

RIGHTS, NOT WRONGS:

The role of unions in creating a better world



This Human Rights Conference will be jointly hosted by the B.C. Federation on Labour (BCFED) and the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) on April 3-5, 2008. Please contact Dayna Sykes, Director of Human Rights at the BCFED office at 604 430-1421 or dsykes@bcfed.ca if you require more information.

Location: Fairmont Hotel Vancouver
900 West Georgia
Vancouver, BC
604 684-3131

Conference Fee: \$125.00.

Cheques to be made payable to the B.C. Federation of Labour.

There is a small block of rooms reserved for Friday, April 4, 2008 at the Hotel Vancouver for conference participants. Please contact the hotel directly to make reservations and ask for the **BCTF/BCFED Human Rights Conference** rate of \$189.00 plus taxes. Please advise the hotel that you are paying for the room directly. Release date for hotel rooms is March 14, 2008.

Note: April 3 and 4 Sessions will be of special interest to the BCTF, but other union delegates are welcome. Please fill out both of the registration forms that are enclosed if you wish to attend both.

TENTATIVE CONFERENCE AGENDA BC TEACHERS' FEDERATION

Thursday, April 3, 2008

6:00 pm	BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) Registration
7:00 - 8:30 pm	Keynote Speakers - Jinny Sims & Dr. Paul Shaker
8:30 - 9:30 pm	Social

Friday, April 4, 2008

8:30 am	BCTF Registration
9:00 - 10:30 am	BCTF Workshop Session A
10:30 - 10:45 am	Coffee Break
10:45 - 12:15 pm	BCTF Workshop Session B
12:15 - 1:15 pm	Lunch
1:15 - 5:00 pm	Roundtable

TENTATIVE CONFERENCE AGENDA B.C. FEDERATION OF LABOUR

Friday, April 4, 2008

6:00 pm	B.C. Federation of Labour (BCFED) Registration
7:00 - 7:30 pm	Welcome and Introductions - Jim Sinclair, President, BCFED and Irene Lanzinger, President, BCTF
7:30 pm	Keynote Speaker - Stephen Lewis, Former UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS

Saturday, April 5, 2008

8:30 am	Registration
9:00 - 9:15 am	Welcome and Introductions
9:15 - 10:30 am	Opening Plenary The opening plenary will look at emerging issues in Human Rights. The panel will include speakers on International Human Rights, First Nation Rights and Economic Security
10:30 - 10:45 am	Coffee Break
10:45 - 12:15 pm	Workshop Session A
12:15 - 1:15 pm	Lunch (participants will be on their own for lunch)
1:15 - 2:45 pm	Workshop Session B
2:45 - 3:45 pm	Coffee Break and Networking Groups
3:45 - 4:30 pm	Summary and Wrap-up For more detailed information on the Conference, please go to www.bcfed.ca .

B.C. FEDERATION OF LABOUR WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS - SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2008

Workshop Session A: 10:45 am to 12:15 pm

Workshop Session B: 1:15 pm to 2:45 pm

Workshops will challenge participants to think about the field of human rights and how they can organize in their unions and their workplaces.

Participants will have the opportunity to participate in two of the following workshops offered on April 5th.

1. Disability Issues

Facilitators: Ken Curry and Catherine Sullivan - BC Government & Service Employees' Union (BCGEU)

Much attention has been paid to the issues arising from accommodation of employees with disabilities, but employers and unions must be equally vigilant about obligations to employees based on other protected grounds. Participants will explore recent developments with regard to the significance for workplace practices.

2. Ethical Purchasing to Improve Rights - (Offered in the afternoon only)

Facilitator: Am Johal

With British Columbia on the world stage in 2010, ethical purchasing can be a platform to advance human rights. This workshop will look at how purchasing can be used as a means to advance human rights and how unions can create ethical purchasing criteria to guide their practices.

3. Issues in Aboriginal Education - (Offered in the morning only)

Facilitator: Tyrone McNeil - First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC)

The history of aboriginal people in BC has been a history of violation of human rights. Only recently have governments recognized the incredible harm that has been done to First Nations, Métis and the Inuit people, and their cultures. First Nations' jurisdiction over education is one step on the road to social justice.

4. Live-in Caregivers and Human Rights - (Offered in the morning only)

Facilitator: Filipino Women's Centre

Canada's foreign domestic movement and the Live-in Caregiver Program (LCP) subject women to modern-day slavery such as; all forms of abuse, 24-hour work, and little or no access to health care and other social services. Learn how to support (mainly) Filipino women through education, advocacy work, and organizing with the broader community.

