



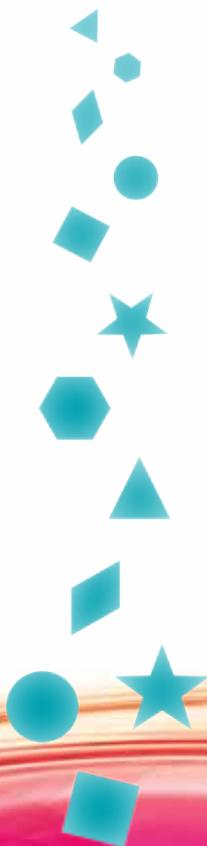
The Regional Diversity Roundtable (of Peel)
presents:

Equal Societies: Imagine That!

March 30th 2010
9^{am} – 3^{pm}

Bank of Montreal Room
Living Arts Centre
4141 Living Arts Drive
Mississauga

Welcome



Agenda

8:30am – 9:00am Registration and Refreshments

9:00am – 9:15am **Welcome and introduction of keynote speaker:**
Sita Jayaraman, *RDR Chair*

9:15am – 9:45am **Keynote: Equal Societies
Imagine That!**
Yvette Nolan, Artistic Director
Native Earth Arts Centre

9:45am – 10:15am **Q&A**
Varsha Naik, Moderator,
Community Liaison Coordinator,
Peel District School Board

10:15am – 10:30am Break

10:30am – 11:30am **Breakout Sessions:**

**Democracy and Diversity:
Questions of representation
and voice**

Facilitator: Adaoma Patterson,
Specialist - Peel Region Poverty

**Developing and managing a
diverse human resource base**

Facilitator: Sheila Wilmot, Equity
Officer, *CUPE 3903 York University*

**'Mainstreaming' vs. services
based on unique cultural
identities**

Facilitator: Samina Talat,
Executive Director, *Aurat Health
Services*

Who manages culture?

Facilitator: Uzma Shakir,
Economic Justice Fellow, *Atkinson
Charitable Foundation*

11:30am – 12noon **Report Backs**

12noon – 12:45pm Lunch

12:45pm – 2:45pm **Tough Questions Cafe?
Who manages culture?**

A facilitated conversation
Uzma Shakir

2:45pm – 3:00pm **Closing words**
Sita Jayaraman, *RDR Chair*

About the Presenters

Sita Jayaraman, Senior Diversity Coordinator, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Peel, Chair, Regional Diversity Roundtable

Sita has extensive experience in principles of adult education, research, curriculum development and training. As Chair of the *Regional Diversity Roundtable of Peel*, Sita provides leadership and strategic direction to fulfill the *Roundtable's* commitment to being a leader in supporting organizations to be equitable and diverse. She has developed and delivered workshops on diversity and equity to build inclusive organizational practices to social service agencies across Peel Region. This includes developed and facilitating workshops to service providers and volunteer managers on "Raising Awareness of Ethno-Cultural Communities in Peel Region" focusing on cross cultural social work practice and volunteer engagement in the South Asian community.

Varsha Naik, Community Liaison Coordinator, Peel District School Board

Varsha is community liaison coordinator for the *Peel District School Board* with a master's degree in social work and more than 20 years of senior level experience in the human service sectors working in India, Africa, Europe and Canada. Varsha is responsible for initiating and managing collaborative and leading edge community development projects with emphasis on diversity. She is a noted expert and frequent presenter on integrating diversity into public education and in engaging and involving the diverse faith and culture communities.



Yvette Nolan, Artistic Director, *Native Earth Arts Centre*

Yvette Nolan was born in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, to an Algonquin mother and Irish immigrant father. She grew up in Winnipeg where *CBC TV* did a short documentary on her as a 12 year old feminist, and where she was late every weekday for grade 10 history class because she was walking the *Griffin Steel* picket line. She has run an ice-cream store, raised money for a political party, babysat eight babies at a time in a home for unwed mothers, and taught drama in a group home.

