute's statement on Philosophical Orientation:

Parkland seeks to provide ways to understand forces of change, forces that resist change, and conflicts of interest in our society. This understanding identifies the decisions that must be made if these forces are to be harnessed for social change and the greater good.

We would like to thank the generous support of the following sponsors for helping us make this conference possible:

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Greetings from Parkland Institute Director
Trevor Harrison

Dear conference participants,

Welcome to Parkland Institute's 22nd annual fall conference.

The institute has a long history of examining topics that are both current and vitally important to the economic, political, cultural, and social health of our province, our country, and our world. This year, we focus our lens on ourselves and our Alberta.

In February, an exceptional group of Parkland people gathered at the Institute to brainstorm topics and speakers for this year's conference. They offered insight into the issues that are foremost in our minds these days – intersectionality, resistance to colonialism, the rise of the "alt/populist" right, the climate crisis – to name only a few. Despite the seemingly unending list of issues, one theme emerged - the necessity of understanding and addressing these issues here at home, in Alberta.

Alberta 2019: Forces of Change takes a deep dive into history, economy, and social conflicts to better understand Alberta's past, present, and future within Canada, North America, and the world.

In 2015, Alberta elected a New Democratic government for the first time, replacing a government that had been entrenched in office for forty-four years. It was a stunning moment in Alberta – and Canadian – history. For some, it was

a wrenching experience; for others, a moment of exhilaration, the results of which have continued to reverberate ever since.

Four years on, we examine the forces at work that will determine Alberta's and Canada's future – forces of change and forces that resist change – and the means by which progress and resistance are themselves changing for 2019 and beyond.

Albertans and Canadians face enormous issues in the years to come. Conflicts along a series of fault lines, including the environment, race, ethnicity, gender, and class dominate our democracy. How do we balance respect for the environment and efforts to stave off the impacts of global warming with demands for a prosperous economy and the jobs it brings? Where do the boundaries of national, regional, and local identities and desires intersect or collide? What might genuine reconciliation between First Nations and settler peoples look like? What do we mean by development? What issues do younger generations, too often ignored, view as important? Do the ways we think about our problems help or impede our attempts at finding solutions? How does education, broadly or narrowly construed, fit into our images of a collective future?

The conflicts we face are difficult, but not intractable. Ignoring both the myths of history or fantasies of quick solutions, and instead relying on reasoned thought, analysis, and honest discussion, we can find our way forward. The future we will make begins today.

Alberta can be a leader in setting out a progressive agenda. Consider this conference a small step – a catalyst – in that effort. To this end, Parkland Institute has invited a distinguished array of individuals to help us think about the issues, the problems, and their solutions. Each brings a unique perspective to the discussion. You may agree or disagree with the ideas put forward but, in either case, I hope you will leave the conference better informed and inspired to act. I also hope the conference will provide you, as it does me, the opportunity to meet new people and to catch up on old friendships.

If you value Parkland Institute, please renew your membership and make a donation so that we may continue to make a difference in furthering democratic debate in Alberta. Parkland relies on contributions from you, and people like you, to thrive. Finally, I want to personally invite you to come speak with me to discuss your concerns and insights.

Warm regards to all,

Trevor Harrison
*The Director and Co-founder,
Parkland Institute*

FRIDAY

November 16, 2018

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
ETLC ROOM 1-001

KEYNOTE

Lynne Fernandez

In the Eye of the Storm

Alberta is in the eye of a storm that has been brewing around the planet. Climate change, migration, and the impact of global economic austerity measures are just a few of the forces at play in a tempest that has seen the appetite for hard right politics grow.

SATURDAY

November 17, 2018

8:00 am Doors Open ETLC Lobby

9:00 am – 10:15 am
1-001, ETLC

PLENARY

Janet Brown

The Values, Attitudes and Motivations of Alberta Voters

In the lead up to the 2019 provincial election, pollster Janet Brown has been closely tracking the values, attitudes, and motivations of Alberta voters.

10:15 am – 10:30 am
ETLC Lobby

BREAK

Fairtrade locally roasted coffee and tea from Earth's General Store and pastries by Bon Ton Bakery

10:30 am – 11:45 am
A. 1-013, ETLC

CONCURRENT

History

Gillian Steward, Mount Royal University

Lessons from the Past

Trevor Harrison, University of Lethbridge

Through a Past and Future Glass Darkly: Alberta Before and After 2015

B. 1-003, ETLC

CONCURRENT

Economy

Angella MacEwen, Canadian Union of Public Employees

The Alberta Economy in Context

Melville McMillan, University of Alberta

Alberta's Deteriorating Public Finances: A Call for Change

11:45 am – 1:00 pm
ETLC Room 1-017

LUNCH

Catered lunch by Upper Crust

CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm
A. 1-013, ETLC

CONCURRENT

Energy

Ian Hussey, Parkland Institute

Boom, Bust, and Consolidation: Corporate Restructuring in the Alberta Oil Sands

Emily Eaton, University of Regina

Just Transitions in the Belly of the Beast

B. 1-003, ETLC

CONCURRENT

Intergenerational Organizing

Next Up with Laura Collison & Selena Gignac

Learning from Each Other - Making Change Together

2:15 pm – 2:30 pm

BREAK

ETLC Lobby

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm
A. 1-013, ETLC

CONCURRENT

Health Care

Heather Smith, United Nurses of Alberta

The Future of Health Care in Alberta - It Matters!

