

Seminar:

## **Who's Got The Power! Rethinking Anti-Racism Pedagogy and Policy**

### **Presenter(s):**

**Sharon Simpson**, President, Urban Alliance on Race Relations

**Nigel Barriffe**, Board Member, Urban Alliance on Race Relations and Teacher, Toronto District School Board, [nigel.barriffe@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:nigel.barriffe@tdsb.on.ca)

**Gary Pieters**, Board Member, Urban Alliance on Race Relations and Vice Principal, Toronto District School Board, [gary.pieters@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:gary.pieters@tdsb.on.ca)

### **Abstract:**

This workshop will provide participants with an in-depth discussion of anti-racism and how it currently relates to education policy, pedagogy and community relations. How can we understand and navigate the disproportionate effects of racism on all communities. The workshop will also look at how we can create an inclusive discourse to bring together all actors to address issues of race and racism.

### **Follow-up Activities:**

The Urban Alliance on Race Relations (UARR) has over 30 years of history building coalition between government, NGO's and community groups to address the negative impact of racism. Follow-up activities will include creating links between stakeholders, researchers and community organizations to identify resources available to them to address issues around systemic racism.

### **Biography:**

**Sharon Simpson** is the current president of the Urban Alliance on Race Relations and been a member of board since 2005. Her community involvement extends to work on women's issues. Presently Sharon represents a labour perspective on the board of Urban Alliance on Race Relations as well as the Assaulted Women's Help Line. She is employed with Labour Community Services as the Special Projects Coordinator.

**Nigel Barriffe**, serving the Toronto District School Board as a grade 5/6 teacher in Rexdale, was born in Kingston, Jamaica and immigrated to Canada with his family as a young child. As the former Co-Chair of the African Heritage Educator's Network (AHEN), Education Action: Etobicoke North (EAEN) and member of the Good Jobs For All Coalition and Community Organizing for Responsible Development (CORD), Nigel's focus has been on quality public education, good green jobs, and a more just society for all inside and outside the classroom.

**Gary Pieters** is a member of Urban Alliance on Race Relations board of directors, and also a vice-principal with the Toronto District School Board with over 14 years of experience in the education sector. Gary has provided service to the community through his involvement on several boards and advisory committees including the Urban Alliance on Race Relations and the Toronto Star Community Editorial Board. He has studied, researched and written on public attitudes towards youth justice, youth violence prevention, employment and training, educational attainment, urban liveability issues, youth engagement and participation, cultural proficiency, diversity, human rights, and poverty reduction. Gary attended the University of Toronto and earned his graduate and undergraduate degrees in African Studies, Political Science, Teacher Education and Computer Applications in Education. He is an active community organizer in issues facing newcomers, culturally relevant education, social inclusion and engaged communities.