

FORUM FOR YOUTH INSIGHTS 2020

Sunday, October 25, 2020

Program

Organized by the Inter-Level Educational Table, a committee of the Quebec English-Speaking Communities Research Network, in collaboration with Youth 4 Youth Quebec, the Black Community Resource Centre, and the Community Economic Development and Employability Corporation (CEDEC).

1:00 – 1:15

Opening Session

Graham Carr, President and Vice-Chancellor, Concordia University

1:15 – 1:30

Keynote Address

Natasha Blanchet-Cohen, Associate Professor, Department of Applied Human Sciences, Concordia University

Dr. Natasha Blanchet-Cohen is an Associate Professor in the Department of Applied Human Sciences at Concordia University and Graduate director of the Youth Work diploma. She is co-director of the Quebec Youth Research Network Chair. Her research focuses on community youth development, child rights and participation, ecocitizenship, and developmental evaluation. As an interdisciplinary scholar, she explores the opportunities and limitations for youth in being change agents of change in their schools, homes, and communities. She holds a particular interest in indigenous and immigrant youth's voices, the provision of rights-based and culturally-safe services and programs.

1:30 – 1:45

Keynote Address

Maddy Lawler, President, Youth4Youth Quebec

A civil law student at Université de Montréal, **Madeleine Lawler** holds a Bachelor of Public Affairs and Policy Management from Carleton University and has worked for various parts of the federal civil service, including the Library of Parliament and Parks Canada. Although she was raised in Montreal, she has roots in the historic English-speaking community of Megantic County. Of the issues facing English-speaking youth, she is particularly interested in their representation and participation in Quebec's public service and civil society. Madeleine otherwise enjoys being outdoors, listening to podcasts, or indulging in a good cup of tea.

1:45 – 2:40

Workshop - Expert Session: Arts

Expert: Quincy Armorer, Artistic Director, Black Theatre Workshop

Quincy Armorer has worked professionally as an actor, director, instructor and administrator for several years. As an actor, he has worked at the Stratford Festival, National Arts Centre, Centaur Theatre, Black Theatre Workshop, St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival, Geordie Theatre, Repercussion Theatre, Imago Theatre, Piggery Theatre, Shakespeare by the Sea, among many others. He studied in the Theatre Department at Concordia University and at the Birmingham Conservatory for Classical Theatre at the Stratford Festival. A 6-time nominee at the Montreal English Theatre Awards, Quincy is an Adjunct

Professor at Queen's University, Associate Artist of the English Section at the National Theatre School of Canada and is Artistic Director of Black Theatre Workshop.

Theme: In this session, participants will listen to a short talk given by Black Theatre workshop's Artistic director Quincy Armorer. Mr. Armorer will discuss his own experiences in the field and the challenges the arts community is facing as a result of Covid-19. After Mr. Armorer's talk, the participants will have the opportunity to work in breakout rooms to discuss the barriers that Covid-19 may impose on their education or employment in the Arts, as well as possible actions for overcoming these barriers.

Moderators: **Emily Enhoring**, English-Language Arts Network and **Celine Cooper**, Consortium of English-language CEGEPs, Colleges and Universities of Quebec, Bishop's University

1:45 – 2:40

Workshop – Expert Session: Health

Experts: **Khan Bouba-Dalambaye**, Lester B. Pearson School Board and **Samantha Bizimungu**, Université de Montréal

Khan Bouba-Dalambaye is a leading expert in EDI programs for companies, academic institutions, and other public and private organizations, as well as a licensed counsellor providing individual therapy in-person or remotely with a focus on individuals and couples for personal therapy and a Psychology instructor at the CEGEP level. Currently, he has been contracted by McGill University to help support them in the design & implementation of their Anti-Black Racism Plan. Khan specialized in multicultural counselling, stress management, anxiety & depression, and interpersonal relationships.

He has designed a programmatic approach for staff of community organizations, with ability to create tailored engagements for each groups' specific needs. Experienced in delivering on-site trauma debriefing for corporate clients. Created psycho-educational program for community organization, targeting school-aged children.