Rebecca Graff-McRae, Parkland Institute

From 'Building not Cutting' to 'Bending the Cost Curve':
Health Care under the Alberta NDP

B. 1-003, ETLC

CONCURRENT

Environment

Gwendolyn Blue, University of Calgary

Democratizing Climate Change: Beyond Expert Assessment and Citizen Participation

Dr. Ian Urquhart, University of Alberta

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Alberta's New Democrats and the Environment

3:45 pm – 4:00 pm

BREAK

ETLC Lobby

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm
1-001, ETLC

PLENARY

Emily Riddle

Thoughts from a Traitorous Albertan: Treaty Feminism in 2019

Both Treaty and gender are relevant to all major policy debates – from pipelines to education. From the perspective of an Alberta ex-pat and Treaty 6 feminist, this presentation provides a report card on Treaty relations in the province and imagines a future in which Indigenous peoples can live safely in our homelands beyond Alberta 2019.

5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Room at the Top, Student Union Building

Conference Social

Join us for a screening of *Valley of the Southern North*, Byron Dueck's love letter to the Peace Valley and the people and creatures that make it their home. Stay for conversation and snacks (cash bar)

SUNDAY

November 18, 2018

8:30 am Doors Open ETLC Lobby

9:00 am – 10:15 am
1-001, ETLC

PLENARY

Fred Stenson

Understanding Alberta: Why Are You Laughing?

After 21 years of writing humour columns for Alberta Views magazine, Fred Stenson asks himself the ultimate question: "Do I understand Alberta?"

10:15 am – 10:30 am
ETLC Lobby

BREAK

Fairtrade locally roasted coffee and tea from Earth's General Store and pastries by Bon Ton Bakery

10:30 am – 11:45 am
A. 1-013, ETLC

CONCURRENT

Education

Barbara Silva, Support Our Students

Alberta Education: The Predictable Path to Privatization

Dr. Philip McRae, Alberta Teachers' Association

Public Education in Alberta: What? So What? Now What?

B. 1-003, ETLC

CONCURRENT

Indigenous Perspectives

Dr. Angele Alook, Alberta Union of Provincial Employees

Photo-Ops, Inadequate Consultation, and the Soft Implementation of UNDRIP

Heidi HeavyShield, University of Calgary

'Reconciliation is Justice': Exploring Opportunities for Restorative Responses to the TRC Calls to Action in the Criminal Justice System

11:45 am – 12:00 pm

BREAK

ETLC Lobby

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm
ETLC ROOM 1-001

CLOSING KEYNOTE

Andrew Nikiforuk

Petro Politics and Bitumen's Volatile Legacy

Oversupplying a global market that doesn't need more bitumen (a cheap refinery feedstock) will lower prices for bitumen. That's Economics 101.

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR CONFERENCE GOERS

Welcome to Parkland Institute's 22ND Annual Conference

Your full conference registration includes:

- Friday and Sunday Keynotes
- All Plenary and Concurrent Sessions
- Saturday Lunch
- Saturday Evening Social at Room at the Top

Food and Beverages

Coffee, tea, and water will be available during breaks. Pastries will be available Saturday and Sunday morning.

We encourage you to use your own travel mug for coffee and tea. We have rented a limited number of mugs. Please return these at the end of day, as we have to pay for any that we lose.

Lunch on Saturday is provided to all full conference registrants, including volunteers with badges. Lunch will include vegetarian options. Just show your badge to gain entrance to the lunch room.

You are also welcome to bring your lunch or there are food vendors available on the main floor of the Student Union Building a short walk away.

If You're Late

If you arrive late for keynotes or plenaries, please enter on the south side by the back door so as not to interrupt the speaker.

Parking

We recommend you park in the Windsor Car Park located at 116 Street and 92 Avenue. Friday evening after 6:00 pm, Saturday, and Sunday parking is available for a flat fee of \$5.50. Hourly parking is available on 116 Street for \$3.50/hour.

Volunteers

The Parkland Conference would not be possible without the support of dozens of volunteers who perform hundreds of hours of work on our behalf. Please help us thank them whenever you have the opportunity.

Special Thanks

Flavio Rojas, our graphic designer
Parkland Conference Brainstormers

We All Have a Story to Tell

GUIDELINES FOR RESPECTFUL DISCUSSION

We all have a story to tell, but the precious few minutes afforded us at the end of each session for dialogue is not the time to tell it!

Parkland People are remarkably diverse and our conferences bring together a special blend of academics, activists, students, and community members, every one of whom has an incredible story to tell. That's why we've created a multitude of ways for Parkland People to converse with each other and our guests, including multiple breaks and the Saturday evening social at Room at the Top.

