



Keynotes' bios

Tamara Adrián is a doctor of law and has worked for over 25 years as a professor of law at the most prestigious universities in Venezuela. She is the author of numerous articles on human rights, commercial law, constitutional law and civil law issues.

As a transsexual lesbian woman, she has tirelessly strived for the recognition and protection of the civil and human rights of lesbian, gays, transsexual, transgender and intersex people. As a feminist woman, she is part of the women's movement of Venezuela, and she has been involved in all of the cases concerning the protection of women rights. She has been a lecturer in both LGBTTTI and gender legal issues in Venezuela, Colombia, Switzerland, France, Argentina, Peru, Italy, and many other countries.

Dr. Greta Bauer is an Associate Professor in Epidemiology and Biostatistics in the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry at Western University. Her research interests are in the health of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities, and in viral sexually transmitted diseases. Her research bridges the biological, behavioural and social determinants of health, with a methodological focus on quantitative and mixed methods for studying the health of marginalized communities. She is a principal investigator on the CIHR-funded Trans PULSE Project, a community-based research initiative to study the health of trans communities in Ontario.

Dr. Lin Fraser is President of WPATH. She saw her first transgender client in 1972 and has been in private practice with a gender subspecialty since 1976. Over the years, she has seen hundreds of people all along the transgender spectrum. She is a charter member of WPATH (then HBIGDA) and currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors. She presents regularly at symposia, serves on the IJT editorial board, and is co-editor of the WPATH Update. She participates in education and advocacy through teaching, consulting, working with the judicial system, and appearing in the media to educate others about transgender health. Her main activity, however, remains her private practice and she considers it her daily privilege to see, listen to and learn from transgender, transsexual and gender nonconforming people during the process of psychotherapy

Helen Kennedy Executive Director of Egale Canada (coming soon)

Gail Knudson MD, MPE, FRCPC, is a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of British Columbia Department of Sexual Medicine, Consultant Psychiatrist at the British Columbia Centre for Sexual Medicine at Vancouver Hospital, Medical Director of the Transgender Health Program at Vancouver Coastal Health and Faculty Development Leader for the Island Medical Program, Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia.

She served as co-chair of the DSM 5 Consensus Committee for the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH), writing group member of the new Standards of Care for Transgender Health (version 7) and is the current co-chair of the WPATH ICD 11 Consensus Committee.

Dr. Knudson is serving her second term as the Secretary-Treasurer of WPATH and is a founder and served as the first President of the Canadian Professional Association for Transgender Health (CPATH).

barbara findlay is a lesbian feminist lawyer committed to making the law work for all of us. This means everything from helping someone prepare their will, to fighting ground breaking equality rights cases, to drafting donor insemination agreements for couples planning a child by assisted insemination.

In her non-lawyer capacity, she has done political work and advocacy around issues of oppression, including sexism, racism, homophobia, transphobia and disability. As a member of AWARE (the Alliance of Women against Racism Etc.) and as a member of Across Our Differences, she has done hundreds of unlearning oppression workshops for groups ranging from workplaces to university classes to legal audiences. It is her conviction that unless we work as hard on the ways we are privileged - whether by white skin, by heterosexuality, by able-bodiedness, or by economic advantage – as we do on the ways we are oppressed, equality will never come.

Within the legal profession, she has been a founding member of the provincial and national queer lawyers' groups in the Canadian Bar Association, called SOGIC, (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Conference). She has been a member of the equality committees of the Law Society, the B.C. Branch and the National Canadian Bar Association. She has also been a member of LEAF (the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund) as a board member of West Coast LEAF and as a member of the National Legal Committee.

She was designated as “Queen’s Counsel” in 2001. That is a designation awarded by the Queen, through the Lieutenant Governor in B.C., to the most distinguished members of the legal profession.

Presenters' bios

Noah Adams, BSW and RSW is a trans man who lives in the Commercial Drive neighbourhood of Vancouver, British Columbia. He completed a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at the University of British Columbia, a Bachelor of Social Work at the University of Victoria and is currently mid-way through a Master's of Social Work at Dalhousie University. After completing his MSW, he plans to go on to complete a PHD. Noah has worked in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside for almost seven years, primarily in mental health and addictions. In his spare time, Noah works on his thesis on transgender suicide. Specifically, he is trying to determine why the rate of transgender suicide fluctuates so widely between studies.

Dr Maud Bélanger Dr Bélanger is a plastic surgeon who has joined Dr. Pierre Brassard's GRS Montreal clinic and works with him offering transgender surgeries

Dr Cameron Bowman is a plastic surgeon who performs sex reassignment surgery in Vancouver BC

Nora Butler–Burke is the coordinator of ASTT(e)Q (Action santé travesti(e)s et transsexuel(le)s du Québec), a Montréal based a front line harm reduction project working with low-income trans people in and around Montreal.

