



# PUBLIC EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM

January 28, 2021

**VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM** 10:00 AM – 3:30 PM

## 10:00 AM The Way Forward: Deconstructing Systemic Racism

**KERRY-ANN DOUGLAS-POWELL**

Manager of Policy and Systems Transformation,  
Anti-Racism Directorate, Ontario Ministry of the Solicitor General

Kerry-Ann will explore how systemic racism manifests within institutions and the impact on Black, Indigenous and racialized communities. She identifies tools and strategies that can be incorporated to dismantle systemic racism within institutions and talks about the successes and challenges of addressing systemic racism in the Ontario Public Service.

11:15 AM Break

## 11:30 AM CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

### 1. Reframing Governance: Human Rights, Equity, Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression in the Board Room and Beyond

Practical ideas on how effective governance can create positive school and workplace cultures that support student achievement, promote mental health and well-being, are free of bias and full of potential will be explored.

- Jim Spyropoulos, Executive Superintendent  
Human Rights and Indigenous Education, Toronto District School Board

### 2. Lands-based Education and Indigenous Ways of Knowing

Lands-based education, from the perspective and experiences of Indigenous Peoples, is rooted in Indigenous ways of knowing, of doing, is highly relational, is culture-based and is a key factor in shaping the worldview of Indigenous Nations across Turtle Island. Quinn Meawasige will share his experiences and learnings from his research in his undergrad and through carrying out a year-round lands-based language and culture initiative for Indigenous youth, families, communities and peoples in his territory.

- Quinn Meawasige, Project Coordinator, Nimkii Youth Collective

### 3. Unique Challenges of Governance in a Pandemic

Panel of Chairs and Directors:

Greater Essex County District School Board

- Alicia Higgison, Chair and Erin Kelly, Director of Education

Simcoe County District School Board

- Jodi Lloyd, Chair and Steve Blake, Director of Education

MODERATOR: Heather Campbell, Director of Education,

Rainy River District School Board

### 4. How to Engage your Local Community

School board communications staff from four boards across the province will bring their expertise to the table in an engaging panel discussion as we take a dive into reaching diverse communities in a time of ongoing crisis.

- Jonathan Laderoute, Renfrew County District School Board
- Kim Sweeney, District School Board of Niagara
- Tania Testa, Thames Valley District School Board
- Andréanne Denis, District School Board Ontario North East

MODERATOR: T.J. Goertz, OPSBA Senior Communications and Policy Officer

## Program continues

12:30 PM Lunch break

### 1:15 PM Provincial Covid-19 Update

Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health  
for the province of Ontario

### 1:45 PM MINISTER OF EDUCATION

The Honourable Stephen Lecce

### 2:25 PM CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

#### 1. The Role of Trustee

A clear understanding of a school board trustee's role and responsibilities is fundamental to good governance. This session will review the Role and Responsibilities of Trustees as part of their school boards. Specific topics will include how the role has changed during the pandemic in regards to governance and supporting local communities.

- Sheila MacKinnon, Partner, Shibley Righton LLP
- Jennifer McIntyre, Director of Policy, OPSBA

#### 2. Amplifying Leadership in Student Mental Health in Challenging Times

Many people have helped to promote and protect student mental health during the pandemic. Sometimes these helpers carry formal leadership roles, and sometimes they are everyday heroes doing small things in quiet moments to make things better for the children and youth that we serve. This workshop will focus on leadership in challenging times, raising up the voices and actions of students, educators, school/system leaders, school mental health professionals, and many more who have made a positive difference in schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are, together, the helpers who contribute to the system of care wrapping around students through these challenging times.

- Kathy Short, School Mental Health ASSIST, Canada
- Joyce Erogun, Student Engagement Lead, School Mental Health Ontario

#### 3. A Conversation with two Directors of Education on Equity, Anti-Black Racism, Anti-Oppression and Inclusion

- Camille Taylor, Director of Education,  
Ottawa-Carleton District School Board
- Colleen Russell-Rawlins, Director of Education,  
Peel District School Board

MODERATOR: Judith Nyman, Director Program Policy, OPSBA

#### 4. Students' Perspectives: Racism and a Global Pandemic

- Mahek Dhaliwal, President OSTA/AECO
- Zachary Garbaty, Vice-President, OSTA/AECO

MODERATOR: Alex Johnstone, Trustee, Hamilton-Wentworth DSB

3:30 PM Program ends

**Registration:** [pdevents@opsba.org](mailto:pdevents@opsba.org) **Fee:** No cost