



MINORITIES IN CANADA – COMING TOGETHER

A Conversation Hosted by the Métis Nation

November 18-20, 2019 | Ottawa Ontario

ELDERS

Claudette Commanda

Elder Claudette Commanda, an Algonquin Anishinabe from Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation, has dedicated her career to promoting First Nations rights, history and culture.

Elder Commanda is a University of Ottawa alumna, having graduated from the Faculty of Arts (1993) and the Faculty of Law, Common Law Section (1997). She was inducted into the Common Law Honour Society in 2009. A devoted and inspiring mentor, Elder Commanda has taught at the University of Ottawa's Institute of Women's Studies, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Education, and the Aboriginal Studies Program, teaching courses on First Nations Women, Native Education, First Nations People and History, Indigenous Traditions, and Decolonization.

She is the Executive Director of the First Nations Confederacy of Cultural Education

Centres, and has previously served on the Board of Governors for the First Nations University of Canada. She has served on the Kitigan Zibi band council on three separate occasions.

Oliver Boulette - *Bio unavailable at time of press release*

CO-HOSTS

Andray Domise

Andray Domise is a contributing editor to Maclean's magazine, and regular columnist with the Globe and Mail. In his journalistic work, he is often called on to add cultural and historical perspective to stories of political, social, and cultural import. As a graduate history student and fellow at the Nathanson Centre for Transnational Human Rights, Crime and Security, Andray is currently studying targeted gender

oppression in the Caribbean, through the lens of human exploitation and slave rebellions, in order to draw connections between colonial crimes against humanity and continued oppressions in the present day.

Dr. Kelly Saunders

Kelly Saunders is an associate professor and chair of the Political Science department at Brandon University in Brandon, Manitoba. For the past two decades Kelly has travelled to communities across the Métis Nation Homeland, attending assemblies and other events and speaking with political leaders, citizens and Elders. She is the co-author of the book *Metis Politics and Governance in Canada* and her research on Métis politics, the symbolism of Louis Riel, and Métis self-government has been published in a wide array of national and international academic journals. Kelly is also the proud mother of two Métis children and partner of Metis patriot Will Goodon from the Manitoba Metis Federation.

SPEAKERS

David Chartrand - Vice President and National Spokesperson, Metis National Council

David Chartrand was born and raised in the small Métis community of Duck Bay, Manitoba. His single mother, Martha Chartrand, instilled a strong sense of the traditional values of family and community in him, shaping his belief in family as the bedrock of the Métis Nation and in people as the cornerstone of the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF).

He began his political career with the MMF in 1988 when he was elected to the Board of Directors representing the Winnipeg Region. In 1996 he was appointed Acting President. In 1997 he was elected as President of the MMF. In June 2014 he was elected to an historic and unprecedented sixth consecutive term.

Under his leadership, the Manitoba Métis are enjoying a renewed nation-to-nation and government-to-government relationship with Canada that is moving the MMF towards a modern day treaty. As President, he has prioritized the development of business, training and job opportunities for the Métis people, and generating the funding resources to support the Manitoba Métis government. With this renewed political and economic relationship, the MMF is on the cusp of realizing potential opportunities that will strengthen the cultural, educational and economic future of all Métis.

President Chartrand is also a Vice-President of the Métis National Council holding cabinet positions of Minister of Finance and Administration, Minister of Veterans, and Minister of Social Development.

Jim Watson

Jim Watson was first elected Mayor of the City of Ottawa on October 25, 2010 and re-elected for a third consecutive term on October 22, 2018. Mayor Watson has dedicated most of his career to public service in Canada's Capital. First elected as a Councillor in 1991, he was re-elected in 1994. Three years later he was elected as the youngest Mayor in Ottawa's history.

