

FORWARD!

FOR A FRACK FREE FUTURE

JUNE 7-9, 2024

**DETAILED
PROGRAM**

FORWARD! 2024 is hosted by Frack Free BC, a broad-based alliance made up of allied organizations including NGOs, Indigenous partners, grassroots organizations, community groups, and individuals who are organizing their communities to raise awareness and apply pressure to the government to end fracking in BC.

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FORWARD!

FOR A FRACK FREE FUTURE 2024



Fracked gas is B.C.'s biggest climate problem. But the government continues to approve new LNG terminals and expand the fracking industry, intensifying disasters like earthquakes, wildfires, droughts, and floods.

To turn that around, our movement needs to show up bigger, louder, and with persistence. That's the vision behind *FORWARD! 2024*. To bring campaigns, communities, volunteers, activists, and everyone in between together for a weekend that will energize, inspire, mobilize and drive our movement – and our province – forward toward a sustainable and safe climate for future generations.

Together, we will build a safer, fairer, healthier future for our province.



**"We cannot continue
to expand fossil fuel
infrastructure
and hit our
climate goals"**

PREMIER DAVID EBY, 21 OCT 2022

FORWARD! 2024

From June 7-9, activists, organizers, and changemakers from across B.C. will gather on the unceded territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations in Vancouver. We'll level up our practical skills through workshops and trainings, deepen our understanding of the issues that matter, and strengthen connections across the diverse campaigns, communities, and perspectives that make up our movement.

This weekend is for all kinds of people, whether you want to learn more about B.C.'s biggest climate problem, gain new skills, or find your place in the movement. Together, we'll share and develop fresh new strategies that will inspire and re-energize our communities to take action.

Join us for a weekend of connection, training, scheming, and dreaming of a Fracking – and Fossil – Free Future.

Read on for detailed information about programming for the weekend!

THE PROGRAM: AT A GLANCE

FORWARD! Will kick off on the evening of Friday, June 7th with registration and an evening social from 6:00 - 8:00pm complete with snacks and icebreakers. Saturday will open with a plenary and then dive right into a full day of exciting workshops, stimulating panels and opportunities to connect. On Sunday, we'll delve deeper with additional trainings, opportunities for planning a summer of action together, and open space for emergent conversations. Lunch will be provided on Saturday and Sunday and coffee will be available in the mornings.

By the end of the weekend, you'll have gained new skills, a wide network to collaborate with, and a clear pathway to take action for a fossil fuel free future this fall.

Time	Friday June 7 All sessions at 312 Main	Saturday June 8 All sessions at SFU Harbour Centre			Sunday June 9 All sessions at SFU Harbour Centre					
8:00am	Registration Coffee provided	RM 1400 Opening Plenary <i>Featuring introductory remarks by Peter McCartney (Wilderness Committee) & Alexandra Woodsworth (Dogwood BC)</i> (60 mins)	RM 1400 Anti-Oppression Fundamentals <i>Emily Gorham, Bakau Consulting</i> (90 mins)	Wellness Break (5 mins)	8:30am	Arrival Coffee provided	RM 1400 Morning Plenary <i>Featuring remarks from Sven Biggs (Stand.earth) & Jason Hjalmarsen (Wilderness Committee)</i> (45 mins)	RM 1500 Art Space Open!		
9:00am					9:00am	RM 1400 Morning Plenary <i>Featuring remarks from Sven Biggs (Stand.earth) & Jason Hjalmarsen (Wilderness Committee)</i> (45 mins)				
10:00am					9:45am	RM 1400 Getting Gas Out of Buildings and Municipal Engagement <i>Ashley Zarbatany & Sunil Singal</i> (75 mins)	RM 1520 Making the Media Work For You <i>Peter McCartney & Allison Murray</i> (75 mins)	RM 1530 Divesting your pension <i>Britt Runeckles</i> (75 minutes)		
11:30am					11:00am	Wellness Break (5 mins)				
11:35am					11:05am	RM 1400 - 1430 Planning for Action <i>Breakout groups to map out YOUR action plan for summer and fall</i> (85 minutes)	RMs 1520, 1530 Open Space Conversations <i>Host a conversation about emergent ideas or topics from the weekend.</i> (85 mins)			
12:35pm					12:30pm	Lunch Provided by The Lazy Gourmet (55 mins)				
1:30					1:00pm	Lunch Provided by The Lazy Gourmet (55 mins)				
3:00pm					1:30pm	RM 1400 Leveling Up your Knowledge of the Economic Threat of LNG <i>John Young & Emily Lowan</i> (75 minutes)	RM 1520 How to meet with elected officials <i>Sven Biggs & Peter McCartney</i> (75 minutes)			
3:05pm					2:45pm	Wellness Break (5 mins)				
4:35pm					2:50pm	RM 1400 Closing Plenary <i>Featuring closing remarks from Frack Free BC</i> (40 mins)				
6:00pm	Registration & Evening Social Snacks provided by Potluck with introductory remarks by Paige Gorska (Dogwood BC) & Kiki Wood (Stand.earth)	RMs 1400 - 1430 Place-Based Resistance to LNG <i>MC: Sevem Cullis-Suzuki Featuring remarks from Indigenous Leaders in the Climate Movement from Northeastern BC: Kirby Robineau, Tsleil-Waututh Nation; Gord Gilman, SkeenaWild Land Trust; and Sto:lo Waterkeeper, Wet'suwet'en and Gitxsan, Skeena Watershed Conservation Coalition Chief Na Moks, Office of the Wet'suwet'en</i> (2 hours)			Dinner Break (2 hours)					
8:00pm	Dinner Break (2 hours)									

