



CENTRE FOR LOCAL PROSPERITY
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Summit on Nuclear & Climate Crisis at Thinkers Lodge

September 19 - October 3, 2021

CONFIRMED THINKERS



Jim Abraham

Virtual-Onsite

Jim Abraham has spent over 40 years studying weather, water and climate. He is currently President of the Canadian Meteorological & Oceanographic Society. He is well known nationally and internationally, and is frequently invited as an expert by a variety of organizations and the media. As President of ClimAction Services Inc., he and colleagues assist municipalities, including African NS & Indigenous communities, to understand and adapt to climate change and extreme weather. Jim is also involved in some Eco-Justice initiatives within the Faith community. Jim started his career with Environment Canada at CFB Greenwood, then was transferred to Whitehorse, and on to Montreal where he learned to work in French. Subsequently, Jim managed a wide variety weather, water, and environmental operational and research programs, including meteorological research and the observing program for all of Canada, including the Arctic His most proud accomplishment was starting the Canadian hurricane forecast and research program, which included lead investigator for several reconnaissance flights into hurricanes threatening Canada. He survived. Jim was awarded the Patterson Medal for Meteorology in 2003, the Queens Jubilee Medal in 2013, and a Fellow of the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society in 2017.



Lily Barraclough

Virtual-Onsite

Lily Barraclough was the founder of iMatter Canada in 2016, a youth-led organization partnered with the Climate Reality Project Canada dedicated to supporting youth across Canada to advocate for climate action in their local communities. She was instrumental in the creation of the Youth Advisory Committee for Halifax Regional Municipality, as well as an advocate for and contributor to HalifACT 2050: HRM's plan to combat and adapt to climate change. Lily now sits in an appointed role on the Women's Advisory Committee for Halifax and as a board member for the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (and member of the queer community) is working with local 2SLGBTQ+ organizations to advocate for a queer advisory council for the city as well. Lily is also a board member with the moonlight institute, a grassroots organization committed to creating tools and policy frameworks for social and environmental justice. Lily is a graduate of the University of King's College with an Honours Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science and is currently enrolled in a Master of Environmental Studies program at Dal studying how youth climate activists experience climate grief (emotional and mental distress as a result of the climate crisis).

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Dr. Kennette Benedict

Virtual

Kennette Benedict is lecturer at the Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago and senior advisor to the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists and. From 2005-2015, she served as executive director and publisher of the Bulletin, the leading scholarly magazine about threats to humanity from nuclear weapons, climate change, and emerging technologies, and known for its Doomsday Clock. She publishes articles and gives media interviews about nuclear weapons and disarmament, democracy and the Bomb, and global governance. From 1991-2005, Benedict was the director of International Peace and Security at the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, overseeing grant making on a broad international security agenda. She also directed a grant-making program in Russia from 1992-2001 and an initiative on science, technology and security from 2000-2005. Previously she taught at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and at Rutgers University, New Brunswick. She received her BA from Oberlin College and her PhD in political science from Stanford University.



Jessica Budlong

Virtual

Jessica Budlong is the Founder and Executive Director of the Nuclear Fusion Project, a 501(c)(3) to increase accessibility to the national security field. She is finishing her Master's at the University of Denver and focuses on the intersection of national security and economic policy. Her past experience includes Global Zero, the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and the Center for Naval Analyses. She received her B.A. from Cornell College in Iowa.



Dr. Nancy Covington

Virtual-Onsite

Dr Nancy Covington, retired family physician, graduate of Queen's University Medical School (1972), resident of Nova Scotia is a member of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War Canada (IPPNWC). Nancy was President of IPPNWC's forerunner, Physicians for Global Survival in 2007 - 2009. Nancy is also a member of Voice of Women (VOW) and is the VOW representative for Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. In 2007, she launched the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) on Parliament Hill and returned to Parliament Hill in 2017 to celebrate Canada's Setsuko Thurlow's co-acceptance of the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to ICAN for developing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Nancy continues to promote awareness to the general public through petition and editorial comment on the dangers of nuclear weapons and nuclear energy.