Following the amalgamation of Ottawa and surrounding communities, Mayor Watson was appointed the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Tourism Commission, a federal crown corporation. In 2003, he was elected as the Member of Provincial Parliament for Ottawa West-Nepean and immediately appointed to cabinet as Minister of Consumer and Business services. In 2005, he was appointed as Ontario's first Minister of Health Promotion and he successfully implemented the Smoke Free Ontario Act. Re-elected as MPP in 2007, he was promoted to Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Mayor Watson was recognized for his support of the tourism industry by being named Ottawa Tourism Leader of the Year in 2012. In 2013, he was recognized by the Canadian Housing Renewal Association for his work on breaking the cycle of poverty. In 2014, Mayor Watson was named "Communicator of the Year" by the International Association of Business Communicators' Ottawa chapter. In 2016, he was presented with the Water Leader Award by the Ottawa Riverkeeper, for his persistent leadership to prioritize the City's efforts to clean up the Ottawa River.

Jean Teillet

Jean Teillet is Senior Counsel with Pape Salter Teillet LLP and specializes in Indigenous rights law. Jean has long been engaged in negotiations and litigation with provincial and federal governments concerning Métis and First Nation land rights, harvesting rights, commercial harvesting and self-government serving, for instance, lead counsel for the landmark case *R. v. Powley* in which the Supreme Court of

Canada affirmed constitutional protection of Métis harvesting rights.

Anthony Morgan

Anthony N. Morgan is a Toronto-based, award-winning leader and human rights lawyer, consultant, and public servant. He is a frequent legal, social and public affairs commentator on issues concerning race and racism, critical multiculturalism and critical race theory in Canada.

Shree Paradkar

As the 2018 – 2019 Atkinson Fellow in Public Policy, Shree Paradkar is investigating the failure of Canada's public education system to deliver equitable outcomes for racialized and Indigenous students. She's following the path created by Indigenous communities who seek to "decolonize education" to see if this process can help us get at root causes of inequity in education.

Dr. Jino Distasio

Jino Distasio is a Professor of Urban Geography and Vice President of Research and Innovation at the University of Winnipeg. For over 20 years he has worked to support change in Canadian communities through an applied policy-oriented approach to help make a meaningful impact. His areas of research include housing and urban development, downtown revitalization, homelessness and mental health and broad areas of urban planning.

Lisa-Marie Inman

Lisa-Marie Inman is currently the Director General of Multiculturalism and Anti-racism at Canadian Heritage. She is responsible for multiculturalism and anti-racism policy and funding programs, including Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy 2019-2022, the Anti-Racism Action Program, and the Community Support, Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Initiatives Program.

Lisa-Marie previously held executive roles with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, prior to which she was the Director, Review and Investigations at the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP.

Nuzhat Jafri

Nuzhat Jafri is the Executive Director, Canadian Council for Muslim Women and has held leadership positions in the public, private and non-profit sectors, including directing diversity initiatives at two of Canada's largest banks. At the Bank of Montreal, Ms. Jafri designed, developed and delivered a unique diversity education program entitled Business by Inclusion. She has developed numerous anti-discrimination, anti-harassment and anti-oppression workshops for a variety of audiences. In addition, Ms. Jafri has been volunteering with the Canadian Council of Muslim Women (CCMW) for the past 25 years, where she has led several educational and instructional initiatives.

Céleste McKay

Céleste McKay is Métis from Manitoba, with a background in social work and law, including an LL.M from the University of Ottawa and a BSW from the University of

Manitoba. Céleste is a consultant, focusing on human rights, social policy, research and advocacy, at the local, national and international levels. Her greatest source of joy is her family, her son, Evan Raoul Chartrand and her partner, Dean Herkert.

Peter Flegel

Peter Flegel is the Director of the Anti-Racism Secretariat, which is a directorate at the Department of Canadian Heritage leading Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy. He is a multilingual social entrepreneur, columnist, philanthropist, philosopher and musician. He has been recognized as one of the world's 100 most influential Black leaders aged 40 and under. The Haitian-born former orphan has striven, through a variety of local, national and multilateral organizations, to promote the rights of racialized peoples, religious minorities, LGBTQ+ communities, Indigenous peoples, migrant workers, and other oppressed groups.

Clara Morin Dal Col, Minister of Heritage, Family and Culture, Métis National Council

Clara Morin Dal Col was born in Ile a La Crosse, Saskatchewan, and is very proud of her Métis heritage. Michif was the first language spoken at home.