Please help ensure that the question and answer time allotted at the end of every session is enjoyed by everyone by following these few rules:

Keep your remarks short and to the point. Questions or comments that require lengthy background information are not well-suited to this format. If you cannot ask a question within 30 seconds, consider saving it for another opportunity.

Do not hog the microphone. People who have not yet had the opportunity to speak will be given priority.

Speaking lists may be altered to balance representation by age, gender, gender identity, race, ethnic or other identities. Just because you put your hand up first doesn't mean it's always your turn.

Value dialogue. Everyone has something to contribute.

Please do not interrupt speakers, facilitators, or other conference-goers.

Do not campaign at the mic. It is inappropriate to ask your fellow conference-goers to support your cause, no matter how important it is.

Be conscious of how your behaviour impacts others. Practice stepping up/stepping back so we can ensure that everyone is allowed to contribute.

And when in doubt, remember what Aretha taught us – RESPECT.

FRIDAY

November 16, 2018

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

1-001 ETLC



KEYNOTE

Lynne Fernandez

In the Eye of the Storm

Alberta is in the eye of a storm that has been brewing around the planet. Climate change, migration, and the residual impact of global economic austerity measures - stemming from the 2008 financial crisis and from which the world is still reeling - are just a few of the forces at play in a tempest that has seen the appetite for hard right politics grow in Europe, the US, and here at home in Canada. What do changes in global trade, the oil industry, inter-provincial relations, and the labour market mean for Alberta? Could we have four contiguous provinces run by conservative governments that are decidedly opposed to government intervention on climate change? If so, what will be the effect? What remains after the storm has passed?

Lynne Fernandez holds the Errol Black Chair in Labour Issues at the Manitoba office of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. She holds an MA in Economics from the University of Manitoba where she studied with the department's heterodox economists. Her concentration was on Community Economic Development and post-Keynesian/post Marxian economics.

Fernandez has worked at the CCPA Manitoba for 11 years. As the Errol Black Chair in Labour Issues, she is particularly focused on Manitoba's labour market, union movement, and the plight of migrant farm workers. She also follows and writes about social enterprise, regional economic development, the role of Manitoba Hydro in such development, and the need to use the Crown as a way to transition to a greener economy while supporting the training and employment of Manitoba's First Nation community.

Fernandez presents regularly to Manitoba unions and public forums on the growth and impact of austerity measures since the Great Recession. She also heads the CCPA Manitoba's Alternative Municipal Budget project, and will be heading the 2020 Manitoba Alternative Provincial Budget.

SATURDAY

November 17, 2018

8:00 am	Doors Open ETLC Lobby
9:00 am – 10:15 am Room 1-001, ETLC	Plenary Session <i>The Values, Attitudes, and Motivations of Alberta Voters</i>



Janet Brown

In the lead up to the 2019 provincial election, pollster Janet Brown has been closely tracking the values, attitudes, and motivations of Alberta voters. Through this research, she has identified four clusters of Alberta voters. Janet will take us through the numbers, and help us understand the mindset of Alberta voters, and what matters most to them.

Janet Brown has been examining and tracking public opinion in Alberta for more than 25 years. She has extensive experience in both quantitative and qualitative research and has managed research assignments for all levels of government and numerous private sector organizations. Janet is a regular commentator on the CBC Calgary News at Six, Alberta Primetime on CTV2 in Alberta, and *The Weekend Morning News* on Global News Calgary.

Janet holds a B.A. (Hons) in Political Science from Wilfrid Laurier University, undertook graduate studies in Political Science at York University, and studied International Development and International Law at the London School of Economics and Political Science. She is co-author of "*Marginally Better: Polling in the 2015 Alberta Election*", a chapter in *Orange Chinook*, an edited volume to be released by the University of Calgary Press in Fall 2018.

10:15 am - 10:30 am ETLC Lobby	Break Fairtrade locally roasted coffee and tea from Earth's General Store and Pastries by Bon Ton Bakery
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SATURDAY

November 17, 2018

10:30 am – 11:45 am
Room 1-013, ETLC

Concurrent Session
A. *History*



Gillian Steward

Lessons from the Past

They were both Progressive Conservatives but Peter Lougheed and Ralph Klein had completely different policies when it came to developing Alberta's oil sands. Lougheed wanted the government in the driver's seat. Klein put the oil industry in the driver's seat.

As Rachel Notley navigates the ups and downs of Alberta's petroleum-based economy what lessons from the past might serve her government best?

Gillian Steward is a Calgary-based journalist who has been covering Alberta politics since Peter Lougheed was elected premier. In 2017, she wrote *Betting on Bitumen: Alberta's Energy Policies from Lougheed to Klein* for Parkland Institute. In 2014, Steward was awarded the Atkinson Fellowship in Public Policy. With the fellowship, she researched the public policy drivers of oil sands development in Alberta for a series of articles published in the *Toronto Star*.