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Dr. Walter Dorn

Virtual-Onsite

Walter Dorn is Professor of Defence Studies at the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC) and the Canadian Forces College (CFC). He teaches officers of rank major to brigadier-general from Canada and about 20 other countries. He specializes in arms control, peace operations, just war theory, international criminal law, treaty verification and enforcement, and the United Nations. As an "operational professor" he participates in field missions and assists international organizations. For instance, he was a UN Electoral Officer for the 1999 referendum in East Timor and a Visiting Professional with the International Criminal Court (ICC) in 2010. He also served as a consultant with the UN's Department of Peacekeeping Operations, including in 2014 on the Expert Panel on Technology and Innovation in UN Peacekeeping. Dr. Dorn previously served as Chair (2008–2013) of Canadian Pugwash, an organization of physical, life and social scientists seeking to reduce the threats to global security. He currently sits on the organization's Board of Directors. In 2020, during sabbatical leave, Dr. Dorn was with the UN as a "Technology Innovation Expert" exploring technologies for testing, piloting and employing in UN field operations. Dr. Dorn seeks to promote international peace and security through teaching, research and service, including field work. This website offers some of the results of this effort, especially publications.



Dr. Tara Drozdenko

Virtual

Tara Drozdenko is Acting Executive Director at the Outrider Foundation. She has nearly two decades of experience in the National Security field, managing complex government programs and supervising teams of talented researchers at both the U.S. State and Treasury departments. She earned a Ph.D. in plasma physics and has worked for the U.S. Navy on issues related to Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) and for the U.S. State Department on Nonproliferation and Arms Control issues.



Dr. Adam Fenech

Virtual-Onsite

Dr. Adam Fenech has worked extensively in the area of climate change since the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change First Assessment Report in 1988. He has edited 8 books on climate change, most recently on Global Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainability in the Middle East. Dr. Fenech has worked for Harvard University researching the history of the science/policy interfaces of climate change. He has represented Canada at international climate negotiating sessions; written climate policy speeches for Canadian Environment Ministers; and authored Canadian reports on climate change to the United Nations. Dr. Fenech has taught at the University of Toronto as well as the Smithsonian Institution for over 20 years, and lectures regularly at universities across Canada and around the world. Dr. Fenech shared in the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize for his work with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. He is presently the Director of the University of Prince Edward Island's Climate Research Lab that conducts research on the vulnerability, impacts and adaptation to climate change, where his virtual reality depiction of sea level rise has won international awards including one from MIT for communicating coastal science. He maintains the largest fleet of drones at a Canadian university including the largest drone in the country with a four metre wingspan.

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Fyre Jean Graveline

Virtual-Onsite

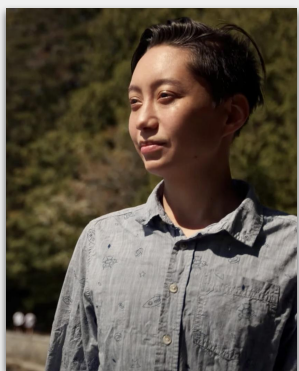
Fyre Jean Graveline (RSW, PhD, RCAT) is keenly interested in Connections between Spirituality, Healing, Arts, Mother Earth, and Social Change, and welcomes opportunities to explore how these relate to ReConnecting with our Sacred Power as Indigenous Peoples, Women and Two Spirited; Reconcile-Actions between Indigenous and Settler Nations; Enhancing Sustainable Relationships our with Mother Earth; and Restoring Harmony among All Our Relations, especially our most violated, silenced, despised and excluded. They are a prolific eco artist, and an author of several books, Circle Works: Transforming Eurocentric Consciousness (1998, 2012), Healing Wounded Hearts (2004), and LIFE as Medicine (upcoming) as well as many articles and poems.



Christine Gwynn

Virtual-Onsite

Christine Gwynn is a member of Peace Quest Cape Breton and is currently finishing her MA in Cultural Studies at Trent University. Her research focuses on the intersection between critical geography, gender violence, and nuclearism and seeks to illuminate the ways in which the modern, western, land mythopoetic legitimizes destructive social and ecological practices. She is also deeply interested in the connections between aesthetic and psychoanalytic theories and how these fields can assist first, in ridding ourselves of the techno-totalitarianism exemplified by weapons of mass destruction and second, in healing the deep wounds which result from coming face-to-face with potential futurelessness.