Clara was elected President of Métis Nation British Columbia in September 2016. In addition to being President and representing the interests of nearly 90,000 Métis people in the province, she is also Provincial Métis Minister of Housing and of Education. At the national level, she was appointed the Métis National Minister of Health by Métis

National Council President Clement Chartier in September 2016, and she also holds the national Métis portfolios for Culture, Heritage and Families.

Clara has been the Vice President on the National Board of Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak and was the Métis representative on the BC Provincial Minister's Planning Table for Families of Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women and Girls.

John Young

John Young has served as President and CEO of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMHR) since August 2015. This new national museum, that opened its doors in 2014, has built an international reputation for design, architecture, accessibility and human rights discourse. With his guidance, the CMHR has become a global leader in human rights education and is increasingly recognized as a place where we can better understand who we are as Canadians and where we aspire to go together. He is committed to creating a space for sharing difficult knowledge to help expand the collective memory of Canadians and visitors from around the world.

Tareq Hadhad

Tareq Hadhad is telling his story. He was a Syrian refugee and now living his new life with his entrepreneurial family in Canada's east coast. He is the founder and CEO of Peace by Chocolate, the recipient of Start Up Canada's National Newcomer Entrepreneur Award, named one of the Top 25 Immigrants in The Maritimes and selected by Google as the National Hero

Case for 2018. All this has happened since Tareq's arrival on Canada's East Coast in December 2015 as a Syrian-Canadian newcomer.

In 2012 the Hadhads home and factory that housed the family chocolate-making business were destroyed which forced them to seek safety in other countries. A former medical student at Damascus University and long-time peacekeeping advocate, Tareq joined medical relief efforts after arriving in Lebanon. A new life began when Tareq and his family were welcomed to Canada on a community-based sponsorship.

Passionate about peace and entrepreneurship, his family relaunched the family business to recreate the chocolates they once exported across the Middle East and their story turned into an international inspiring phenomenon.

Tareq and his family have a focus on job creation, utilizing a network of local community members and refugees from across Nova Scotia and Canada to help support the local economy. Now that their chocolates are distributed across Canada they look to offer more employment opportunities as their business grows.

Tareq has spoken at Amnesty International's Human Rights Conference, TEDx events, Chambers of Commerce Dinners, keynote presentations in Jamaica and London England and spoken to several corporate and government organizations. He has done over 500 interviews with different news teams across the globe. Tareq speaks on the compelling story of his family, the positive impact of Syrian newcomers and the spirit of entrepreneurship.

Bidhu Jha

Bidhu Jha, the former MPP (Provincial Parliamentarian) from Manitoba, Canada was appointed as Chairman of OTCL Inc in 2017. OTCL Group is an International Trade & Investment enterprise with offices in India and Canada. Jha, a businessman and community leader in Canada, entered public life in 2003 from the constituency of Radisson in Winnipeg, Canada and won three more consecutive elections. In 2016, Jha did not seek re-election to pursue his other interests.

In 2004, Premier of Manitoba appointed Jha as Parliamentary Secretary to Premier assigning him portfolio of International Trade & Investments. He contributed significantly in building revenues for Manitoba thru enhancing trade and successfully attracting investments into Manitoba Economy. He led several Trade missions to India & Europe including Russia and promoted Manitoba businesses into Global markets. In 2010, Manitoba's new Premier appointed him as Special Envoy for International Trade. Jha working with Business Community and Chambers of commerce, helped build Manitoba's first World Trade Center.