Marie Carlson RN, BSN, CRN(C), is a Clinical Instructor for the Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine/Sexual Medicine at UBC. As a sexual Health Clinician Marie works with persons with disability, their families and caregivers in the area of sexuality intimacy and relationships. Marie is a certified Rehabilitation Nurse and one of the co-creators of the 'Guidelines for Supporting Adults Living in Long-Term Care Facilities and Group Homes in British Columbia' 2009. Marie is also a longstanding member and current Co-chair of the Vancouver Coastal Health Disability and Rehab Ethics Committee and has a strong interest in end of life issues, ethics, human rights and diversity.

Georgia Dacakis is a lecturer and clinical educator in the Department of Human Communication Sciences, La Trobe University, Melbourne. She is also a member of the Monash Gender Dysphoria Team. Georgia has a number of publications and conference presentations around her research and clinical interest – voice feminisation.

Shelagh Davies is a registered speech-language pathologist in private practice, specializing in vocal rehabilitation and training. She is also a clinical assistant professor at UBC. For the past 8 years she has conducted speech and voice training programs for transgender women in BC through the Transgender Health Program of BC. In 2006, along with Joshua Goldberg, she wrote ‘Transgender Speech Feminization/Masculinization: Suggested Guidelines for BC Clinicians’.

Lee Delaino, MTS, is a faculty member at George Brown College in the Redirection Through Education and For You Programs teaching communication and life skills. She recently conducted research examining a course on learning and violence and its impacts on students' essential skills.

Aaron Devor has been studying and teaching about transgender-related questions for thirty years. He is the author of the widely-acclaimed books *Gender Blending: Confronting the Limits of Duality* (1989) and *FTM: Female-to-Male Transsexuals in Society* (1997) as well as numerous scholarly articles and he has delivered lectures to audiences around the world, including more than 20 keynote and plenary addresses. He is an elected member of the International Academy of Sex Research, a fellow for the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality and a nationally award-winning teacher. He was one of the authors of versions 6 and 7 of the WPATH Standards of Care.

Dr. Devor is a professor of Sociology and Dean of Graduate Studies at the University of Victoria.

Margaret Drewlo, MA, is a Mental Health Counsellor at Three Bridges Primary Care Clinic in Vancouver, BC. Prior to joining the Three Bridges clinic five years ago, she worked in the counselling field for 16 years - in the British Columbia provincial jail system, coordinating and facilitating addictions and anti-violence psycho educational groups in the private sector, and as a family therapist working with high conflict families. She has a Master's degree in psychology and is currently completing a doctorate in Clinical Psychology at Antioch University Seattle, a school with a strong social justice focus. Her dissertation looks at the factors in optimal psychologist-physician collaboration. Melis Alkin, PsyD, ABPP Melis received her doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology in 2004 and was certified by the American Board of Professional Psychology as a Diplomate in Clinical Psychology in 2007. Between 2004 and the Fall of 2008, she lived and worked in Istanbul, Turkey where under the Helsinki Citizen's Assembly's Refugee Legal Assistance Program she founded and directed a mental health services program for asylum seekers and refugees, had a private practice, and taught at Bosphorous and Dogus Universities. Since her emphasis on trans

mental health care during her pre doctoral internship at the LGBT Center in San Diego, Melis has continued to provide services to LGBTQ clients.

Janine Farrell is a determined, queer, cisgender ally, who is committed to anti-oppressive education, activism, advocacy, and praxis that promotes meaningful change in the lives of individuals and contributes to shifting persistent health inequities drawn along lines of gender, class, sexuality, indigeneity, ability, race, ethnicity, and other constructions of difference in the Canadian context. As a graduate student in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Simon Fraser University, Janine takes up critical health equity approaches to a range of holistic experiences of health and seeks to leverage multiple forms of knowledge such as lived experience, critical social theory, and empirical evidence, to inform the development of accessible, practical, and meaningful solutions to alleviate individual suffering and/or interrupt systems of violence and oppression. Finally, Janine loves to thrift shop, go running and dancing when her body allows her, dig in the garden, sleep in, and drink coffee. All of the above are enjoyed in particular, with friends and loved ones.

Loralee Gillis is the Research and Policy Coordinator for Rainbow Health Ontario. In her role at RHO she works with researchers across the province to build capacity for LGBT health research. She also works with a variety of stakeholders, including community members, service providers, and policy makers to ensure that health policies reflect the diverse needs of LGBT people and communities across the province.

Donna Bear Glover is a co-director of the Two-Spirited People of Manitoba. She is a First Nation Two-Spirit woman, originating from Sandy Bay First Nation in northern Saskatchewan and she has lived in Winnipeg for the past 40 years. Donna received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science at the University of Winnipeg, and is currently involved in community development focusing on Aboriginal cultural competency.

