

Panel Descriptions

Indigenous Discussion Circle 10:20 am

Description: Members of the Indigenous community in Guelph meet to converse on their experiences, stories and realities for Indigenous peoples today.

Providing Inclusive Health Care Services 11:30 am

Description: This panel will explore the complexity of healthcare provision and the limitations and shortcomings of health care today. Panelists discuss some of the amazing work being done in health care to better serve marginalized communities. Panelists will speak to better serving queer and trans communities as well as immigrants and refugees. The reality of the stigma associated with navigating the medical system as a sex worker or substance user will also be explored. Ways in which healthcare providers can perpetrate harm and violence will be examined as panelists discuss potential solutions.

The Reality of Racism 1:40 pm

Description: Racism impacts the way we both provide and access social services. Racism is systemic, pervasive, insidious and alive in our communities and social services. False is the idea that it is 'not as bad here,' as it is in Trump's America, we've got racism here too. Let us not forget that Canada's history includes colonization and slavery too; white supremacist legacies that continue today. From the ongoing colonial genocide of Indigenous Peoples, the disproportionate representation of Black, Indigenous and people of colour in prisons and the criminal justice system, the detention of immigrants and refugees, deportations, hate crimes and murder.

Panellists will discuss the ways racism negatively impacts the lives of Black, Indigenous and Persons of Colour in Guelph, and Canada. How do we perpetuate racial violence through our provision of social services? What is not 'helping'? Who are we excluding? How can we do better?

Consent in our Communities and Social Services 4:00 pm

Description: Panelists will speak to their understanding of consent and help us come to a mutual understanding of consent. Conversation will centre the way consent impacts intimate partner relationships in our communities including abuse of power, sexual harassment and violence. The role of consent in social services will be explored in terms of how consent impacts program provision and access. Questions such as the ways a service designed to 'help' can perpetuate patriarchal and colonial violence will be raised. Panelists will speak to how we can empower and build healthier, consent-filled communities and services.

Thank you to the generous support of our sponsors, panelists and panel moderators!