



Think Global Link Local



2026



Event Program Guide




12th Think Global Link Local
Holiday Inn Vancouver-Centre Broadway
March 6, 2026 | Friday | Registration Opens at 8 AM

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PART I**8:00 AM**

Networking Breakfast & Registration

8:55 AM

General Announcement

9:00 AM

Indigenous Welcome - Elder Lorelei Hawkins

9:10 AMOpening Remarks by UNAC-Vancouver Co-
Presidents, Lauren Farmer and Koyali Burman**9:15 AM**Introduction of Keynote Speaker by George
Somerwill, Past UNAC-Vancouver President**9:17 AM**

Keynote Address by Hon. Jessie Sunner | Q&A

9:47 AMParticipant Welcome by:
Larissa Petrillo (Special Advisor, Strategic
Initiatives for the Office of the Provost for
Work-Integrated Learning)**PART II****9:50 AM**TGLL Event Overview and Guidelines by
Soon-Lan(Sue)Lee Switzer, UNAC-Vancouver
Director-at-Large/Former TGLL Chairperson**9:55-10:20 AM**

Networking Session 1 (25 minutes)

10:25-10:50 AM

Networking Session 2 (25 minutes)

10:50 AM

Break (15 minutes)

11:05-11:30 AM

Networking Session 3 (25 minutes)

11:30 AMCoffee Raffle Draw | Announcement of
Winners by TGLL Committee Chair, Salma
Husain**11:50 AM**

Post-Event Feedback Survey

11:55 AMClosing Remarks by UNAC-Vancouver Co-
Presidents**12:00 PM**

End of Program





JESSIE SUNNER

Minister of Post-Secondary and
Future Skills of British Columbia

Jessie Sunner was first elected as the MLA for Surrey-Newton in 2024.

Jessie was appointed Minister of Post Secondary Education and Future Skills in July 2025. She previously served as Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives.

Prior to being elected to the legislature, Jessie was a human rights lawyer and trade unionist for the Hospital Employees' Union. She has been a strong advocate in the Surrey community for years, serving as Vice President of the Surrey Women's Centre and Vice Chair of the Surrey Police Board. Jessie has also served on the boards of the South Asian Bar Association, BC College of Social Workers, and the United Nations Association in Canada.

Jessie holds a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology from Simon Fraser University and a Law Degree from the University of Calgary.

She was raised in Surrey and continues to live there with her husband and their dog, Simba.

Notes

HOW TO NETWORK SUCCESSFULLY

Networking events can be intimidating but keep in mind that most of the people attending TGLL are also students looking to learn and meet people. The representatives are open to answering your questions, so come prepared. Don't be afraid to talk to other students as well. Networking means you never know who could be your next boss, business partner, employee, or colleague!

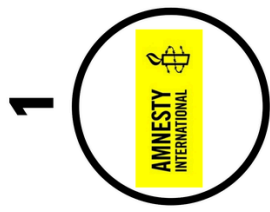
TIPS:

- a. Set clear goals for the event, outlining what you hope to achieve or learn.
- b. Engage in conversations with diverse attendees to broaden your network.
- c. Follow up promptly after the event, expressing appreciation and reinforcing connections through personalized messages or LinkedIn connections.

Notes



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CLOSET



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REFRESHMENTS

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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



Amnesty International is a global movement of over 10 million people in more than 170 countries working together to protect and promote human rights.

Amnesty International has a vision of a world where everyone enjoys all the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments. Our mission is to conduct research and generate action to prevent and end grave human rights abuses and demand justice for those whose rights have been violated.



Katrina Chau
Grassroots Activist Leader

Katrina is a lawyer, human rights advocate, and grassroots activist leader. Prior to joining Amnesty, she specialized in the rights of refugees and migrants challenging negative decisions in the Federal Court of Canada. She assisted victims of human trafficking as well as low-income migrant workers at risk of labour exploitation. Katrina currently promotes activism in the community pertaining to the rights of refugees.

ASIA PACIFIC FOUNDATION OF CANADA



The Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada is a national not-for-profit organization and think tank focused on promoting Canada’s knowledge of and ties with the countries and peoples of the Asia Pacific. It achieves this by conducting policy research and analysis and bringing together experts from Canada and Asia to discuss economics, politics, security, technology, the environment, and other key issues.



Erin Williams
Director of Programs

Erin Williams is the Director of Programs at the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada; a not-for-profit think tank focused on Canada’s trans-Pacific ties. Her work includes Asia competence programming and editorial support for the foundation’s research work. Prior to joining APF Canada, Erin worked for the Canadian Member Committee of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP). She serves on the Advisory Board of the Canada China Forum and the Advisory Committee for KPU’s Asian Studies Program.