Nikki Gravelle has worked in community social services for the last 18 years and holds a degree in Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies from Simon Fraser University. Nikki has worked in a variety of areas including Mental Health, Sexual Health, Addictions, Outreach, Harm Reduction and LGBTQ2S Education. Nikki identifies as a cisgender woman, a SOFFA and an ally to Trans and Two Spirit people.

Billy Hébert is the Project Manager of a community-based research and intervention initiative on the experiences of aging trans people in health care and social services. He has a Master of Arts in Social and Cultural Anthropology from Concordia University and centers his research interests on social justice and social movements, in particular as related to the realities of populations excluded because of sexuality, gender, and other sites of oppression. Interested in bridging the gap between academia and activism, he sees himself as an “engaged” researcher

Matthew Heinz is a trans-identified professor in School of Communication & Culture and Dean of Faculty of Social and Applied Sciences at Royal Roads University, Victoria, BC.

Ambrose Kirby is a community activist, educator and psychotherapist. He has worked with trans youth and adults at the Sherbourne Health Centre for the past 2 and as well in his private psychotherapy practice. Additionally, he has worked as a project coordinator in the department of Academic Upgrading at George Brown College for the past 2 years. His teaching, facilitation and therapy practice aims to nurture the development of shamelessness and group cohesion through a radical attention to the everyday effects of sociopolitical power structures on interpersonal relationships. Ambrose has a Masters of Education in Counselling Psychology, University of Toronto

Nicole Kirouac is the Pediatric Endocrine Nurse Clinician at the Winnipeg Children’s Hospital. Nicole is a graduate of the Bachelor of Nursing program from the University of Manitoba as well as the Pediatric Endocrine Nursing Society’s Research Fellowship program. Nicole has been working in the Section of Endocrinology for Fourteen Years and has a special interest in working with children with Osteoporosis, Hypopituitarism, Disorders of Sexual Differentiation as well as Transgender.

Damien Leggett: I am a single transgender father of three children. I have been parenting since I was sixteen years old. I am 32 now. I have faced considerable discrimination in the areas of health care, counselling, and university life, and especially in my interactions within the public school system, as a single father. I am a drum carrier, feminist and artist, and have presented at several conferences about the rights of birthing women and trans people.

Dan Metzger: Dr. Metzger is a Pediatric Endocrinologist at BC Children's Hospital, and a Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at the University of British Columbia. He and his colleagues have been following transgender teens and young adults for the past 12 years.

Jake Pyne is a community-based researcher and trans activist who has worked in a variety of research and advocacy roles in Toronto's trans community over the past 10 years. His work has focused on access to services for trans people in the areas of housing and homelessness, health care and family planning and parenting. He is currently a Co-investigator on the Trans PULSE project and on a research team based at the Centre for the Study of Gender, Social Inequities and Mental Health at Simon Fraser University. In addition, he is a research assistant with a Concordia University study exploring the social and activist worlds of gender non-conforming children. Jake is completing a Master of Social Work degree at Ryerson University with a focus on support for gender non-conforming children.

Rupert Raj is a 60-year-old, Eurasian, pansexual, Gender Specialist, consultant, psychotherapist, clinical researcher, book co-editor, professional trainer and veteran trans activist. Has a private practice (www.RRconsulting.ca) and also works at Sherbourne Health Centre in Toronto.

Nik Redman is an artist, activist and community worker who was born in Montreal, Canada. He is member of the GBQ Trans Mens' Working Group, part of Ontario Gay Men's Sexual Health Alliance; the MaBwana Community Advisory Committee, the Prisoners Justice Action Committee(PJAC) and the Trans Fathers 2B Parenting Course Project Team. Nik is also one of the Co-investigators of The Trans PULSE, a community-based research (CBR) project. Nik was one of the online facilitators for the province-wide HIV/AIDS-themed Stigma campaign. Nik currently works as a Grievance Officer with University of Toronto's Local 1998 United Steelworkers Union. In addition, he works doing Anti-Harassment and Human Rights Training for the Union. Nik volunteers with the LGBT Youth Line, Community One and is part of the programming committee and the Board of the Inside Out Film and Video Festival. He also serves on the Board of Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention (Black CAP). As a member of blackness Yes!, He has been instrumental in programming the Blockorama stage at Pride Toronto. Nik is also an award-winning DJ, writer and radio programmer. He can be heard every Thursday 5-7 p.m. on www.radioregent.com in Toronto.

Will Rowe is a PhD student in social work at McMaster University and the Trans Outreach and Advocacy Coordinator for The Well. He is a registered MSW with 17 years of frontline experience working within anti-poverty/anti-violence/queer and trans social justice movements.