Claudette McGowan

Claudette McGowan is a global information technology leader with more than 17 years of success leading digital transformations and designing new approaches that improve service experiences. She has worked in the technology industry for organizations such as Deloitte, Metropolitan Police Services, North York General Hospital and Bank of Montreal. Claudette began her career at BMO in 2000. She is the current Chief

Information Officer, Enterprise Technology Employee Experience. Claudette is a published author of five books and founder of the Black Arts & Innovation Expo. Claudette holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Business Administration. Over the past 24 months, she was the recipient of four prestigious awards: *AdWeek Magazine* heralded Claudette as a Toronto Brand Star, the Digital Finance Institute honoured her as one of the Top 50 Canadian Women in FinTech, *Toronto Life* recognized her as one of the city's Most Influential Torontonians and Women's Executive Network recognized her as one of the Top 100 Most Powerful Women in Canada. In September 2019, Claudette also had the honour of moderating what is being hailed as 'the most insightful one-on-one conversation' with Former First Lady of the United States, Michelle Obama, in front of a sold-out crowd of 3,000-plus at Elevate, Canada's largest technology festival.

Jason Carvalho

A Builder of the New Economy since 1999. Recipient of Business in Vancouver's prestigious Top 40 under 40 Award. Jason is currently General Partner & Investor at Carvalho Capital, an award-winning early stage angel investment firm. Carvalho Capital invests in socially conscious diverse founders & creators who build purpose driven businesses in robotics, AI, health, government & education.

Jason started his career building internet companies & products through the First and Second Waves of the Internet such as Netscape 8, software security titan Paretologic.com and award-winning VC backed Indochino.com. Jason is now focused on investing in the Third Wave of the

Internet which has begun integrating seamlessly and pervasively through every aspect of our lives, changing how we live. He believes investing in diversity is a key component to building the New Economy of tomorrow.

Jason is currently a Board member of Toronto based WoodGreen.org and previously, was the youngest Ministry Appointed Board of Governor at Douglas College, a Board Member at Forum for Women's Entrepreneur Charity, Chair of the Coquitlam Foundation, and a Board Member at The Canadian Social Entrepreneurship Foundation.

Dr. Morteza Ahmadi

Dr. Morteza Ahmadi is the Founder and CEO of Qidni Labs Inc. The team at Qidni works on advanced renal replacement therapy devices and artificial kidneys for millions of patients with End Stage Renal Disease.

Morteza holds a PhD in Systems Design Engineering from the University of Waterloo. During his graduate studies, he has received the Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarship from Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and KRESCENT Fellowship from The Kidney Foundation of Canada. He is also a two-time recipient of the NanoFellowship from the Waterloo Institute for Nanotechnology.

Marc Leclair - *Bio unavailable at time of press release*

Adrian Harewood

Adrian Harewood is a Canadian journalist and co-anchor of CBC Ottawa News at 6. Prior to coming to CBC television, he was the host of the CBC Ottawa drive-home radio show All In A Day. For the last 20 years, Adrian has hosted national news/current affairs and literary arts & film radio and tv programs such as The Current, As It Happens, Sounds like Canada, Power and Politics, The Actors, Literati on CBC, BRAVO and PBS. A two-time Canadian Screen Awards nominee (Canada's Emmy Awards) for Best Host/Interviewer and News Anchor, he lives in Ottawa.

Dorota Blumczynska

Dorota Blumczynska is the Executive Director of the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba Inc. (IRCOM) and Vice President of the Canadian Council of Refugees. As a refugee, she knows well the challenges of resettlement; learning English, finding community and belonging, and navigating an unfamiliar landscape; all while living in poverty and beginning a new life.

Dorota was born in Poland. As a child she witnessed her family struggle under an oppressive regime eventually fleeing to eastern Germany where they lived in a refugee camp before being sponsored by a church in Winnipeg. She arrived in Winnipeg as a Privately Sponsored Refugee on October 30th, 1989.

In 2008, Dorota started with IRCOM's community-based language classes as an EAL Instructor and since then has supported the organization through tremendous growth to two housing and four

programming sites. At IRCOM she found a sense of purpose, a welcoming community, and a love for our shared human experience. Through her lived experience and in her work, she understands the power of education, self-determination, and the freedom to share our stories and be accepted as whole persons.

Al Benoit

Al Benoit is Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor to Manitoba Metis Federation President David Chartrand and Cabinet. He has over twenty years of experience building Métis Nation Government. His responsibilities include coordinating teams to respond to the changing legal and political environments and to shape negotiated agreements, policies, and actions. He is a citizen of the Métis Nation's Manitoba Metis Community.