5. Migrant Workers

Facilitator: Adriana Paz - Justica for Migrant Workers

This workshop will provide a framework from the human rights perspective, that facilitates discussion and reflection about new organizing approaches to build solidarity based on improved understandings of the race and (immigration) status-based challenges that (im)migrant workers face in their work places.

6. Organizing for International Human Rights

Facilitator: Dawn Paley

This workshop will focus on international labour and human rights with particular attention to the situation in Central America. Participants will address ways in which we can support our labour brothers and sisters in Latin America.

7. Poverty in BC

Facilitator: Jean Swanson – Raise the Rates & the Carnegie Community Action Project

BC continues to act in violation of its obligations under international law to respect, protect and fulfill the fundamental rights of vulnerable British Columbians to food, clothing and shelter. Participants will discuss why homelessness has doubled since 2002 and BC has more people living below the poverty line than any other province in Canada.

8. Privatization and Human Rights - (Offered in the afternoon only)

Facilitator: Murray Dobbin – BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF)

Privatization and P3s represent the blatant hand over of public property and services to corporations with no commitment to the public good. Participants will explore the broader impact of this trend on human rights and democracy.

9. Racial Profiling - (Offered in the morning only)

Facilitator: Harsha Walia - No One is Illegal

Racial profiling has had a significant impact on human rights by targeting individuals based on race, colour, ethnicity, ancestry, religion, or place of origin. This workshop will look at how the changing political environment has targetted groups and the effect it has on human rights.

10. Social Justice Unionism: Turning the Concept into Practice - (Offered in the afternoon only)

Facilitators: Larry Kuehn and Jane Turner - BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF)

Unions exist in the context of a world that promotes inequity, so have we fallen prey to the same pressures that exist in other institutions? Participants will explore some of the inherent roadblocks to social justice and discuss the potential use of a social justice lens to review the structures of our daily work in order to ensure our union's model socially just practices.

11. Stigma and HIV/AIDS

Facilitator: Glyn Townson - BC Persons with AIDS Society

The question of how stigma arising from and discrimination based on individuals' HIV-positive status results in everything from needless fear-based avoidance by co-workers to inappropriate and/or demeaning work assignments to unlawful dismissal will be explored in this workshop.

12. The Changing Face of Canada: Human Rights on the International Stage

Facilitator: Mike Byers - University of British Columbia

The federal government is shifting Canada's practices in international affairs. The effect is changing how we see ourselves as a nation on the international stage and how others are viewing us. These changes have implications for human rights and our role in promoting or subverting them on the international stage.

13. Women's Economic Inequality

Facilitator: Gillian Creese - University of British Columbia

Low minimum wages, lack of pay equity and a universal childcare program, low or non-existent pensions, poverty, housing, lack of advocacy, and poor access to education and training are all blocks to higher paid jobs and women's economic equality. Participants will discuss how these issues can be addressed in order to engender women's economic equality.

BC TEACHERS' FEDERATION
WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS - FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2008

Workshop Session A: 9:00 am to 10:30 am

Workshop Session B: 10:45 am to 12:15 pm

Participants attend two of the workshops offered on Friday, April 4, 2008.

1. Anti-Racism Education: Building Community Within the Multicultural Classroom

Facilitators: Michael Aaku and John Peterson

Participants will be introduced to strategies to combat and respond effectively and appropriately to racism. Using simulated scenarios and looking at the cooperative learning process known as "Tribes" participants will discuss ways to reorganize whole school communities that stress constructive thinking, problem solving, and responsible interaction.

2. Building Cultures of Peace

Facilitator: Susan Ruzic

This interactive session introduces a new BCTF peace education workshop. The elementary portion focuses on a process for students to transform war toys to peace art. The secondary component enhances literacy through the use of parliamentary debating case studies in child soldiers and critical discussion strategies on peace and violence.

3. Poverty: Bad Situations, Bad Choices

Facilitator: Stacey Kemp

Looking at some of the systemic reasons for poverty, participants will examine what can be done to help the children and families we work with who are living in poverty situations. Issues such as generational poverty, government responsibility, institutional and individual responses will be explored.

4. Prostitution and Trafficking

Facilitators: Maeve Moran and Karen Kilbride

The issues surrounding two aspects of the sex trade, prostitution and trafficking are both controversial and complicated. Participants will have an opportunity to compare the examples of jurisdictions that have legalized prostitution in Sweden, which has implemented a "zero tolerance" for exploitation of women and children in the sex trade.