Steward currently writes a regular column for the *Toronto Star* and teaches journalism at Mount Royal University. She was the managing editor at the *Calgary Herald* from 1987 to 1990, and was the publisher/editor of *Alberta Views* magazine 2006/2007. In 2000, she co-authored, with Kevin Taft, *Clear Answers: The Economics and Politics of For-Profit Medicine*, an examination of the Alberta government's proposals to expand the role of the private sector in health care. Steward is also the author of *Public Bodies, Private Parts: Surgical Contracts and Conflict of Interest at the Calgary Regional Health Authority*, for Parkland Institute



Trevor Harrison

Through a Past and Future Glass Darkly: Alberta Before and After 2015

This presentation examines the lessons arising out of Alberta's 2015 election and what they suggest about future directions.

Trevor W. Harrison is a Professor of Sociology at the University of Lethbridge and, since 2011, Director of Parkland Institute. He is best known for his studies in political sociology, political economy, and public policy. He is the author, co-author, or co-editor of nine books, numerous journal articles and book chapters, and a frequent contributor to public media, including radio and television.

SATURDAY

November 17, 2018

10:30 am – 11:45 am
Room 1-003, ETLC

Concurrent Session
B. Economy



Angella MacEwen

The Alberta Economy in Context

Alberta's strong economy has relied heavily on natural resources, but falling oil prices and the need to transition to a low carbon economy present an opportunity to build a different kind of economy. Looking at the fundamentals of Alberta's economy in a national and global context, how well prepared are we for this coming change? How has Alberta been a national and international leader on just transition? What is government's role as we continue to navigate the changing global economic context?

Angella MacEwen is a labour economist with the Canadian Union of Public Employees. Her primary focus is understanding the impacts of Canadian economic and social policy on workers, especially climate policy and international trade and investment treaties. Before taking her current role at CUPE, she represented the Canadian Labour Congress at parliamentary committees and in the national media. Angella holds a MA in Economics and a BA in International Development Studies.



Melville McMillan

Alberta's Deteriorating Public Finances: A Call for Change

The Alberta government has long relied heavily on resource revenues to fund public services. Those revenues have dropped dramatically and significant improvement is not forecast. How large is the public finance problem? How might Albertans adjust? How might resource revenues be better managed if another energy boom materializes?

Melville McMillan is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Economics and a Fellow of the Institute of Public Economics at the University of Alberta. His BA and MSc are from the University of Alberta and his PhD is from Cornell University. He has been at the University of Alberta since 1975.

Mel's research and teaching interests are in public economics; particularly urban and local economics, fiscal federalism, and the demand and supply of public goods and services. He has published in these areas and has advised governments and organizations nationally and internationally, including the World Bank. Although "retired", Mel remains actively involved in academic and policy matters.

11:45 am – 1:00 pm
Room 1-017

Lunch – Catered lunch by Upper Crust

SATURDAY

November 17, 2018

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm
Room 1-013, ETLC

Concurrent Session

A. *Energy*



Ian Hussey

Boom, Bust, and Consolidation: Corporate Restructuring in the Alberta Oil Sands

Alberta's oil production is dominated by just five corporations: Suncor, CNRL, Cenovus, Imperial, and Husky. In this presentation, the accumulation strategies of the Big Five are examined as they evolved in reaction to the phases of the commodity cycle: boom (2004-2014), bust (2014-2016), and restructuring and consolidation (2015+). Analyzed as a cyclical whole, it will become clear that recent claims that Alberta oil companies are not highly profitable are false. In fact, the latest commodity cycle has resulted in the Big Five consolidating their ownership and control of Alberta oil. The political, economic, and climate implications of this consolidation will be discussed.

Ian Hussey is a research manager at Parkland Institute. He is also a steering committee member and the Alberta research manager for the SSHRCC-funded Corporate Mapping Project. Before joining Parkland Institute, Ian worked for several international development organizations, including as the co-founder and executive director of the Canadian Fair Trade Network. Ian holds BA Honours degrees in Sociology and in English from Acadia University and an MA in Sociology from the University of Victoria. His PhD courses and exams at York University focused on the sociology of colonialism and on political economy. Ian's writing has appeared in the *Globe and Mail*, *New Political Economy*, *Edmonton Journal*, *National Observer*, and *The Tye*.



Emily Eaton

Just Transitions in the Belly of the Beast

Saskatchewan is Canada's second largest oil producing province and has a lot in common with Alberta. In fact, the province sets its own resource policies and regulations with a keen eye on Alberta and with an aim to 'beat' Alberta as the best place in Canada to produce oil. What are the prospects for transition in petro-economies like Saskatchewan and Alberta? How can fossil fuel interests and influence be broken, and what are the prospects for reorienting economies and cultures around just transitions?

Emily Eaton lives and works in Treaty Four on the traditional territories of the Cree, Saulteaux, Nakoda, Lakota, Dakota and the homeland of the Metis. She teaches in the department of Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of Regina. She is the author of two books: *Growing Resistance: Canadian Farmers and the Politics of GM Wheat* and, with photographer Valerie Zink, *Fault Lines: Life and Landscape in Saskatchewan's Oil Economy*. Her work concerns the political ecology of resource extraction and the politics of just transition to a post-carbon economy. She is also active in social justice struggles around resource extraction, Palestine solidarity, and Access without Fear.