Her work as a theatre artist has been about giving voice to silenced and marginalized people. She wrote her first play, *BLADE*, in response to the media coverage of the murder of a young Native woman. Her play *Annie Mae's Movement*, about the murder of the civil rights activist Anna Mae Aquash, has played across the globe. In Manitoba, she ran a cross-cultural exchange project between a high school in Norway House and one in Winnipeg that culminated each year in a dangerous, challenging, empowering piece of theatre for the students involved and the audiences at the festival where it was performed.

In 2003, she joined *Native Earth Performing Arts*, Canada's oldest professional Aboriginal theatre company, as the Artistic Director. During her tenure, the company has entrenched seven traditional values – courage, generosity, tolerance strength of character, patience, humility and wisdom – which inform every action and engagement of the company and its members. Her play *Savage*, commissioned by *Fort Frances High School* to address issues of poverty, homophobia, and intolerance has toured Ontario with the support of the Attorney General's office. She sits on the Aboriginal Affairs Committee at *City of Toronto*, and in 2008 received the City's Aboriginal Affairs Award.



Adaoma Patterson, Specialist - Peel Poverty Strategy, Region of Peel

Adaoma Patterson is one of 27 participants of the *2010 DiverseCity Fellows* initiative, a one-year leadership development program for emerging city builders. She is currently a member of the Strategic Planning, Policy and Partnerships Division of Human Services at the *Region of Peel*, responsible for guiding the work of the Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy Committee. This work includes working with stakeholders to create a region wide poverty reduction strategy, creating awareness among residents and local politicians about poverty in Peel, advocating to various levels of government for investments and ensuring those experiencing poverty are heard. Adaoma currently serves on the Board of Directors of the *Jamaican Canadian Association* as well as the *Horace Patterson Foundation* in Winnipeg and is a member of United Way Peel Region's Black Community Advisory Council and Allocations Committee.

Uzma Shakir, Economic Justice Fellow, Atkinson Charitable Foundation

Uzma Shakir is a community-based researcher, advocate, activist. She is the past Executive Director of *Council of Agencies Serving South Asians (CASSA)* and the *South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario (SALCO)*. She has worked as a teacher, journalist and researcher.

Her work focuses on issues of race, erosion of civil liberties & critical multiculturalism. Her experience includes advocating; organizing and facilitating; writing; and speaking on diverse issues facing racialized communities. She has worked on issues of racialization of poverty; violence against immigrant and racialized women; youth engagement; parenting; civic engagement; hate crimes; racial profiling; access to professions and trades; precarious and contingent work; legal education; building innovative & unique coalitions with diverse ethno-racial communities; and production/documentation of alternative practice and knowledge.

Uzma is currently an Adjunct Professor, Department of Geography and Programme in Planning at the *University of Toronto* and a Steering Committee member of the Colour of Poverty Campaign. She also serves as an Editorial Board Member of the *Non-Profit Quarterly* based out of Boston. She is the 2003 Recipient of the Jane Jacob's Award and Past President of the *Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI)*.