VENUE INFO



312 MAIN

A CENTRE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INNOVATION

Our Friday registration and evening social will be held at 312 Main Street – a community-centered hub that fosters collaboration and innovation among organizations, artists, and entrepreneurs located in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside.

312 Main’s entrance is off Cordova Street by the bus stop. The front desk is staffed 24/7 and you will be buzzed in upon arriving. There are no steps to access the main floor, and there is a ramp for wheelchair access. It is easily accessible by several bus lines. You can use [TransLink’s Trip Planner](#) to plan your transit route. If you are driving, there is metered street parking available on adjacent streets, as well as a number of [parkades nearby](#). Indoor guest bike parking is available for those cycling.

All-gender washrooms are located by the front entrance beside the front desk and at the southeast corner of the ground floor. A filtered water bottle filling station is located on the ground floor.



555 WEST HASTINGS ST.

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY AT HARBOUR CENTRE

Simon Fraser University at Harbour Centre is located in Vancouver's historic Spencer building, at the corner of Hastings and Richards streets. All *FORWARD!* rooms are in the Northwest corner of the ground floor, and the entire venue is wheelchair accessible. There is a food court conveniently located on the basement level of the building.

Harbour Centre is directly across the street from Vancouver's Waterfront Station, where the Skytrain and Seabus are located. There are many public parking lots nearby – the closest of which is at 400 West Cordova Street. Paid street parking is available throughout downtown, though it is expensive. We recommend planning to walk, take transit, or carpool from your accommodations. Street parking is free after 10pm.