SATURDAY

November 17, 2018

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm
Room 1-003, ETLC

Concurrent Session
B. Intergenerational Organizing



Laura Collison



Selena Gignac

Next Up with Laura Collison & Selena Gignac

Learning from Each Other - Making Change Together

Movements need people from all generations. Sometimes we hear complaints that older folks are out of touch or that younger folks don't know their history. What can we learn from each other? What can we do when we make more connections and work together? No matter who is in government, the challenges and opportunities we face in Alberta mean we need many different people working in many different areas in many different ways that support each other.

This interactive workshop will have participants talk through questions and ideas together. We will create a space for understanding and learning from each other and for making plans for our future.

Next Up is a leadership program for young people committed to environmental and social justice. It offers programs of varying lengths and focus in seven cities across Canada: Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Saskatoon, Regina, Winnipeg, and Ottawa. Parkland Institute is the partner organization in Alberta. Next Up's goal is to equip participants with the skills and tools needed to become effective leaders in movements for social and environmental change.

Laura Collison is the Program Coordinator for Next Up Edmonton. She is an alumna of the second Next Up Edmonton cohort.

Selena Gignac is the Executive Director of Next Up. She is an alumna of the first Next Up Calgary cohort

2:15 pm - 2:30 pm
ETLC Lobby

Break

SATURDAY

November 17, 2018

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm
Room 1-013, ETLC

Concurrent Session
A. Health Care



Heather Smith

The Future of Health Care in Alberta - It Matters!

For Alberta's Registered Nurses and Registered Psychiatric Nurses the theme for 2019 is "It Matters!" Nurses' professional responsibility to deliver safe care matters, occupational health and safety matters, fair collective agreements for nurses and other health care workers matter and - with the NDP government nearing the end of its first term - politics, spending and the future of health care all matter enormously.

Heather Smith is President of the United Nurses of Alberta, which represents more than 30,000 Registered Nurses, Registered Psychiatric Nurses and allied workers. She is a prominent advocate for Canada's universal public health care system and a national pharmacare program.

Heather came to Alberta in 1976 after training in Ottawa. While working as an RN in Edmonton in 1980, she became active in the union and was elected local president in 1983. Elected UNA president in 1988, she has served in that role ever since. In 2007, Heather received the *Spirit of Tommy Douglas Award* for her commitment to the dreams of the late Saskatchewan premier and creator of Canadian medicare.



Rebecca Graff-McRae

From 'Building not Cutting' to 'Bending the Cost Curve': Health Care under the Alberta NDP

As we near the end of the Alberta NDP's first term in office, Graff-McRae takes stock of the Notley government's approach to health care. Mapping the hits and misses from spending to infrastructure, attempts to address privatization, and initiatives to improve and expand health services, Graff-McRae compares the NDP to recent conservative governments and assesses whether or not key campaign pledges have been met. She concludes with a brief look at what role health-related issues may play in the upcoming election.

Dr. Rebecca Graff-McRae is a research manager at Parkland Institute. Born and raised in Alberta, Rebecca left to study Irish political history at Queen's University in Belfast. While completing her undergraduate degree, she worked with the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland, analyzing the political implications of anti-discrimination legislation enacted through the *Good Friday Agreement*. She gained firsthand knowledge of Northern Ireland's nascent lobbying culture through an internship with Stratagem Political Solutions, and worked as a research assistant for the Center for the Advancement of Women.

After attaining her doctorate, Rebecca undertook research fellowships in Belfast, St. John's, and Edmonton before taking a research position with Edmonton City Council. Her academic work has appeared in leading journals, several edited collections, and a monograph, *Remembering & Forgetting 1916: Commemoration and Conflict in Post-Peace Process Ireland*.

SATURDAY

November 17, 2018

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm
Room 1-003, ETLC

Concurrent Session
B. Environment



Gwendolyn Blue

Democratizing Climate Change: Beyond Expert Assessment and Citizen Participation

Progressive responses to climate change typically involve expert assessments and formal public engagement. While important, these approaches fail to address structural power imbalances. Untangling these dynamics involves confronting scientism, the assumption that environmental policy issues should be framed entirely by quantitative metrics. Scientism leads to situations in which the perspectives and values of some elite social actors become the unquestioned frame for public policy rather than the subject of scrutiny and debate. Alberta's approach to climate leadership serves as an example of the problems of relying solely on expert assessment and formal public engagement, and as a clarion call for progressive leaders to think differently about democratising environmental policy.

Gwendolyn Blue is an Associate Professor in Geography at the University of Calgary with appointments in the Faculty of Science Natural Sciences interdisciplinary program. Formally trained in the field of Cultural Studies, she conducts research in three interconnected areas: 1) public controversies involving science and technology; 2) public engagement with science and technology; and 3) political, cultural and ethical dimensions of scientific and technological innovations. Her research draws on poststructuralist traditions in science and technology studies and political ecology. She has examined the politics surrounding BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy), local food, climate change, human-animal relations and, more recently, genomic applications for environmental issues. She is currently a collaborator on a SSHRC funded project examining Alberta and British Columbia's climate policies and a Genome Canada funded project exploring the social and policy dimensions of genomic assisted breeding for climate change adaptation.