Celia Schwartz is a clinical social worker with St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, working out of Inner City Health, Department of Family & Community Medicine. She provides both individual and group psychotherapy for a diverse client population. Ms. Schwartz runs several groups including the African Women's Trauma Recovery and Empowerment Group and Seeking Safety, a group for individuals surviving trauma and addiction. She also works with a diverse client population offering clinical services for a range of issues such as counselling for individuals suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Anxiety and Depression. Ms. Schwartz provides counselling for individuals going through Transition or having Transitioned and also offers clinical assessments for trans men and women around readiness for hormone therapy.

Fiona Smith: Assistant Professor of Psychiatric Nursing at Brandon University in Winnipeg, Canada. Her clinical background is in child and adolescent mental health. Her early research explored the experience of mothers seeking help with children suffering depression. Three youth in her family and community identify as transgender. She is completing her PhD in Applied Health Sciences at the University of Manitoba, focusing on families of transgender/variant children.

Françoise Susset, M.A. is a clinical psychologist and marriage and family therapist. Her principal areas of interest are working with trauma survivors and sexual minority issues. For several years, she participated in the general mental health training and clinical supervision of residents in Family Medicine from the Université de Montréal Medical School. While living in Minnesota, she was a member of the original clinical team of Pride Institute, the first chemical dependency treatment center in the world serving the LGBT community. She is co-founder of The Institute for Sexual Minority Health, <http://www.ismh-isms.com/>, which offers trainings at every level of the Health and Social Services sector as well as Education. Although her clinical work is mainly with trans adults and teens, she also focuses more specifically on the question of gender variant behaviour in prepubescent children and helping families and schools challenge notions regarding sexuality, sexual orientation, and gender. She works closely with several community organizations involved in improving access and quality care for individuals belonging to sexual minority groups in Quebec. Françoise serves on the Board of the Canadian Professional Association for Transgender Health (CPATH)

Marria Townsend is a family physician who has the privilege of providing care to many trans and gender diverse people in her practices at the Catherine White Holman Centre and Three Bridges Community Health Centre. Biographical information on the other presenters will be provided prior to the workshop.

Anna Travers, MSW, initiated Canada's largest primary health care clinic for lesbian, gay bisexual and trans communities at Sherbourne Health Centre. She is now Director of Rainbow Health Ontario a province-wide program designed to increase access to services and to improve the health of LGBT communities in Ontario. Anna is also an active writer, presenter, community-based researcher and activist. In 2009, Anna received a lifetime achievement award from the American Psychological Associations, Division 44.

Dr. Kristopher Wells is a researcher at the Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services in the Faculty of Education, University of Alberta. His research, teaching, and service work centres on creating safe, caring, and inclusive schools and communities for sexual and gender minority students, teachers, and families. Currently, Kristopher serves as the Book Review Editor for the International Journal of LGBT Youth. He is also the co-founder of Camp fyrefly (<http://www.fyrefly.ualberta.ca/>), which is Canada's largest leadership retreat for sexual and gender minority youth. Kris is a frequent consultant to the Alberta Government, Canadian Teachers' Federation, Public Health Agency of Canada, UNESCO, and the World Health Organization.

Gayle Roberts graduated from the University of Victoria where she was awarded the degrees of B.Sc. and M.Sc. In 1969, she began her teaching career in Vancouver as a male high school science teacher. During the 1995-96 school year, Gayle transitioned from male to female and then returned to her "old" school and resumed her positions as science teacher and department head until she retired in June 2002. Since her transition, Gayle has been very active in various "trans" communities. Currently, she is the chair of Vancouver Coastal Health's Advisory Group to the Trans Health Program and a co-chair of the Canadian Professional Association for Transgender Health's (CPATH's) Advocacy Committee.

Carol Allan is a PhD student working at the Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services, Faculty of Education, University of Alberta. She is a retired public school teacher, having taught 31 years for Edmonton Public Schools in various elementary and junior high schools. Carol taught for 12

years as a male before transitioning to become female during the summer of 1988. That summer was one of legal proceedings between lawyers for the district and those representing Carol. The final outcome was that she was able to continue teaching as a female for 19 more years before choosing to retire. Carol was most likely the first openly transgender teacher to publicly transition while teaching within the school district.

Ian Whetter is a family physician in Winnipeg. He works with the Trans Health Clinic, facilitating access to hormone therapy and gender affirming surgeries. He is also a clinical educator in the University of Manitoba's Northern Remote Family Medicine Program and a primary care provider in the Norway House Cree Nation.

Jordan Zaitzow is the current coordinator of the program Trans Health Connection: a joint program of Rainbow Health Ontario and Sherbourne Health Centre. He is a white trans masculine person who has been doing trans-related programming, training, activism and organizing for almost a decade and is passionate about trans health and health access.