Dr. Amita Kuttner

Virtual

Dr. Amita Kuttner is co-founder of moonlight institute, a non-profit organization that seeks to create frameworks for an equitable and just future, taking into account the realities of the climate emergency, as well as technology, and decolonization. Amita holds a PhD in astronomy and astrophysics from the University of California, Santa Cruz; their research focused on black holes, wormholes, quantum effects, and the early universe.

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Shalini Kathirgamanathan

Virtual

Shalini Kathirgamanathan is a recent graduate from the School of Environment, Resources, and Sustainability at the University of Waterloo and is passionate about the intricate systems that make the world we live in. Shalini is interested in innovative and collaborative approaches to mitigating current environmental issues at a local to global scale and currently works as a Junior Planner for the Strategic Policy Branch at Environment Climate Change Canada. In the near future she hopes to pursue further studies on ecological monitoring in marginalized communities facing current threats of the climate crises and creating adaptive solutions.



Albert Marshall

Virtual-Onsite

Albert Marshall is a highly respected and much loved Elder of the Mi'kmaw Nation. He lives in Eskasoni First Nation in Unama'ki (Cape Breton), NS, and is a passionate advocate of cross-cultural understandings and healing and of our human responsibilities to care for all creatures and our Earth Mother. He is the “designated voice” with respect to environmental issues for the Mi'kmaw Elders of Unama'ki.



Tracy Marshall

Virtual-Onsite

Tracy Marshall is from Potlotek First Nation. She is an active member of CEPI Youth, and currently the Youth Coordinator for CEPI. She sits on the Bras d'Or Lakes Biosphere Reserve Association Board of Directors as the youth representative. As a child, she started to learn about melting “ice caps” and was concerned for polar bears, and ever since haven't stopped being an activist for the environment. Not knowing where to start, she just stopped littering and encouraging friends and family not to as well. The rest was a ripple effect from that moment on. Tracy was a co-organizer of the CLP 2019 Youth Retreat, a Thinker in the May-June 2020 retreat and a trusted advisor. She is working with CLP to collate written transcripts of Elder Albert Marshall's teachings. Tracy is in the Bachelor of Arts and Science in Environment program at Cape Breton University.



Bhreagh McKinnon

Virtual-Onsite

Bhreagh McKinnon is currently working towards her undergraduate degree at Cape Breton University with a major in Political Science and minor in Gender and Women's Studies. She is a member of Peace Quest Cape Breton, has been advocating for nuclear disarmament since 2019 and attended the ICAN Paris Forum in February of 2020. Bhreagh's focus is mainly on creating a peaceful and sustainable future while also studying the intersectionality between nuclear disarmament and other social justice movements.

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Laura Rose O'Connor

Virtual

Laura Rose O'Connor is a Senior Project Officer at Ottawa Dialogue, a Track Two dialogue organization that has worked across South and Central Asia, and the Middle East and continues to produce cutting-edge Track Two research. Track two dialogues assist official actors to manage and resolve conflicts by exploring possible solutions derived from the public view. She is also a Research Associate at the Council for Strategic and Defense Research, a thinktank and Track Two centre in New Delhi, India. At CSDR, she is researching regional cooperation efforts in the Indo-Pacific. Aside from Ottawa Dialogue and CSDR, she is the co-Deputy Chair of International Student/Young Pugwash (ISYP), and a freelance writer. She is a Canadian national, hailing from Kingston, Ontario, and holds a degree in Political Science from the University of Ottawa



Dr. William Rees

Virtual

Dr William Rees is a population ecologist, ecological economist, Professor Emeritus and former Director of the University of British Columbia's School of Community and Regional Planning. He is a founding member and former President of the Canadian Society for Ecological Economics; a Fellow of the Post-Carbon Institute; a founding Director of the OneEarth Initiative; and a Director of The Real Green New Deal. Prof Rees' research focuses on the biophysical prerequisites for sustainability. He is best known as the originator and co-developer (with his graduate students) of 'ecological footprint analysis,' a quantitative tool that shows definitively that the human enterprise is in dysfunctional overshoot—we would need five Earth-like planets to support just the present world population sustainably with existing technologies at North American material standards. Such findings led to a special interest in cities as inherently unsustainable and particularly vulnerable components of the human ecosystem. Concerned about societal unresponsiveness to worsening indicators, Dr Rees also studies the biological and psycho-cognitive barriers to ecologically rational political behavior. He has authored hundreds of peer reviewed and popular articles on the above topics. Dr Rees was elected to Royal Society of Canada in 2006; his international awards include the Boulding Memorial Award in Ecological Economics, the Herman Daly Award in Ecological Economics and a Blue Planet Prize (jointly with his former student Dr Mathis Wackernagel).