Notes

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CANADIAN RED CROSS



The mission of the Canadian Red Cross is to help people and communities in Canada and around the world in times of need and support them in strengthening their resilience. The Canadian Red Cross Society is part of the

largest humanitarian network in the world. This network includes the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and 192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.



Adrienne Joy Bolen

Senior Emergency Management Coordinator – BC’s Sea to Sky Region

Adrienne Bolen sits on CRC’s BC Emergency Management team as a Senior Emergency Management Coordinator for the Sea to Sky region. In this role, she trains and manages a

specialized team of volunteers that are on stand-by to respond to emergencies – anything from a single-family residential fire to a community-wide flood.

She got her start in her career through an internship with the United Nations World Food Programme that was funded by the United Nations Association of Canada! Adrienne went on to work for UNWFP for several years in Ethiopia and Zimbabwe, where she led large scale digital registration and cash delivery programs, supported crisis reporting in high-conflict regions, and advanced inclusive, community-centered programming. These experiences have made her skilled in project coordination, stakeholder engagement, and training design. Adrienne holds a degree in International Development from the University of Ottawa and has also supported grassroots development work in Guatemala and Peru.

GLOBAL SHAPERS COMMUNITY - VANCOUVER



Created by the World Economic Forum, the Global Shapers are a global community of over 10,000 young leaders aged between 18-30, working to create positive change in their local and global communities. Operating for over 8

years, the Vancouver Hub of the Global Shapers community works on tackling some of the most pressing issues facing our city and our world, while fostering a dynamic community of impact leaders in our city.

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Matin Moradkhan

Curator

Matin Moradkhan is the Curator of Global Shapers Vancouver, committed to driving positive change through youth-led initiatives locally and globally. A passionate advocate for mental health equity, she founded the Talk Mental Health Foundation to advance mental fitness education for students. She holds a Master of Global Health from McMaster University and also serves as a UNICEF Canada youth mentor and official advocate.

Notes

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HABITAT FOR HUMANITY - GREATER VANCOUVER



Habitat for Humanity Greater Vancouver is committed to creating sustainable and inclusive communities by providing affordable, safe housing for families, empowering youth through skills training, and promoting environmental

stewardship through responsible deconstruction practices. With the help of volunteers, corporate partnerships and generous donors, Habitat for Humanity gives Partner Families a hand-up into affordable homeownership.



Lynne Stanger

Director of Family and Community Engagement

Lynne Stanger is Director of Family & Community Engagement at Habitat for Humanity Greater Vancouver, leading youth skills programs, community partnerships, and housing initiatives. She has extensive

experience in non-profits locally and internationally, and believes in the transformative power of global knowledge and an international mindset.

IMMIGRANT SERVICES SOCIETY OF BC



Since 1968, ISSofBC has worked to provide a welcoming and empowering environment for all newcomers to British Columbia. Our services support settlement and English language needs, as well as employment and career ambitions. We are driven by core values and principles that put

inclusivity, compassion and innovation at the centre of our work. We serve over 25,000 newcomers to BC each year.





Rebecca Irani
Director, Communications and Marketing

Rebecca is a senior marketing and communications leader with over 25 years of global experience across mission-driven and complex organizations. She currently leads communications and marketing at ISSofBC,

overseeing brand, digital strategy, government relations, and partnership engagement. ISSofBC is known internationally for its research and innovation on immigrant and refugee issues. Much of her career has focused on education, youth, and community impact – including work with UNICEF, UNESCO, the UK’s number one government relations agency, and universities – and she is particularly strong at aligning marketing strategy with purpose, partnerships, and measurable outcomes.

LEAN IN CANADA

LEAN IN NETWORK | Vancouver

Lean In Canada is a community of professional women empowering each other to build purposeful and fulfilling careers. We envision a world where people of every gender can pursue their dreams without bias or other barriers. A

world where girls grow up to be confident, resilient leaders, and where more women run companies and countries. At our core, we are driven by the belief that our society and economy would be better if women and girls were valued more.



Una Mladenovic
Vice-President, Marketing

Una is a dedicated leader in marketing operations and a passionate advocate for education and the arts. With over a decade in nonprofits and management, Una has volunteered with organizations like the Red

Cross, United Way, and Americans for the Arts, focusing on education, gender equality, and community engagement. Una brings expertise in marketing strategy, operations, and project management to create meaningful impact.