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8720 – 149 Street, Edmonton, Alberta

SATURDAY

November 17, 2018



Dr. Ian Urquhart

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Alberta's New Democrats and the Environment

Alberta's New Democrats committed, in the party's 2015 election platform, to several important environmental objectives such as climate change leadership, phasing out coal-fired electricity generation, increasing renewable energy production, and protecting the Castle Wilderness Area. This presentation primarily examines the government's record in fulfilling those commitments. It argues that "market fundamentalism," what Joseph Stiglitz called the prevailing religion of the West since the early 1980s, has compromised and tempered the substance of the overall New Democrat environmental policy record.

Dr. Ian Urquhart was a member of the Department of Political Science at the University of Alberta from 1987 until 2018. His primary research focus is on the political economy of exploiting natural resources. His 2018 book, *Costly Fix: Power, Politics, and Nature in the Tar Sands*, was described in the *Canadian Journal of Political Science* as "a powerful and provocative contribution to tar sands literature." He has been an active member of Alberta Wilderness Association for many years and has served as the editor of the Association's magazine, *Wild Lands Advocate*, since 2009.

3:45 pm - 4:00 pm
ETLC Lobby

Break



Linda Duncan

**Member of Parliament
Edmonton Strathcona**

780-495-8404

www.LindaDuncanMP.ca   LindaDuncanMP



SATURDAY

November 17, 2018

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm
Room 1-001, ETLC

Plenary Session

Thoughts from a Traitorous Albertan: Treaty Feminism in 2019



Emily Riddle

As Alberta faces a provincial election in 2019, it is important to remember that both Treaty and gender are relevant to all major policy debates—from pipelines to education. From the perspective of an Alberta ex-pat and Treaty 6 feminist, this presentation will provide a report card on where we are in Treaty relations in the province and imagine a future in which Indigenous peoples can live safely in our homelands beyond Alberta 2019.

Emily Riddle is a nehiyaw (Plains Cree) writer, researcher, and policy analyst from Treaty 6. She is a member of the Alexander First Nation who grew up in Edmonton. Emily now lives on the territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples, but is always plotting her return to the prairies.

An alumnus of the University of Alberta, Emily is currently finishing an MA in Political Science at the University of Alberta. She currently works for the First Nations Education Steering Committee, an organization that advocates for 114+ First Nations in BC on post-secondary education policy, and is grateful to have worked with First Nations and Métis communities across the country on diverse policy and governance projects.

Emily is a board member for the Yellowhead Institute, a First Nations-led think tank based out of Ryerson University, and works with We-Press, a downtown Eastside community artspace. She has written for *Teen Vogue*, *The Globe and Mail*, and *Canadian Art*.

Conference Social 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm, Room at the Top, Student Union Building



With Alberta Filmmaker

Byron Dueck

***Valley of the Southern North* is a love letter to The Peace Valley and the people and creatures that make it their home. The Site C Dam, now under construction, will destroy ancestral territory of the Dane Zaa and Cree, violate treaties and displace residents, farmers and wildlife living along its shores.**

Byron Dueck is a visual journalist and documentarian currently based in Toronto. He holds a BA in Political Science from the University of Lethbridge, a GrDip in Visual Journalism from Concordia University, and an MFA in Documentary Media from Ryerson University. His work focuses on the intersection of human rights, protest movements, and the environment. From the struggle for LGBT rights in Kyiv to the Arab Spring in Cairo, he brings his impactful visual style to social movements campaigning for change.

SUNDAY

November 18, 2018

8:30 am	Doors Open ETLC Lobby
9:00 am – 10:15 am Room 1-001, ETLC	Plenary Session <i>Understanding Alberta: Why Are You Laughing?</i>



Fred Stenson

After 21 years of writing humour columns for Alberta Views magazine, Fred Stenson asks himself the ultimate question: “Do I understand Alberta?”

Fred Stenson has written 20 books (fiction and non-fiction). He is best known for the historical novels *The Trade*, *Lightning*, and *The Great Karoo*. Fred’s most recent novel *Who By Fire* (2014) is rooted in a conflict between an Alberta farm family and a sour gas plant. His novels have been shortlisted for the Giller Prize and the Governor General’s Award for Fiction. *The Trade* won the Writer’s Guild of Alberta novel award and the City of Edmonton Book Prize and Fred is a two-time winner of the Grant MacEwan Writer’s Prize. For 15 years, Fred directed The Banff Centre’s Wired Writing Studio. He has been *Alberta Views* magazine’s wit columnist since the magazine’s inception. He lives in Cochrane, Alberta.

10:15 am - 10:30 am ETLC Lobby	Break Fairtrade locally roasted coffee and tea from Earth’s General Store and Pastries by Bon Ton Bakery
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Save the Date!