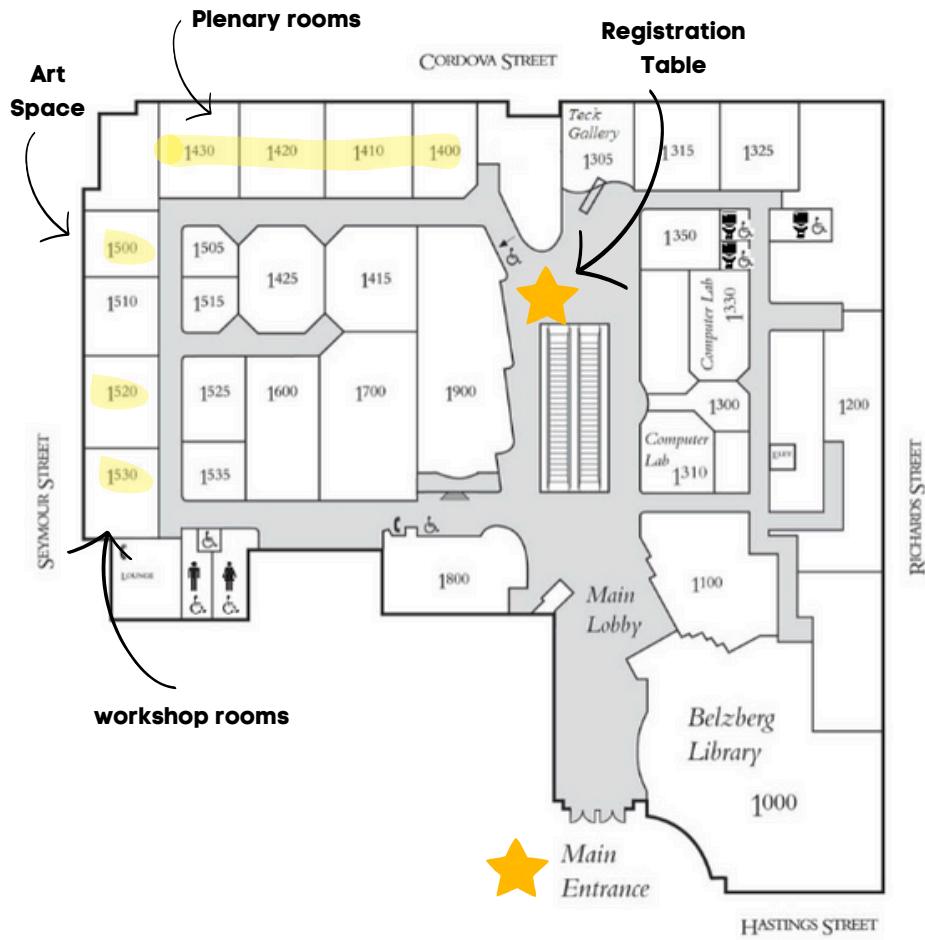
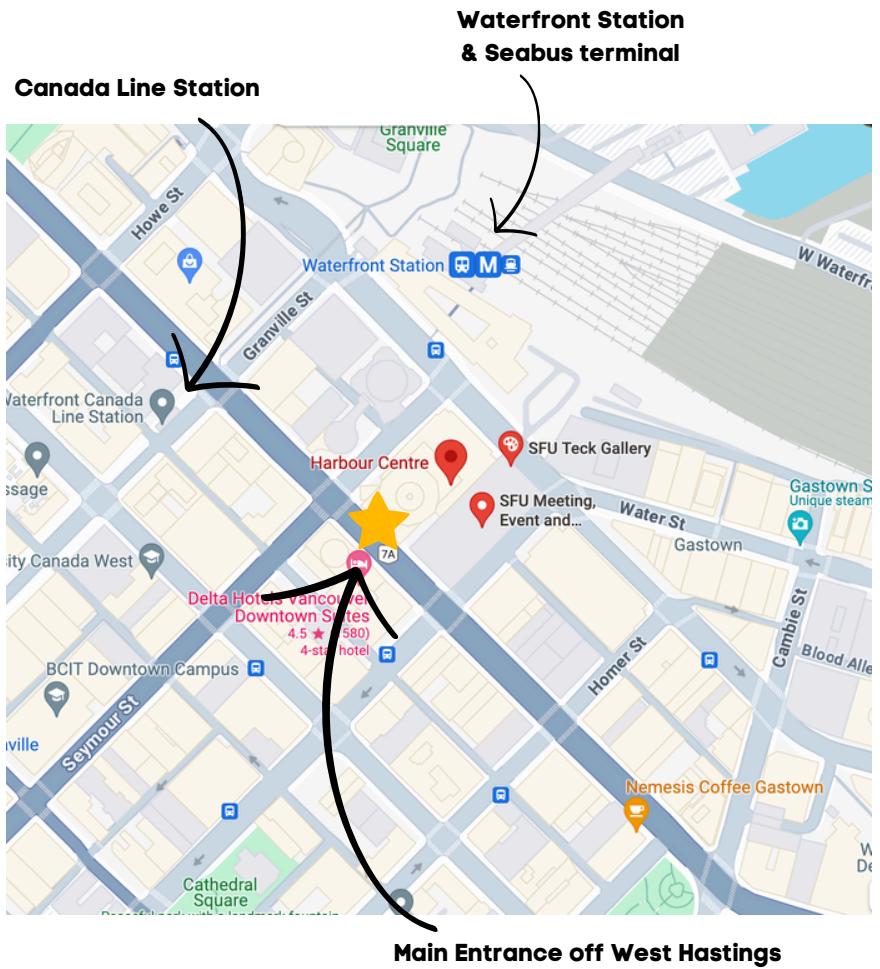
1400 - 1430 Plenary Room

This is the main room where our plenaries and other group sessions will take place. It is located on the main floor.

1500 Conference Room | 1520 Lecture Room | 1530 Lecture Room

All located on the main floor, these rooms will be used for workshop spaces for the weekend.

MAP OF THE AREA



MAP OF HARBOUR CENTRE

DETAILED DAILY PROGRAMS

FRIDAY, JUNE 7

312 MAIN

TIME	SESSIONS
6:00pm	<p>Registration 312 Main Main Floor</p> <p>Welcome Evening Social 312 Main <i>Featuring Introductory remarks by Paige Gorsak (DogwoodBC) & Kiki Wood (Stand.earth)</i></p> <p>Territorial welcoming Icebreakers & Snacks provided by Potluck Catering Weekend Housekeeping Ongoing Registration</p>