Natalya Samoylovskaya

Virtual

Natalya Samoylovskaya is an associate editor of the Journal of International Analytics and Junior Research Associate at the Center of Euro-Atlantic Security of the Institute for International Studies, MGIMO-University. Research interests include international security, emerging technologies, disarmament issues, theory of international relations. She is also a chair of the Russian Student / Young Pugwash Group under the Presidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the International Student/Young Pugwash Board member.

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Dr. Mitchel Wallerstein

Virtual

Mitchel Wallerstein is president emeritus of Baruch College of the City University of New York (CUNY) and is now appointed as a University Professor at CUNY. In this capacity, he teaches graduate courses in the Marx School of Public and International Affairs at Baruch College on “International Security and the Liberal World Order” and on “The Policy Implications of Global Climate Change.” Prior to his appointment as president of Baruch College, Dr. Wallerstein served from 2003-2010 as the Dean of the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs of Syracuse University. From 1998-2003, Mitchel Wallerstein was Vice President of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and directed the foundation’s international programs. From 1993-1998, he was appointed as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Counterproliferation Policy and Senior Defense Representative for Trade Security Policy. He was responsible for formulating US defense policy to counter nuclear, biological and chemical weapons proliferation, as well as national security export controls; and he helped to found and subsequently co-chaired the Senior Defense Group on Proliferation at NATO. Mitchel Wallerstein received his A.B. degree from Dartmouth College, and he earned his M.S. and Ph.D. at M.I.T. He is a long-time member of the Council on Foreign Relations.



Shane Ward

Virtual

Shane Ward recently graduated from Bates College with a major in Politics. Originally from the United Kingdom, Shane’s interests are centered on transatlantic security and cooperation issues, in particular, collective nuclear deterrence and the modernization of the UK’s Trident nuclear program, the latter of which he wrote his senior thesis on. He was recently elected to the International Student/Young Pugwash Executive Board and spent the summer interning with the Center for Arms Control and Nonproliferation in Washington, DC. While at college, Shane also founded and led the Bates chapter of the United Nations Association, believing strongly in international and intergovernmental efforts to tackle the greatest challenges of our day, most pressingly the climate crisis and nuclear proliferation.



Talia Weiss

Virtual

Talia Weiss is a researcher in particle physics and technology ethics, currently pursuing a Physics PhD at Yale University, where her research centers on measuring the mass of a fundamental particle. Talia previously received an M.A. in Political Science from the University of Chicago and a B.S. in Physics from MIT. She has written and spoken on the history of scientific self-regulation, lessons learned from the case of Nazi nuclear physicists, and how scientists who invented gene editing technologies viewed the ethics of their research. In 2018-19, Talia developed a program for the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists which fostered conversations among researchers in disparate fields with common areas of concern—climate, nuclear, and emerging technology policy. As an undergraduate, Talia worked for the MIT Washington Office, where she reported on federal R&D policy developments for university leadership.

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Dr. Melanie Zurba

Virtual-Onsite

Dr. Melanie Zurba is a professor at Dalhousie University and head of the Community-Engaged Colab. Her work focuses on projects that are developed and implemented in collaboration with communities. Professor Zurba has worked collaboratively with Indigenous communities in Canada and abroad on projects focusing on co-management of species and protected areas, shared forest tenure agreements, Clean Environment Commission hearings for water regulation, land use and occupancy mapping studies, food sovereignty, health promotion and wellbeing, and land-based learning and curriculum development. Her work has also contributed to public discussion on what “reconciliation” means in Canada through her work on learning and relationship building through the shared-governance of land. Professor Zurba is also interested in how global policy frameworks affect community participation in the day-to-day management of the environment.