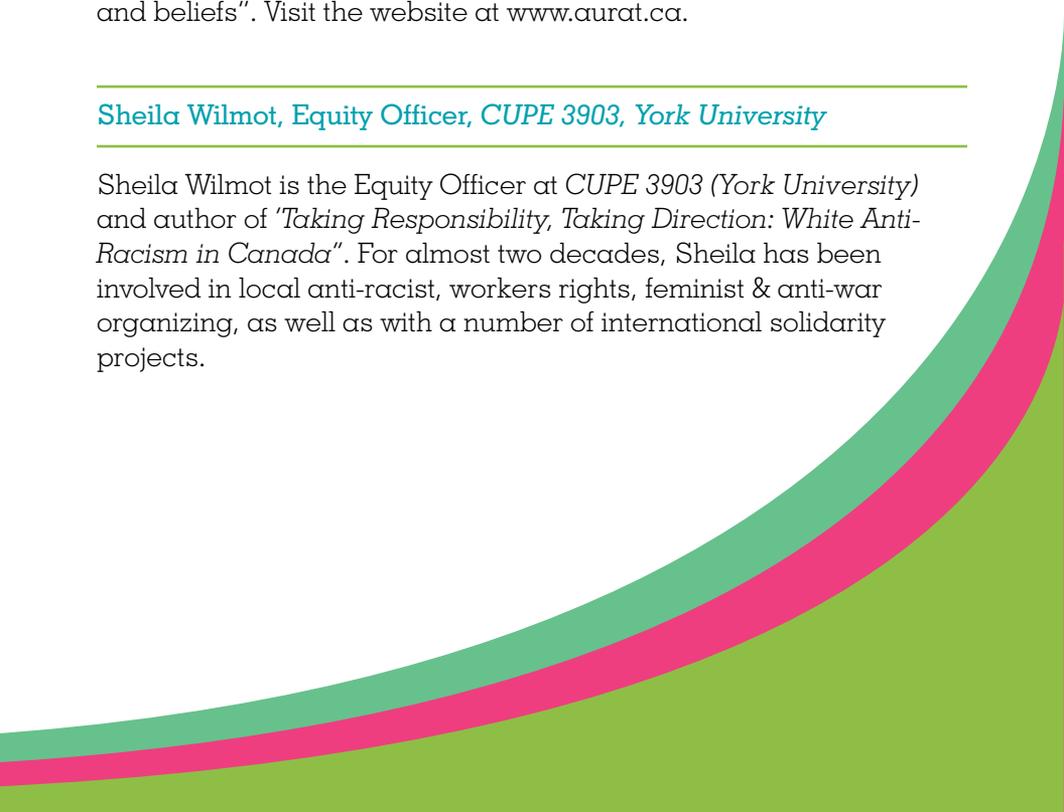
Samina Talat, Executive Director, *Aurat Health Services*

Samina is a dynamic and seasoned professional with over 15 years of experience in the social, health and community sectors. To her educational credit, Samina has obtained a Masters of Science in Psychology from *University of Punjab, Pakistan* and a Masters of Health Sciences in Health Administration from *University of Toronto*. She has also achieved a Diploma in Advanced Health Leadership from *Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto* and the designation of a Certified Health Executive from the *Canadian College for Health Services Executives*.

Samina is the Founder & Executive Director of *Aurat Health Services* - a dedicated South Asian Women's organization that strives to empower South Asian women. *Aurat Health Services* has a mission "to empower South Asian Women". Their number one goal is to ensure that best community support, health and social care is available to South Asian Women. Their vision is "to be recognized as the provider of best possible health, social and community services that meet the needs of South Asian women and empower them to take charge of their well-being whilst honouring their culture, values and beliefs". Visit the website at www.aurat.ca.

Sheila Wilmot, Equity Officer, *CUPE 3903, York University*

Sheila Wilmot is the Equity Officer at *CUPE 3903 (York University)* and author of *'Taking Responsibility, Taking Direction: White Anti-Racism in Canada'*. For almost two decades, Sheila has been involved in local anti-racist, workers rights, feminist & anti-war organizing, as well as with a number of international solidarity projects.



Thanks for Joining Us!

This event was organized on behalf of the *RDR* by the RDR Steering Committee (SC) and Capacity Building Working Group (CB)

David Deforest, *City of Brampton* (CB)

Sharon Douglas, *United Way of Peel Region* (CB,SC)

Larisa Drozd, *Peel Senior Link* (SC)

Sita Jayaraman, *Big Brothers Big Sisters of Peel* (CB,SC)

Anubha Mehta, *Regional Municipality of Peel* (CB)

Varsha Naik, *Peel District School Board* (CB,SC)

Sume Ndumbe-Eyoh, *Regional Diversity Roundtable*

Sarala Uttangi, *Brampton Library* (SC)

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