5. Social Justice in Every Classroom

Facilitator: Chris King

Learn to expand and enhance your teaching strategies for dealing with social justice issues in your classroom. Practical activities, rooted in the latest research will assist in creating and promoting a safe and caring environment for all.

6. Technology and Media: Help or Hindrance in Achieving Social Justice? (Offered in the morning only)

Facilitator: Larry Kuehn

Technology is not neutral. Some structures reinforce inequality while others promote a more socially just society. Participants will explore how technology and media can be used in support of social justice and become aware of some of the pitfalls media and technology pose for contemporary users.

7. “That’s so Gay.” Is not OK!

Facilitators: Joan Merrifield and Greg Laing

Tired of hearing, “That’s so gay?” Participants will explore scenarios and learn effective strategies to counteract homophobic slurs in schools, workplaces and social settings. A resource list will be provided to further develop participant’s understanding. This is not a beginner’s workshop; participants should have an understanding of related issues.

8. The Social Justice of Environmental Sustainability

Facilitator: Donna Clark

All living beings on the planet are intimately interconnected with all others. An injustice to one is an injustice to all. Those of us already most vulnerable are most at risk when environmental sustainability is in question. Focusing on the tomorrow we want for our global community, participants will explore probable, possible and preferable futures.

9. Women in the Global Education Context (Offered in the afternoon only)

Facilitator: Emily Sutherland

Investigating the challenges that women face world-wide with sexism, systemic poverty and violence, participants will talk about the tensions that exist between our own value structures and the cultural norms of other countries. We will look at how we can extend this conversation into our classrooms and other work places to inform and encourage thoughtful action.



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B.C. FEDERATION OF LABOUR REGISTRATION FORM

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2008

(Please Print)

NAME:

(First) _____ (Last) _____
(As you would have it appear on your name tag)

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **POSTAL CODE:** _____

TELEPHONE: (Work) () _____ **HOME:** () _____

EMAIL: _____ @ _____

UNION NAME: _____ **LOCAL:** _____

RANKING OFFICER NAME (spell out): _____

TITLE: _____

SIGNATURE OF UNION RANKING OFFICER: _____

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2008

Please fax back your Registration Form(s) to 604 430-5917 or mail to:
B.C. Federation of Labour, 200-5118 Joyce Street, Vancouver, BC V5R 4H1

Note: Your registration will not be processed without Ranking Officer approval and full payment.

COURSE SELECTION

CHOICES	WORKSHOP SESSION A - Morning 10:45 am - 12:15 pm	WORKSHOP SESSION B - Afternoon 1:15 - 2:45 pm
1 st choice Indicate by #		
2 nd choice Indicate by #		
3 rd choice Indicate by #		

Privacy Statement: The personal information provided in this registration form will only be used for the purposes of session registration and will not be sold, shared or otherwise provided to any third party other than the BC Teachers' Federation for registration purposes, unless it is for the purpose of academic research that complies with appropriate standards of confidentiality. The B.C. Federation of Labour may use the contact information that you have provided to contact you, or provide you with additional information in the future.

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BC TEACHERS' FEDERATION REGISTRATION FORM THURSDAY & FRIDAY, APRIL 3 & 4, 2008

The BC Teachers' Federation will be holding sessions on April 3rd and 4th. This portion will be of special interest to teachers, but BCFED participants are welcome to participate at no additional cost. Please fill out if you will be attending any of the BCTF Workshops.

(Please Print)

NAME:

(First) _____ (Last) _____
(as you would have it appear on your name tag)

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **POSTAL CODE:** _____

TELEPHONE: (Work) () _____ **HOME:** () _____

EMAIL: _____ @ _____

UNION NAME: _____ **LOCAL:** _____

UNION RANKING OFFICER NAME (spell out): _____

TITLE: _____

SIGNATURE OF UNION RANKING OFFICER: _____

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2008

**Please fax back your Registration Form(s) to 604 430-5917 or mail to:
B.C. Federation of Labour, 200-5118 Joyce Street, Vancouver, BC V5R 4H1**

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COURSE SELECTION

CHOICES	WORKSHOP SESSION A - Morning 9:00 - 10:15 am	WORKSHOP SESSION B - Morning 10:45 - 12:15 pm
1 st choice Indicate by #		
2 nd choice Indicate by #		
3 rd choice Indicate by #		

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