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

SFU HARBOUR CENTER | 515 W HASTINGS

TIME	SESSIONS
8:00am	<p>Registration</p>
9:00am	<p>Opening Plenary RM 1400 <i>Featuring introductory remarks by Peter McCartney (Wilderness Committee) & Alexandra Woodsworth (Dogwood BC)</i></p> <p>Territorial Welcoming Opening Remarks Weekend Housekeeping announcements</p>
10:00am	<p>Anti-Oppression Training RM 1400 Bakau Consulting</p> <p>Systemic forms of oppression are increasingly present in our society, and they affect everyone – though not equally. This first workshop on Saturday will explore how systemic oppression, privilege, identity, and allyship show up in social justice movements, and why that matters. This session will use engaging activities and lessons from history to help participants gain the knowledge, skills, and perspectives to view the world through an anti-oppression lens.</p>
11:30a	<p>Wellness Break</p>
11:35am	<p>How to Talk About Gas in BC RM 1400 Cara Pike</p> <p>Explore new values based segmentation research and what it means for talking about gas in British Columbia. Gain an understanding of how to activate the climate-concerned and movable middle in different locations around the province. Participants will have a chance to unpack framing and narrative recommendations for different segments and apply them to their campaign work.</p> <p>Rising to the Challenge: Addressing the Escalating Impact of Climate Disasters on Communities RM 1520 Dinjot Matharu & Tanvir Singh Suri</p> <p>A workshop delving into the urgent need to support communities affected by climate change-induced natural disasters and the increasing call for NGOs and charities to support victims of natural disasters. Learn about Khalsa Aid Canada's approach to collaboration, activating in response, and stabilizing those in need. Explore innovative strategies, share insights, and collaborate on actionable solutions.</p> <p>How to Put Elected Officials on the Spot RM 1530 Paige Gorsak & Alexandra Woodsworth</p> <p>Most politicians aren't going to talk about fracking unless WE make them! In this workshop, we'll explore a range of tactics to get candidates and elected officials on record, and why this is so important to make sure fracking and climate action show up in this year's election. From asking questions at a town hall, to showing up with signs at a big media moment, there are all kinds of creative ways to put politicians on the spot and amplify your message at the same time. We'll share stories of past successes and lessons learned, role-play to build confidence, and start mapping out how you could put these tactics into practice this fall!</p>

SATURDAY, JUNE 8 (CONT)

SFU HARBOUR CENTER | 555 W HASTINGS

12:35 pm	Lunch Provided by The Lazy Gourmet		
1:30pm	<p>Engaging with the Political System RM 1400 Featuring Jeremy Valeriote (BC Green Party), Janet Routledge (MLA, BC NDP Party) & Ashley Zarbatany</p> <p>Your MLA is responsible for bringing your concerns forward to the provincial government. What can activists do to engage in the political system? What role do political parties have and what value is there in getting involved? We'll hear from BC NDP MLA for Burnaby North, Jeremy Valeriote, BC Green candidate for West Vancouver - Sea to Sky Country, and Ashley Zarbatany, former President of the BC Standing Committee on Environment and Economy on how best to affect change using the tools of the political system.</p>	<p>Climate Communications Best Practices RM 1520 Cara Pike</p> <p>Find out the latest trends in what Canadians think about climate change and how to talk with and engage different segments of the public. Participants will have an opportunity to apply best practices from Re.Climate to their campaigns and gain feedback from peers.</p>	<p>Keeping Communities Safe While Resisting Mega-Projects RM 1530 Maryam Adrangi & Harjap Grewal</p> <p>This session will explore how policing impacts movements, and different ways that organizers and activists can engage in order to ensure our safety and community care. We will also explore the trajectory of policing progressive movements in Canada, and what is needed to stop the expansion of policing and military tactics within Canadian law enforcement. We will also explore what it looks like to escalate the tactics of our movements while creating safer spaces for all those involved.</p>
3:00pm	Wellness Break		
3:05pm	<p>That's Illegal! Using and Remaking the Law to Hold Fossil Fuel Companies Accountable RM 1400 Liz McDowell, Fiona Koza, Andhra Azevedo, Deborah Curry</p> <p>Come hear a lively discussion between the Sue Big Oil Campaign; Stand.earth, the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, and Ecojustice's anti-greenwashing lawsuit against FortisBC; and the campaign to ban fossil fuel advertising. Learn about the role, benefits, and challenges of campaign and legal strategies to hold industry accountable for the climate crisis.</p>	<p>Culturally-specific Relational Organizing: Reflections from the Climate Roundtable for South Asian Diasporas RM 1520 Dinjot Matharu & Anjali Appadurai</p> <p>Join a panel of South Asian organizers who have been working to build a political bloc within South Asian communities in the Lower Mainland to organize around provincial and federal climate issues. Within the BC political landscape, South Asian diasporas are a key demographic and a community that has been largely left out of the mainstream environmental movement. In this panel discussion, we will explore the different frames and organizing tactics we are currently experimenting with to connect with members of these communities. We will discuss how agriculture, anti-poverty, and faith-based service are of immense cultural and political significance in our communities, and how we are building on a rich history of South Asian political movements.</p>	<p>Community Organizing and Outreach - Growing the Movement in Your Community RM 1530 Jason Hjalmarson & Ciaran Irwin</p> <p>We're building grassroots opposition to fracking right across the province, and you can help! This workshop will de-mystify how to do community outreach for Frack Free BC in advance of this year's provincial election. We'll go over some basic community outreach strategies; like canvassing door to door or at community events. We'll go over some common responses we hear from people when doing public outreach, discuss the support and resources available from the Frack Free BC steering committee, and where you can find different community events that are worth participating in.</p>
4:35pm	Dinner Break		
6:00pm	<p>RMs 1400 - 1430 Keynote: Place-Based Resistance to LNG MC: Severn Cullis-Suzuki Speakers: <i>Kirby Muldoe, Tsimshian and Gitxsan, SkeenaWild Jesse Stoeppler, Wet'suwet'en and Gitxsan, Skeena Watershed Conservation Coalition Chief Na'Moks, Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chief</i></p> <p>For nearly 15 years, the Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs have invited allies from neighbouring nations and around the world to their territories to help stop oil and gas pipelines crossing their Yintah (territory). When construction of the Coastal GasLink fracked gas pipeline finally reached their lands and waters, thousands of people who had eaten traditional foods and drank from the Wedzin Kwa (Morne River) stood with them in an unprecedented global solidarity movement. As the company made a mess of one of the last intact forests in Wet'suwet'en territory, Indigenous people worked hard to document the damage, enforce the rules and inform the public. MC'd by Severn Cullis-Suzuki, Chief Na'moks, Kirby Muldoe and Jesse Stoeppler will share lessons learned from the experience and why resistance to fossil fuel infrastructure must be rooted in the places people care about.</p>		
8:00pm	Programming ends		