Parkland’s Annual Fundraising Gala
and Silent Auction

February 28, 2019

Chateau Lacombe Hotel
10111 Bellamy Hill Rd NW

SUNDAY

November 18, 2018

10:30 am – 11:45 am
Room 1-013, ETLC

Concurrent Session
A. Education



Barbara Silva

Alberta Education: The Predictable Path to Privatization

While Alberta's education system has unique traits, it is following a non-unique predictable path towards privatization, one that is being employed around the world. Silva explores the current system, how the marketization of it is not unique and is entirely predictable, why this privatization strategy has been so successful and inconspicuous, and what we can do to return to true universality.

Barbara is communications director with Support Our Students – Alberta, a grassroots public education advocacy group. Born in Ontario but raised all over Canada, Barbara attended 11 different public and separate schools. She holds a BSc in Chemical Engineering from the University of Calgary and worked in the oil & gas industry for 6 years before pursuing her Master Of Education from the University of Western Ontario. After working in the Rockyview School Division for 4 years, Barbara now volunteers her time advocating for children's rights to an accessible, quality, and equitable public education, presenting policy proposals on curricula, student physical and mental health issues, equity of access, racism, and education funding to the Alberta Ministry of Education.



Dr. Philip McRae

Public Education in Alberta: What? So What? Now What?

This presentation explores some of the tensions and opportunities for public education in Alberta and the profession of teaching as we move into the second decade of the 21st century. It also opens a conversation around how schools and their communities are changing across Alberta and their expectations and aspirations in the face of the forces of privatization, standardization, personalization and datafication of learning.

Dr. Philip McRae is Associate Coordinator, Research with the Alberta Teachers' Association and Adjunct Professor within the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta where he earned his Ph.D. He was the Director of the internationally recognized Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AISi) at the University of Alberta from 2005-2009, and taught several graduate courses in the Master of Education in Educational Studies program. Phil has worked in many secondary and post-secondary educational contexts while living and teaching in the United Arab Emirates, Japan, Spain, and in Alberta, Canada with the Lethbridge Public School District and at Red Crow College with the Blood Tribe (Kainai First Nation). The Blackfoot gave him the name Áipapomm, which means lightning.

SUNDAY

November 18, 2018

10:30 am – 11:45 am
Room 1-003, ETLC

Concurrent Session

B. Indigenous Perspectives



Dr. Angele Alook

Photo-Ops, Inadequate Consultation, and the Soft Implementation of UNDRIP

Angele Alook examines the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People under the Alberta NDP since 2015, focusing on the discourse used by the Ministry of Indigenous Relations in their press releases and their policy documents, and analyzing interviews done with policy experts. A comparative analysis on what consultation and consent mean to Indigenous peoples impacted by government policy, and what these concepts mean to government bureaucrats is included.

Dr. Angele Alook is proud member of Bigstone Cree Nation and a speaker of the Cree language. She recently successfully defended her PhD in Sociology from York University. Her dissertation is entitled "Indigenous Life Courses: Racialized Gendered Life Scripts and Cultural Identities of Resistance and Resilience." She specializes in Indigenous feminism, life course approach, Indigenous research methodologies, cultural identity, and sociology of family and work.

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Lila
Abu-Lughod



Author of
*Do Muslim
Women Need
Saving?*

February 4, 2019



uab.ca/gep

SUNDAY

November 18, 2018



Heidi HeavyShield

'Reconciliation is Justice': Exploring Opportunities for Restorative Responses to the TRC Calls to Action in the Criminal Justice System

This presentation will identify opportunities and possibilities to respond to the TRC's Calls to Action with the criminal justice system, in particular for incarcerated Indigenous populations. How can we explore manners in which our systems intersect with the criminal justice system? Examples from Aboriginal correctional programs in context will be identified. Particular emphasis on highlights from Faceless Dolls project within a correctional setting will be used to illuminate responses to #MMIWG for incarcerated Indigenous women, promoting social inclusion and social action through a justice lens.

Heidi HeavyShield, Ah-Ksisto-Aki (Brave Woman) MSW, RSW is an Indigenous (Kainai-Blood First Nation) clinical social worker currently working in an Alberta provincial correctional setting for over a decade. Working from a social justice practice framework within the human service field for over 20 years, she integrates Indigenous healing methodologies and psychosocial interventions with direct work with incarcerated men and women including healing from trauma, loss and grief, family of origin issues, and the intergenerational legacy of colonization and colonial policies. Heidi has also worked with youth in care and custody and families and parents within both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. She is currently a sessional instructor with the University of Calgary Faculty of Social Work, Southern Alberta Region and has delivered numerous presentations to communities and agencies around Indigenous social justice issues.

11:45 am - 12:00 pm
ETLC Lobby

Break

Chivers Carpenter

On Side with Alberta Workers

The lawyers of Chivers Carpenter represent labour organizations and workers in all levels of court and facets of labour relations, human rights, administrative, professional regulatory and employment law.