He is an expert speaker and presenter for conferences and webinars focusing on issues of diversity and inclusion. Advisor to media on EDI topics.

Samantha Bizimungu is a final-year medical student at Université de Montréal. Prior to her medical training she obtained a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology at the University of New Brunswick, where she gained extensive leadership experience through involvement with her student union and organizations such as Frontier College.

Samantha is currently serving a second mandate as President of the Quebec Black Medical Association Youth Initiative, where she advocates for increased representation of Black students and other under-represented minorities in medicine. She will begin her residency training next year and hopes to specialize in the field of dermatology.

Theme: In this session the participants will listen to a short talk given by Khan Bouba-Dalambaye, and Samantha Bizimungu. Ms. Bizimungu and Mr. Bouba-Dalambaye will discuss his own experiences in the field and the challenges the health community is facing as a result of Covid-19. After their talks, the participants will have the opportunity to work in breakout rooms to discuss the barriers that Covid-19

may impose on their education or employment in health, as well as possible actions for overcoming these barriers.

Moderators: Anne-Marie Cech, Community Health and Social Services Network and **Hugh Maynard**, Provincial Employment Roundtable

1:45 – 2:40

Workshop – Expert Session: Technology

Expert: Jake Hirsch-Allen, LinkedIn, founder of Lighthouse Labs

Jake Hirsch-Allen works with North America's governments, workforce development organizations, colleges and universities, to leverage LinkedIn's Learning Solutions and Economic Graph data to close skills gaps. He is a Director on the Boards of the Canadian Council for Youth Prosperity, Information and Communications Technology Council, and the Canadian Club. He is on the Advisory Boards of the NYC Hot Docs Cinema, Code for Canada, Kids Code Jeunesse and an Executive at the International Council on Badges and Credentials. He is also a member of the McKinsey & Co Consortium for Learning Innovation and NYC Workforce Business Council and a BMW Foundation Global Responsible Leader.

Jake founded Lighthouse Labs, Canada's foremost software development bootcamp and Hacking Health. A former intellectual property and international criminal lawyer, Jake was also Chair of the Technology Committee of the Global Education Platform, taught Global Health at McMaster University and clerked at the Supreme Court of Israel. Jake is passionate about supporting disadvantaged groups such as newcomers and refugees and people with disabilities. Jake speaks regularly on the changing nature or future of work and learning.

Themes: In this session the participants will listen to a short talk given by Jake Hirsch-Allen. Mr. Hirsch-Allen will discuss his own experiences in the field and the challenges the tech community is facing as a result of Covid-19. After Mr. Hirsch-Allen's talk, the participants will have the opportunity to work in breakout rooms to discuss the barriers that Covid-19 may impose on their education or employment in Tech, as well as possible actions for overcoming these barriers.

Moderators: Jean-Pierre Ngezigihe, Black Community Resource Centre and **Anne Holding**, McGill University's Human Motivation Lab

1:45 – 2:40

Workshop - Expert Session: Vocational and Technical Training

Expert: Alessandra Faraci, St. Pius X Career Centre

Alessandra Faraci is a cooking teacher at St Pius X Career Centre. She was born in an Italian family, raised and educated in Montreal. For her, food has always represented family, laughter, tradition, community. Vocational education is important to Alessandra because it enables her to help adults acquire, perfect, practice skills that further their learning and passion.

Theme: In this session the participants will listen to a short talk given by Alessandra Faraci. Ms. Faraci will discuss her own experiences in the field and the challenges the Vocational education community is facing as a result of Covid-19. After Ms. Faraci's talk, the participants will have the opportunity to work in

breakout rooms to discuss the barriers that Covid-19 may impose on their education or employment in Vocational education, as well as possible actions for overcoming these barriers.

Moderators: Adrienne Winrow, Youth 4 Youth Québec and **Christopher Shee**, Literacy Quebec

2:40 – 2:55

BREAK

2:55 – 3:45

Feedback/Final Group Discussion

3:45 – 4:00

Closing Ceremony

Thank you to our funders

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