ANTI-OPPRESSION FUNDAMENTALS

A MESSAGE FROM BAKAU CONSULTING TO ALL PARTICIPANTS

Bakau Consulting is a full-service equity, inclusion and anti-racism consulting company based in Canada, with a global, intersectional approach. We believe in collective liberation, meaningful social change and the power of equity. Our commitment to these values is evidenced by our strategic range of services and our fun, fierce and no-bullshit approach to “diversity and inclusion”. Our work is rooted in community, social justice and a passion for equity which translates into tireless advocacy for systemic change.

In our workshops, we frame teachings as offerings, and folks are encouraged to really sit with concepts and choose how to internalize them in ways that feel meaningful. Our content focuses on fundamental theories, frameworks, and perspectives that can be applied in all aspects of life. We help attendees create a lens to perceive injustice, and develop a toolkit to assess how to respond moment by moment. Through extensive experience in this field, we have found this method to be significantly more effective than simply telling people what to do!

Please note that because the topics we cover are about oppression, some content may feel overwhelming or triggering and attendees are welcome and encouraged to put their wellbeing first. We will give content warnings throughout the session where relevant, but if you require an outline of content warnings beforehand, please reach to event organizers at FrackFree2024@gmail.com

Our workshops centre marginalized folks, including racialized, queer, disabled, religious, immigrant, gender-diverse folks and more! Where society has placed some experiences in the centre (who we might think of as neutral, or the default,) our mission is to make the world better for anyone existing outside of that centre too (many of us!). We hope you'll join us in that intentional centring. In recognizing that, you are welcome here no matter where you're at in your learning. We promise there is something for everyone, and we delve into content from an accessible, approachable angle.

This means that if you are not someone with many marginalized lived experiences, some of the content may feel uncomfortable. That is a good sign, as it means we are learning, shifting, growing, and grappling with the tough stuff. This doesn't mean you will have to be on edge the whole time!

We hope this helps you feel more prepared to engage with your upcoming workshop. Please enter the space ready to honour lived experiences, centre marginalized folks, and be guided by the mandate that we value so deeply.

You can expect to go deep but also be encouraged, supported, and met with zero judgement. We've got your backs and we thank you for reading through this so we can establish a beautiful foundation of mutual respect before heading into our work together. We will see you soon!