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.

Notes

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Brittany Mclean
Manager, Youth

Brittany has been part of Ocean Wise for four years and holds a degree in Political Science as well as a master’s in Social Justice and Equity Studies, with a focus on youth empowerment and development. Based in Vancouver and originally from Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Brittany is passionate about environmental policy and how youth can influence policymakers to help protect and restore our oceans.



Abby Young
Youth Coordinator

Abby Young is the Youth Coordinator at Ocean Wise, bringing a strong background in wildlife biology and applied research on Pacific salmon populations. With over five years of direct field experience, including habitat monitoring, stock assessments, ecological restoration, and leading citizen science initiatives, she has developed a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing coastal ecosystems.

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QMUNITY



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.



Didi Dufresne
Director of Legal Services

Didi (they/he/she) has worked for QMUNITY as the Director of Legal Services since September 2024. They are a lawyer and practice primarily in housing and human rights law.



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 – over 150 years. We are one of only a few police services recognized around the world for

both our policing excellence and our image as the ‘Mountie.’ Over the years, we have continued to grow and evolve with Canadians. Today, we are a modern, diverse, and inclusive RCMP that serves with honour and pride to help keep communities safe.



Supt. Julie Drotar

Superintendent Julie Drotar is a seasoned police leader with over 32 years of service with the RCMP. She currently serves as the Senior Operations Officer at Richmond Detachment, where she oversees three major business lines.

Throughout her career, she has held senior management roles across federal, provincial, and contract policing, leading high-risk units and complex investigations in drug enforcement, financial crimes, and proceeds of crime at both domestic and international levels. She is widely recognized for her sound judgment, operational excellence, and integrity in managing sensitive, high-profile investigations.

In addition to her operational leadership, Supt. Drotar is a dedicated educator and mentor. She has instructed and co-developed specialized training in advanced proceeds of crime, drug investigations, search warrants, and Part VI investigations, and has collaborated with the Department of Justice to support national professional development initiatives. A forward-thinking leader, she is known for driving organizational improvements, strengthening community partnerships, and mentoring the next generation of police leaders.

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION IN CANADA- VANCOUVER



UNAC-V aims to inform, inspire, and engage with people in Metro Vancouver through local partnerships, to accomplish the vital work of the UN. Some of the many issues UNAC-V addresses, include poverty, gender inequalities, human rights, cross-cultural understanding,

environmental degradation and threats to peace and security. This is all brought together under the umbrella of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our affairs are guided by our volunteer Board of Directors, who are responsible for advising local policy decisions, planning, and implementing activities, and the management of general branch operations.

Notes

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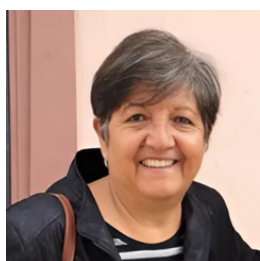




George Somerwill

UNAC-V Past President

George is a Canadian former United Nations staff member who worked for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) in a number of peacekeeping and other UN operational areas from 1996-2011. His work took him to Angola, Iraq (the Oil-for-Food Program), Pakistan (with UNICEF), Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan and Liberia. George has a MA in Post-conflict Reconstruction and Development in York U, UK. George started his career in the BBC Africa service and the CBC (As it Happens). As a journalist and producer, he travelled frequently to some of the world's worst trouble spots, including Ethiopia and Somalia. He also worked for CIDA and CARE Canada in Ottawa and Africa (Kenya and Zimbabwe) in communications and fundraising programming. He is currently an honorary member and past-President of the Vancouver Board of the UN Association in Canada (UNAC) and was on the board of MOSAIC, a Vancouver-based immigrant service organization, from 2015-2021.



Rosio Godomar

UNAC-Vancouver Treasurer

Rosio, born in Peru and now living in Vancouver, is a nutritionist and amateur photographer. She has worked with the UN World Food Program (WFP) for over 20 years, leading humanitarian and emergency programs in Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia. She holds an MSc in Human Nutrition from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and has studied nutrition in Peru and Germany.

In 2013, Rosio founded the "Educate Girls Network" (EGN), an initiative to sponsor girls from underprivileged families in Liberia to pursue higher education and become educators. From 2011 to 2017, she worked as a food service supervisor with Fraser Health. She now volunteers as a mentor with MOSAIC's Workplace Connections Program in Vancouver and with the United Nations Association in Canada (UNAC), Vancouver branch.