John R. Carpenter - Michelle L. Westgeest
Vanessa Cosco - Gordon W. Nekolaichuk
Kara O'Halloran - Natalia Makuch
Kristan A. McLeod - Drew Blaikie
Kelly Nychka - Jacob Schweda
Wassila W. Semaine



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SUNDAY

November 18, 2018

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

1-001 ETLC

CLOSING KEYNOTE

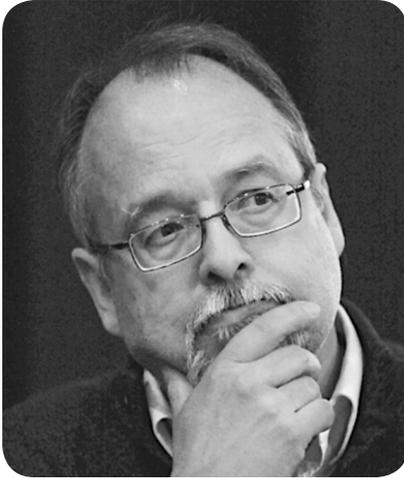
Andrew Nikiforuk

Petro Politics and Bitumen's Volatile Legacy

Oversupplying a global market that doesn't need more bitumen (a cheap refinery feedstock) will lower prices for bitumen. That's Economics 101. Incompetent governance by the NDP and the Conservatives has shielded industry from market forces and created a supply glut. Pipelines can't secure higher prices in such an environment. Adding value and curbing production remain the only solution. Meanwhile Alberta continues to ignore Lougheed's principles on resource development in a world where volatility dominates oil pricing and the dysfunctional politics of oil exporters.

For the last 30 years, Andrew Nikiforuk has written about the abuse of natural resources and energy issues in Canada for a variety of publications. He has criticized the pace and scale of bitumen development given the volatility of oil prices and the quality of the resource for more than a decade.

Andrew has won seven National Magazine Awards for his journalism since 1989 and top honours for investigative writing from the Association of Canadian Journalists. He is the author of several books including: *Alberta-based Saboteurs: Wiebo Ludwig's War Against Big Oil*, which won the Governor General's Award for Non-Fiction in 2002; *The Tar Sands: Dirty Oil and the Future of the Continent*, a national bestseller that won the 2009 Rachel Carson Environment Book Award and was listed as a finalist for the Grantham Prize for Excellence In Reporting on the Environment; *Empire of the Beetle*, which was nominated for the Governor General's award for Non-Fiction in 2011; and *Slick Water: Fracking and One Insider's Stand Against the World's Most Powerful Industry*, which won the 2016 Science in Society Journalism Award.



Before You Go

Parkland People

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Please consider becoming a monthly donor (there's a reason it's called sustaining support – it is the sustenance on which the institute runs) or making a one-time donation. Donation forms are available in the lobby. You can also become a monthly sustaining donor or make a one-time donation online at: parklandinstitute.ca/donate

Feedback Forms

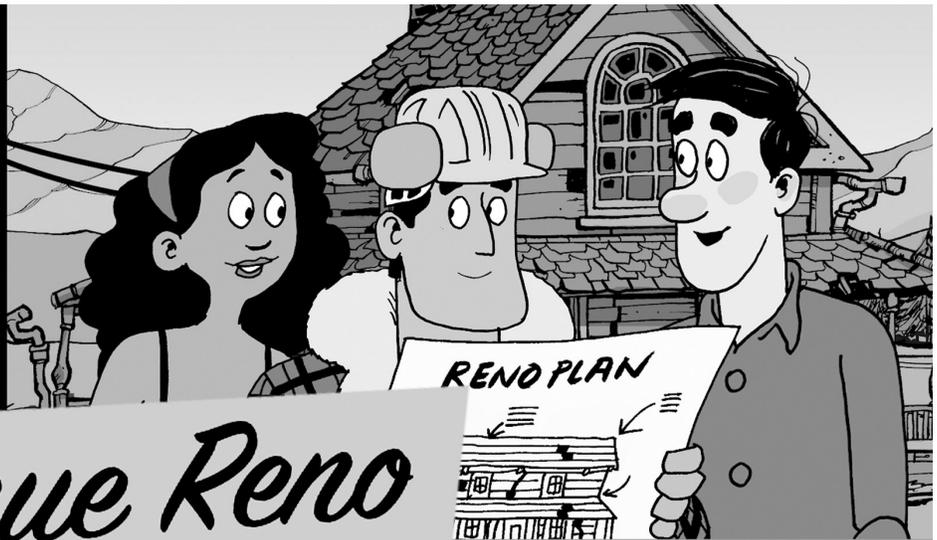
Please fill in the conference feedback form before you leave. Or, take your time and return it to us in person or via mail to: Parkland Institute, 1-12 Humanities Centre, University of Alberta, Edmonton AB T6G 2E5.

Your feedback is critical to our planning for future conferences and other programming.

Hand In Your Nametags

Please hand in your nametag to the volunteers in the front lobby and return your coffee/tea mugs to the beverage stations. We will re-use the nametags to save money and the environment. The mugs are rented and we will have to pay a replacement fee for every mug that we lose.

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