SUNDAY, JUNE 9

SFU HARBOUR CENTER | 555 W HASTINGS

TIME	SESSIONS		
9:00am	Morning Plenary <i>RM 1400 Featuring remarks by Sven Biggs (Stand.earth) & Jason Hjalmarson (Wilderness Committee)</i>		
9:45am	Getting Gas out of Buildings and Municipal Engagement <i>RM 1400 Ashley Zarbatany & Sunil Singal</i> Fracked gas isn't just poisoning communities in the North - it's also poisoning us in our own homes. In this workshop we will discuss the facts around so-called "natural gas", the solutions we have available to get our homes off of it, and effective ways to organize in your community to stop fracked gas hook ups. We can build safer homes and safer cities. Join Ashley and Sunil as they discuss ways to get involved in the movement to make our homes safe and frack free, with a case study that will teach you how to engage with municipal governments.	Making the Media Work For You <i>RM 1520 Peter McCartney & Allison Murray</i> Whether you're holding an action or publishing a letter, coverage in the media amplifies your message and catches the eye of decision-makers. Learning to connect with reporters in ways that make their job easier will help activists get more attention on fracking, LNG and more.	BC Pensions and the Climate Crisis <i>RM 1530 Britt Runeckles</i> British Columbia's public pensions play a crucial role in determining how swiftly Canada and the world can transition to a net-zero economy. Yet, these funds continue to invest in industries that fuel the climate crisis: oil, gas, coal, and pipelines. In this workshop, we will explore the role of British Columbia's Pension Funds in securing a climate-safe future and discuss how you can mobilize your pension to support climate action.
11:00am	Wellness Break		
11:05am	Planning for Action <i>RMS 1400 - 1430</i> Breakout groups to map out YOUR action plan for the summer and fall with the support of Frack Free BC organizers.	Open Space Conversations <i>RMS 1520, 1530</i> Host a conversation about emerging ideas or topics from the weekend.	
12:30pm	Lunch Provided by The Lazy Gourmet		
1:30pm	Leveling Up your Knowledge of the Economic Threat of LNG <i>RM 1400 John Young & Emily Lowan</i> Do you ever find yourself leafleting outside your MLA's office, or canvassing at a farmer's market and wishing you had more facts up your sleeve? Come deepen your understanding of the risks LNG poses to our province, and leave feeling like a local expert!	How to meet with elected officials <i>RM 1520 Sven Biggs & Peter McCartney</i> Meeting with your MLA or MP is one of the best ways to make sure the government hears your voice. It's their job to represent you and they want to keep it. Learn how to sit down with them and get your point across effectively.	How to Paint a Street Mural <i>RM 1500 Emily Thiessen</i> Art-based activism is a form of creative disruption of harmful systems and structures. Come learn how to design, map out, and paint a street mural for your next action!
2:45pm	Wellness Break		
3:00pm	Closing Plenary <i>RM 1400 Featuring closing remarks from Frack Free BC</i>		
3:30pm	Programming ends		

FACILITATOR & SPEAKER BIOS

IN ORDER OF PROGRAMMING

Paige Gorsak

Paige is a queer, white settler living on unceded and unsurrendered Musqueam, Tsleil Waututh and Squamish territory in Vancouver. Born and raised in amiskwaciwâskahikan (Edmonton), she is passionate about climate justice, workers' rights, and anti-capitalist struggle. As Dogwood's Organizing Coordinator, Paige is hard at work building grassroots power in the Lower Mainland. She is enthusiastic about bringing art and creativity into the fight to keep fossil fuels in the ground.

Kiki Wood

Kiki is a queer white settler living and playing on unceded Lekwungen Territory in Victoria, BC. Kiki got her start in social justice organizing by campaigning for access to education and working with unhoused populations. Prior to joining Stand.earth she worked as the National Director for the Canadian Youth Climate Coalition - leading delegations to COP21 and COP22; and for Ecojustice, Canada's largest environmental law charity. Outside of her work at Stand, Kiki works to build the financial capacity of grassroots and indigenous-led campaigns through pro-bono grant-writing.

Peter McCartney

Peter mobilizes communities against destructive fossil fuel export projects and for a just transition to a post-carbon world. He feels lucky to have found a job that aligns with his values and allows him to meet so many people dedicated to moving them forward. Before the Wilderness Committee, Peter worked as a journalist writing about science and the environment — and high school sports if you can believe it. He enjoys losing himself in the grandness of nature and connecting with friends over board games.

Alexandra Woodsworth

Alexandra grew up on the west coast before moving to London to do a PhD in social movement studies. She spent 10 years there helping to build the UK's grassroots climate justice movement, and played a leading role in successful campaigns to stop airport expansion, block a new generation of coal-fired power stations and reduce public transit fares. Returning to B.C. in 2012, Alexandra joined the fight to defend the west coast and the global climate from oil and gas companies, and build a fairer province for everyone who calls it home. She lives with her family on shíshálh and Sḵw̱wú7mesh territory on the Sunshine Coast.

Bakau Consulting

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They believe in collective liberation, meaningful social change and the power of equity.

Their commitment to these values is evidenced by their strategic range of services and our fun, fierce and no-bullshit approach to “diversity and inclusion”.

Emily Thiessen

Emily cut her teeth designing march posters, printing on bedsheets, and making a scene about divestment and the TMX pipeline. She has worked as an illustrator and muralist and recently moved to K'ómoks First Nation territories to work at Wachiay screen print studio, following a craving to make things with her own two hands. Emily comes from two lines of restless settlers: Hokkien Chinese-Malaysians, and Mennonites who immigrated to Treaty 1 territory. Talk to her about: colours, comics, analogue design, traditional crafts, movement building, and creative troublemaking!

