



11th Think Global Link Local 2025  
 Holiday Inn Vancouver-Centre Broadway  
 March 7, 2025 | Friday | Registration Opens at 8 AM

Connect with us online:

 [United Nations Association in Canada – Vancouver](#)  
 [@unacvancouver](#)

 [UNAC Vancouver](#)  
 [@UNACvancouver](#)

 [www.unacvancouver.org](http://www.unacvancouver.org)

Organized by:



student project supported by





**PART I****8:00 AM**

Networking Breakfast &amp; Registration

**8:55 AM**

General Announcement

**9:00 AM**

Opening Remarks by Sameer Esmail, UNAC-Vancouver President

**9:10 AM**

Introduction of Keynote Speaker by George Somerwill, Past UNAC-Vancouver President

**9:12 AM**

Keynote Address by Leilani Farha, Global Director of The Shift | Q&amp;A

**9:47 AM**

Participant Welcome by:  
Larissa Petrillo (Lead Advisor, Work-Integrated Learning, Kwantlen Polytechnic University) |  
Sarah Fessenden (Coordinator, NGO and Nonprofit Studies, Department of Anthropology, KPU)

**9:50 AM**

TGLL Event Overview and Guidelines by Sameer Esmail, UNAC-Vancouver President

**PART II****9:55 AM**

Networking Session 1 (20 minutes)

**10:15 AM**

Seat Shuffling

**10:20 AM**

Networking Session 2 (20 minutes)

**10:40 AM**

Seat Shuffling | Coffee break (10 minutes)

**10:50 AM**

Networking Session 3 (20 minutes)

**11:10 AM**

Seat Shuffling

**11:15 AM**

Networking Session 4 (20 minutes)

**11:35 AM**

Coffee Raffle Draw | Announcement of Winners by TGLL Committee Chair, Soon-Lan Lee Switzer

**11:50 AM**

Closing Remarks by Sameer Esmail, UNAC-Vancouver President

**12:00 PM**

End of Program | Feedback



**LEILANI FARHA**  
Global Director, The Shift  
Former UN Special  
Rapporteur on the Right to  
Housing



Leilani Farha is the Global Director of The Shift ([make-the-shift.org](http://make-the-shift.org)), an international human rights organization focused on the right to housing. She is a legal practitioner and holds a BA (Hons), LLB, and MSW from the University of Toronto. Ms. Farha served as United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing between 2014 and 2020. She is recognized by governments and grassroots movements alike for her human rights expertise and is a leading voice globally on international human rights law. She is the author of the first UN Guidelines for the implementation of the right to housing. She has spearheaded and co-authored standards on homelessness and the financialization of housing and has produced the first human rights guidelines for investors in residential real estate. She has worked with cities and national governments across the globe to assist them in the implementation of human rights.

Ms. Farha is a regular contributor to news outlets including The Guardian, The New York Times, The Globe and Mail, CBC Canada, DW, and elsewhere. She currently co-hosts a podcast called PUSHBACK Talks and is the protagonist in the documentary film, PUSH, about the financialization of housing. Leilani also serves as a Commissioner at the International Commission of Jurists and is the former Executive Director of the non-profit organization, Canada Without Poverty.

## Notes

A series of horizontal dotted lines for taking notes.















and animal welfare. At Lean In, her current focus is empowering women to create a more inclusive and equitable society. Passionate and driven, Sana is committed to using her skills to make a positive impact in the community.

**OCEAN WISE**



Our Ocean. Our Future. Ocean Wise believes that together, we can protect our ocean. With an action plan for the next decade, Ocean Wise is committed to initiatives addressing three critical challenges that face our oceans through

direct action: climate change, ocean pollution, and overfishing. The Ocean Wise Youth Initiative includes programs designed to educate youth, break down barriers between social, geographic, and socio-economic backgrounds to advance ocean conservation efforts.



**Patrick Lamontagne**  
Director, Youth

Patrick Lamontagne is the Director of Youth at Ocean Wise in Vancouver, BC. With over 9 years of experience in education and youth engagement, he has designed and led programs that empower young people to champion ocean conservation and community involvement. Patrick's career includes roles at Ocean Wise, JA British Columbia, and Fusion Jeunesse, where he has developed expertise in areas such as curriculum development, leadership training, and experiential learning. He earned his Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto. At Ocean Wise, Patrick oversees initiatives that connect youth with marine conservation efforts, fostering skills and networks essential for environmental stewardship.

**BC ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE**



The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) is more than just Canada's national police service. We have been part of the fabric of Canada since 1873 – almost 150 years. We are one of only a few police services recognized around the world

Notes

Notes section with horizontal dotted lines for writing.

















