

THE DEMOCRACY AND DISSENT PROJECT

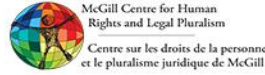
Enabling Civil Society Conference

OCTOBER 20, 2017 | MONTREAL, QC | #ENABLINGCIVILSOCIETY

Conference Programme

Faculty of Law, McGill University
3644 rue Peel, Montreal
Room 312 NCDH

- 8:15-8:30** **Registration:** Coffee, tea and light snacks available
- 8:30- 8:40** **Welcome**
Véronique Bélanger, Assistant Dean (Strategic Planning), Faculty of Law, McGill University
- 8:45-9:00** **Opening Remarks**
Pearl Eliadis and Julia Sanchez, Conference Co-Chairs
- 9:00-10:30** **Why Enable Civil Society?**
- *Lessons from the women’s movement CSOs in Canada (Mary Eberts, Eberts Law, Toronto)*
 - *Are Indigenous Peoples ‘Civil Society’? Reflections on building decolonial solidarity (Hayden King, Director of the Centre for Indigenous Governance, Ryerson University, Toronto)*
 - *Civil Society and Civic Freedoms in the United States today (Nicholas Robinson, International Center for Not-for-Profit Law, Washington DC)*
 - *Theorizing an “enabling environment” for CSOs dedicated to the rights of persons with disabilities (Ravi Malhotra, Full Professor, Faculty of Law, Law Section, University of Ottawa)*
- Moderator: Julia Sanchez, Conference Co-Chair (President and CEO, CCIC)*
- 10:30-10:45** **Health Break**
- 10:45-12:30** **Does Canada “Enable” Civil Society?**
- *Three ‘Disabling’ Features of Canada’s Regulatory Regime for Charities (Kathryn Chan, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Victoria)*
 - *Are We Turning a Corner in Canada? (Lisa Lalande, Executive Lead, Mowat NFP, Toronto Canada)*



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- *A Perspective from Organized Labour (Mathieu Vick, Senior Researcher, CUPE)*
- *Re-framing the Canadian conversation: Modernizing Our Approach to the Not-For-Profit Sector from a Comparative Perspective (Sidney Ribaux, Co-founder and Executive Director, Equiterre)*
- *Defending the Collective Right of Association to Exercise Democracy: the Case of the Campaign "My NGO is not a lobby" (Mercédez Roberge, Coordinatrice, Table de regroupements provinciaux des organismes communautaires et bénévoles)*

Moderator: Alex Neve, Secretary General, Amnesty International Canada

12:30-2:00 Hosted Table Luncheon

The conference is committed to a dynamic and interactive environment that fosters opportunities for students. Tables will be hosted by conference participants to encourage informal conversations that cultivate ongoing involvement in the civil society among interested students, helping to build a pipeline of future leaders. We acknowledge the generous support the Office of the Dean, Faculty of Law in sponsoring the luncheon.

2:00-3:30 National Security and Civil Society

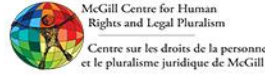
- *Greg Kealey, Professor Emeritus of History, University of New Brunswick*
- *Yavar Hameed, Hameed Law, Ottawa Canada*
- *Brenda McPhail, Director, Privacy, Technology & Surveillance Project. Canadian Civil Liberties Association*
- *Dominique Peschard, Board Member and Former Président of Ligue des droits et libertés*

Moderator: Tim McSorley, National Coordinator, International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group

3:30-3:45 Health Break

3:45-5:30 Safe Spaces or "Self-Spaces"? Pluralism, Free Expression and Academic Freedom. A Roundtable Discussion

- *Jeansil Bruyere, Executive Director, AIDS Community Care (Montreal)*



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- *Shaheen Shariff, Associate Professor, Department of Integrated Studies, Faculty of Education, McGill University*
- *Celine Cooper, Writer, Columnist at The Montreal Gazette*
- *Nazampal Jaswal, law student, Women of Colour Collective, McGill Faculty of Law*
- *James Turk, Director, Centre for Free Expression & Distinguished Visiting Professor Faculty of Communications and Design, Ryerson University*
- *Sydney Warshaw, student, activist*

Moderator: Nandini Ramanujam, Associate Professor (Professional), Executive Director, Director of Programs, Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism

5:30-5:45

Closing Remarks

Frederick John Packer, Director, Human Rights Research and Education Centre, University of Ottawa

PUBLIC LECTURE

Moot Court Maxwell-Cohen (NCDH 100)

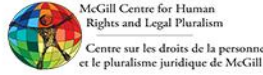
Faculty of Law, McGill University

6:00-7:30 PM

Civil Society at Risk? International Perspectives

In conversation with

- *François Crépeau, Full Professor, Faculty of Law, McGill University and former UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of migrants*
- *Françoise Girard, President, International Women's Health Coalition*
- *Alex Neve, Secretary General, Amnesty International Canada*



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Conference steering committee

Pearl Eliadis, Co-Chair. Human rights lawyer at Eliadis Law Office

Julia Sánchez, Co-Chair. President and CEO, Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC)

Lisa Lalande, Executive Lead, Mowat NFP

Madeleine Macdonald, McGill Law Student

Tim McSorley, National Coordinator, International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group

Rushdia Mehreen, Voices-Voix Coordinator

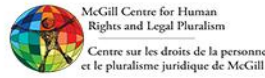
Frederick John Packer, Associate Professor of Law and Director of the Human Rights Research and Education Centre (HRREC) at the University of Ottawa

Meghan Pearson, McGill Law Student

Nandini Ramanujam, Associate Professor (Professional) and Executive Director and Director of Programs, McGill Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism

The conference is co-convened by the [Canadian Council for International Cooperation \(CCIC\)](#), [Voices-Voix](#), and the [McGill Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism](#) at the Faculty of Law, McGill University. The coordinators of the conference are Rushdia Mehreen, Voices-Voix Coordinator and Sharon Webb, Administrative Coordinator, CHRLP.

Our heartfelt thanks to the coordinators and all the interns, research assistants and volunteers who helped make this conference happen: Meghan Pearson, Laura Cullell, Madeleine Macdonald, Alexander Agnello, Parisa Akbarimalkeshi, Rokeya Chowdhury, Yvana Lucía Novoa Curich, Emilie de Haas, Camille Provencher and Rapti Ratnayake.



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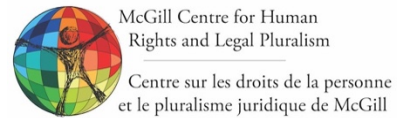
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WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS:

CHAMPIONS



Public Service Alliance of Canada
Alliance de la Fonction publique du Canada



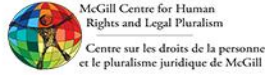
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[Katharine A. Pearson Chair in Civil Society and Public Policy](#)



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