Cara Pike

Cara Pike is the founder and director of the nonprofit Climate Access, a nonprofit focused on building political and public support for climate solutions through its learning network for nonprofit and government leaders, pilot projects that test new engagement approaches, and communication research and strategy consulting services. Her work includes creation of the Preparation Frame: A Guide for Understanding and Engaging Around Climate Impacts; the Ecological Roadmap, a values-based approach to building support for environmental protection; Climate Communications Behavior Change – A Guide for Practitioners, and other widely used publications and toolkits. Cara regularly advises government agencies and nonprofit organizations

Dinjot Matharu

Dinjot joined the Dogwood team in 2022 as the Surrey Organizing Coordinator. Living through the struggles of her family farm inspired Dinjot to advocate for food sovereignty and to eventually complete her degree in Sustainable Agriculture from UBC. The Indian farmers protest in 2020 was a crucial stepping stone for Dinjot into the organizing world. Fueled by the movement, she developed a passion for engaging South Asian communities and the diaspora in climate action. Her goal as an organizer in Surrey is to help her community connect the dots with climate change, natural disasters, and policy.

Tanvir Singh Suri

Born in and raised in Surrey, Tanvir believes in community service having done multiple international aid missions with Khalsa Aid, a Sikh based charity which delivers aid to war-torn countries and provides support to displaced populations that are seeking asylum in foreign countries. His service through Khalsa Aid saw him deploy to Turkey in 2019 where he provided aid for Syrian refugees that had been displaced due to ISIS. As a Captain in the Canadian Armed Forces, he has also deployed on multiple domestic operations battling wildfires and floods in BC and ran the operations center for multiple COVID-19 Relief Operations

Janet Routledge

Janet Routledge was first elected as the MLA for Burnaby North in 2017. She is the Parliamentary Secretary for Labour. For more than 30 years, Janet served the Public Service Alliance of Canada, helping workers solve workplace problems, win better wages and improve working conditions. She also represented workers on the federal Employment Insurance Appeals Board, and she was granted commenter status in the National Energy Board hearings on the Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion.

Janet was a leader in the fight for women's rights. She played a pivotal role in the effort to win pay equity settlements from the federal government and ensuring the voices of women were heard as positions of authority. She was founding member of the Everywoman's Health Centre, and served for several years on its board of directors. She has been involved in many non-profits, including Toxic Free Canada, an organization instrumental in helping workers and environmentalists work together.

Jeremy Valeriote

Jeremy Valeriote is a geological engineer with over 20 years of experience in environmental consulting and local government. He was elected to Town of Gibsons council in 2014 and ran for the BC Greens in West Vancouver - Sea to Sky in 2020, coming within 60 votes (0.2%) of being elected as the first-ever mainland BC Green MLA. He is passionate about innovative, evidence-based solutions, a more collaborative approach to cross-partisan politics, and working to ensure a healthy planet for his 10-year old twin daughters and for the future of our human species.

Ashley Zarbatany

Ashley is a proud mama to Amelia, Xiulin, and Elliot. It is her concern for their future that is the driving force behind her passion to address the climate emergency and fight for their right to a healthy planet. Anishinaabek and Scottish Métis on her mother's side, and Lebanese Canadiens on her father's, she has a deep understanding of how the complexities and traumas of colonization molded the settler-nation state of Canada into what it is today. It was her experiences as a mixed ancestry Indigenous person that led her to study at Concordia University. She currently works at Dogwood BC as the Fossil Gas Campaigner.

Maryam Adrangi

Maryam is the Canadian Activism Manager with Ben & Jerry's. She has a history of advocating for social and environmental justice, and being involved in anti-war movements. She is currently involved with the Abolish CIRG network.

Harjap Grewal

Harjap is an anti-authoritarian activist who has organized within migrant justice, anti-war, Indigenous solidarity, anti-capitalist and environmental justice movements.

Liz McDowell

Liz is the Senior Campaigns Director at Stand.earth where she directs Canadian oil and gas campaigns, Canadian forests campaigns, and helps local governments transition off fossil fuels as part of the SAFE Cities campaign. Since joining the team in 2017, she's helped campaigns develop strategies to engage more than 700,000 people and reach corporate and government decision-makers in innovative and unexpected ways.

Before working with Stand.earth, Liz was Campaigns Director at SumOfUs, where she mobilized millions of people online to take action on corporate accountability and shifted corporate policy at some of the world's largest companies, and Executive Director at Conversations for Responsible Economic Development (CRED BC), where she convened hundreds of business leaders concerned about the risks of oil pipeline expansion in B.C. Liz was also the co-founder and Executive Director of the UK-based Otesha Project, where she catalyzed a new generation of environmental leaders and designed green jobs training programs, and Climate Change Programme Fellow with the UN Institute for Training and Research in Geneva.

Fiona Koza

In 2021 Fiona Koza (she/her/hers) joined the climate team at West Coast Environmental Law as the Climate Accountability Strategist. Prior to West Coast, Fiona worked at Amnesty International Canada for many years, campaigning for corporate accountability and climate justice. Fiona's passion for climate justice was ignited in the 1990s when she worked for Greenpeace Southeast Asia in the Philippines, supporting communities that were advocating for local renewable energy projects as alternatives to coal energy. It weighs heavily on her that those who are least responsible for causing climate change are going to bear the worst climate impacts – and indeed already do – and she believes the fossil fuel industry must be held accountable for its contribution to fueling the climate crisis.