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WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM



The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) Canada’s goals are to bring together women of different political beliefs and philosophies who are united in their determination to study, make known and help abolish the causes and the legitimization of

war; and to work toward world peace; total and universal disarmament; the abolition of violence and coercion in the settlement of conflict and their substitution in every case of negotiation and conciliation; the strengthening of the United Nations system; the continuous development and implementation of international law; political and social equality and economic equity; co-operation among all people; and an environmentally sustainable development.



Ellen Woodsworth

Co-President

Ellen Woodsworth coordinated the WILPF “On to Ottawa Peace Caravan” from Vancouver to Ottawa and walked 200 k for peace across Nova Scotia. She was founder and is Matriarch of Women Transforming Cities International Society, www.womentransformingcities.org, a former Vancouver City Councilor and an international speaker on peace, urban issues, women and 2SLGBTQIA issues.

Notes

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Win exclusive coffee chats with these amazing UNAC Vancouver and KPU Members and Complete the feedback survey to get a free raffle ticket!



George Somerwill (UNAC-Vancouver Honorary Director, Past President)

George is a Canadian former UN staff member who worked with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations from 1996–2011, with postings across Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia. He holds an MA in Post-conflict Reconstruction and Development (York University, UK) and previously worked as a journalist with the BBC Africa Service and CBC, as well as with CIDA and CARE Canada. He is an honorary member and past President of UNAC Vancouver and served on the board of MOSAIC from 2015–2021.



Rosio Godomar (UNAC-Vancouver Treasurer)

Rosio, a nutritionist and amateur photographer from Peru, has over 20 years of experience with the UN World Food Programme, leading humanitarian programs across Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia. She holds an MSc in Human Nutrition from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro and founded the Educate Girls Network in 2013 to support girls' education in Liberia. Rosio volunteers with UNAC Vancouver and MOSAIC's Workplace Connections Program and previously worked with Fraser Health (2011–2017).



Lauren Farmer (UNAC-Vancouver Co-President)

Born and raised in Montreal and now based in Vancouver, Lauren (she/her) has dedicated her career to advancing reconciliation and upholding Indigenous rights. With a background in environmental science, she brings six years of experience working with and for Indigenous communities to her role as Program Manager at CBC/Radio-Canada, where she advances the organization's first-ever National Indigenous Strategy. She is fluent in English and French.



Koyali Burman (UNAC-Vancouver Co-President)

Koyali Burman is a senior leader in Canada's immigration and integration sector, specializing in strategy, diplomacy, and monitoring and evaluation. A United Nations Diplomacy Fellow with a Master's in Adult and Higher Education, she has held various advisory and board roles focused on sustainable development, gender, and diversity. Koyali is actively engaged with the UN Association in Canada–Vancouver and advocates for the Sustainable Development Goals.



Dr. Larissa Petrillo

(Special Advisor, Strategic Initiatives for the Office of the Provost for Work-Integrated Learning)

Dr. Larissa Petrillo (B.Sc., M.A., Ph.D.) is a cultural anthropologist and administrator with 25 years of experience teaching at UBC, SFU, and KPU. She has received multiple teaching awards, including KPU's Distinguished Teaching Award (2019) and the Dean of Arts Teaching Excellence Award (2018). Larissa has also led Work-Integrated Learning initiatives at KPU. A published author, she co-authored *Being Lakota: Identity and Tradition on Pine Ridge Reservation* (2007).



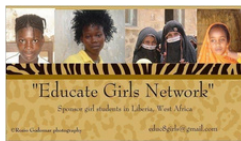
Thank You!

We extend our sincere thanks to all participating organizations and Table Captains for their time and dedication to Think Global Link Local 2026, marking over a decade of connecting BC students with non-profit and civil society leaders.

We gratefully acknowledge Holiday Inn Vancouver-Centre (Broadway) for hosting the event; Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) for coordination, volunteer support, and financial contributions; and the United Nations Association in Canada – Vancouver (UNAC-V) for its leadership in organizing and funding.

We also thank the Simon Fraser University School for International Studies for sponsoring student participation, along with our financial supporters—the Muslim Youth Center and the Educate Girls Network.

Finally, we appreciate the generosity of our individual donors and community supporters, whose contributions were essential to making TGLL 2026 possible.



student project supported by



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Thank you for joining us at Think Global Link
Local 2026!

We'd love to hear about your experience!
Share your feedback with us.

Fill out the Feedback Survey at
<<https://forms.gle/DSH1xF3LYeKEuFR9A>> or
scan the QR Code:



Scan Me!