

FEATURED SPEAKERS



SELINA ROBINSON was elected as the MLA for Coquitlam-Maillardville in 2013 and re-elected in 2017. She is the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Selina served as the Official Opposition spokesperson for mental health and addictions, seniors, local government and sports. As a former city councillor, Selina advocated for the rights of taxpayers, fought to protect the health of children and families by introducing a local ban on cosmetic pesticides, and worked to improve access for people with disabilities as chair of the Coquitlam Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee.



SHANE SIMPSON was first elected MLA for Vancouver Hastings in May 2005. He is the Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. Shane has worked as the Director of Policy and Communications for Smart Growth BC, chair of the Vancouver City Planning Commission, an instructor in the Community Economic Development program at Simon Fraser University, Executive Director of the Worker Ownership Resource Center, Legislative Coordinator for the Canadian Union of Public Employees, coordinator and fundraiser for the Ray Cam Cooperative Center, Executive Assistant to former Vancouver East MP Margaret Mitchell, and as a self-employed consultant on business and economic development for labour, co-operative and non-profit groups.



KATRINA CHEN was elected as the MLA for Burnaby-Lougheed in May 2017. She is the Minister of State for Child Care. She has served as a Trustee on the Burnaby Board of Education, and worked in both provincial and federal government constituency offices for over 10 years. Katrina has a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a political science major and a history minor from Simon Fraser University, and also earned a certificate in Immigration Laws, Policies and Procedures from the University of British Columbia. She has also worked as a community organizer with ACORN, emceed for major cultural festivals, and volunteered as an executive member for several local non-profit organizations for many years.



ANNIE KIDDER is the Executive Director and a founder of People for Education. She regularly provides advice to policy-makers and government, and her writing on education has been published in a range of media. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Ontario Principals' Council 2004 *Outstanding Contribution to Education Award*, the Canadian Teachers' Federation 2005 *Public Education Advocacy Award*, and in 2018, an honorary doctorate from York University. She has spoken at conferences in Canada, the United States, Europe, Africa and South America. [@PeopleforEd](#)

SPEAKERS



CATHERINE ABREU Catherine is the Executive Director of Climate Action Network - Réseau action climat (CAN-Rac) Canada. CAN-Rac is a coalition of 115 organizations operating from coast to coast to coast. For 30 years, it has been Canada's only national network dedicated to climate change and energy issues. Catherine is one of Canada's foremost climate campaigners, with over 15 years of experience campaigning on environmental issues including 7 years in the heart of the Canadian climate movement. [@cat_abreu](#)



STEPHANIE LYNN joined Stratcom in June 2016 on her return to Canada from Asia, bringing her commitment to excellence in innovation to Stratcom's clients in British Columbia and Alberta. She comes with three decades of experience working with heads of state, legislatures, political parties and community activists in over twenty countries. Stephanie is renowned for her achievements in leveraging research on public and political leaders' opinions and policy advocacy to advance representative, responsive governance. She brings her expertise to bear in message development and communications training, particularly in support of women leaders.



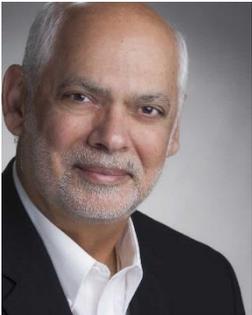
DAVE RAMSLIE is the Vice President of Sustainability for Concert Properties, responsible for the ongoing development and implementation of Concert's Sustainability Framework. Prior to joining Concert, Dave worked extensively on climate and sustainability issues in both the private and public sectors for clients all over the world. Dave is member of Canada's Clean 50, and his work has been recognized by the World Green Building Council, the Canadian Institute of Planners, and the Canadian Green Building Council. In 2014 Dave was specifically recognized by the Natural Resources Defense Council as one of nine global champions fighting climate change in cities.



GAETAN ROYER is the CEO of CityState Consulting. His love of everything urban brought him to hundreds of cities in 30 countries. An urban planner originally from Québec City, he received a Governor General's Medal for his humanitarian work in Sarajevo. During his time as City Manager in Port Moody, the city received numerous awards including the International Livable Communities Award. The author of "Time for Cities," a book about getting a better deal for cities, he is also an Associate with the Columbia Institute who contributed to several reports.



HALENA SEIFERLING is the Campaign Organizer for the Living Wage for Families Campaign, hosted in Vancouver on unceded Coast Salish territory. Halena is originally from Regina (Treaty 4) and moved west in 2014 to obtain a Masters in Public Policy from SFU. Her thesis focused on measures to encourage more women to run for office at the local level. Halena has also worked on issues including electoral reform, gender equity, and climate justice and adaptation within a municipal context. [@lwforfamilies](#)



PAUL SHAKER is a career educator who has served as teacher, teacher educator, and dean in five of the United States, in the Mideast, and in Canada at Simon Fraser University where he is professor emeritus and former dean. Shaker created Friends of Simon, an outreach to immigrant children that provides university students as tutors. He also hosts Your Education Matters a community engagement project supporting British Columbia education. Shaker is the co-author of Reclaiming Education for Democracy and numerous articles. For more, see [paulshaker.com](#) and [youreducationmatters.ca](#). [@profpaulshaker](#)



MATT SMITH, President of Stratcom since May 2017, oversees the company's day-to-day operations in fundraising, research and engagement to serve Canada's progressive governments, charities, unions and political parties. Matt was Senior Director of Research & Engagement for six years and continues to play a lead role in all government-facing and election-related work. With fifteen years of research and campaign experience, Matt's expertise includes strategic planning, designing multi-modal research projects, audience analysis and targeting and campaign planning and execution. Matt has a M.A. from the University of Toronto where he specialized in Electoral Geography with a thesis on minority electability under Vancouver's at-large system; he later authored a similar study in Toronto.



Dr. CHRISTY SUTHERLAND is a family doctor and diplomat of the American Board of Addiction Medicine who works in Vancouver's Downtown East Side providing care to Canada's most vulnerable population.

Dr. Sutherland is the Medical Director of the Portland Hotel Society and the Education Lead at the BC Centre on Substance Use. Dr. Sutherland was honoured as one of the 2018 Canadian Family Physicians of the Year by the Canadian College of Family Physicians. [@PHS_PrimaryCare](#)