Deborah Curry

Deborah Curry is a family physician in Vancouver and a member of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment.

Andhra Azevedo

Andhra is a staff lawyer on the Climate team in Ecojustice's Vancouver office. Prior to working at Ecojustice, Andhra clerked at the Federal Court and Supreme Court of Canada after graduating from the University of Victoria. Her practice focuses on using and reforming the law to push for just and timely climate action from governments and corporations. She is passionate about ensuring that our legal system recognizes the inherent limits of nature and the rights of people to live in a healthy environment. In her free time, you can find her playing soccer, perfecting a recipe, or exploring outside.

Anjali Appadurai

Anjali spent her early career building a strong civil society voice at the UN Climate Convention, working with social movements from around the world to demand climate justice at a multilateral level. Today, Anjali is passionate about making the links between climate change and globalization, colonization, and economic inequality. She previously worked as Climate Justice Lead at Sierra Club BC, bringing an equity lens to the BC climate movement. Also a singer, songwriter and music producer, Anjali hopes to weave politics and art together to reflect the times we are living in and galvanize true collective action.

Jason Hjalmarson

Jason is the Wilderness Committee's Outreach Canvass Coordinator. He supports the campaign team and recruits volunteers to get involved in the movement to end fracking in BC. He started his career in nonprofits working as a door-to-door canvasser for Greenpeace Canada in 2010. Since then, he has worked as an organizer and fundraiser for a number of progressive social justice causes. He studied political science at the University of Lethbridge and has held staff roles on 14 different election campaigns. Today, he is a recovering partisan campaigner who is passionate about building popular support for environmental causes.

Ciaran Irwin

Ciaran has worked as a fundraising lead and canvasser for Oxfam and the Wilderness Committee, and likes to keep one foot in academia and one foot in on-the-ground organising as much as possible without losing his balance. He studied strategy, leadership and social enterprise at the Irish Management Institute, has worked as a designer and producer of learning & development workshops since 2020, and is passionate about decentering colonial narratives, and empowering others to take action within their own communities.

Severn Cullis-Suzuki

Severn has been an activist for intergenerational justice her whole life – justice for future generations. Deeply concerned about the environment as a child, she started the Environmental Children's Organization with friends in grade five, which culminated a few years later in a speech to the UN Earth Summit in 1992 at age 12. The speech is still making the rounds as “the girl who silenced the world for 5 minutes.”

Today Severn's focus is the nexus of decline in diversity of biodiversity, worldviews, economies, language, traditional knowledge and identity. She holds an M.Sc. in Ethnoecology from the University of Victoria, and is currently a Vanier and Public scholar PhD candidate studying endangered language revitalization.

Chief Na'Moks

Chief Na'Moks is a Hereditary Chief of the Tsayu (Beaver Clan), one of the Five Clans of the Wet'suwet'en Nation. The Traditional Name he carries is thousands of years old, as a Matrilineal Society, his grandmother carried the same name and wore the very same Regalia. The duties of Hereditary Chiefs are to protect the entirety of the 22,000 square Kilometers of Wet'suwet'en Territories they are responsible for, and to protect them for the generations yet to come. The authorities and jurisdiction of the Hereditary Chiefs have not changed, both pre and post-contact.

Kirby Muldoe

Hup Wil Lax A, Kirby Muldoe, is SkeenaWild's Indigenous Engagement Lead. Hup Wil Lax A is a proud member of the Tsimsian and Gitxsan People and has lived in Gitxsan Territory for almost his entire life. Hup Wil Lax A enjoys spending time on the water and land in the Skeena watershed and Pacific Ocean. His work focuses on building and maintaining relationships with individuals, organizations, communities, and Indigenous Nations across the Skeena Watershed and beyond. Kirby is deeply committed to protecting and defending the Skeena River for future generations. He is dedicated to building relationships with people from salt waters to headwaters to better understand the impacts of industrial development on our environment, food sovereignty, and human rights through the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) principles. Kirby's work has been instrumental in advancing the mission of SkeenaWild, and he continues to be a driving force behind the organization's success.

Jesse Stoeppler

Jesse Stoeppler proudly calls the Skeena Watershed home. After completing a degree in Europe he returned to start a family and raise two future leaders amongst the peaks of the beautiful Bulkley Valley. Mentored by Hereditary Chief and Matriarch Yaga'lahl (Dora B. Wilson) he embraces Gitxsan and Wet'suwet'en culture and has been actively participating in Title & Rights and Clan governance as a member of Wilp Spookwx (Lax Gibuu / Gitumden). As a Project Manager for a multi-million trust fund, Jesse was able to lead the way in establishing comprehensive community planning, land use management while creating his community's Indigenous economic development.

Sunil Singal

Prior to joining Stand as a Climate Campaigner in 2023, Sunil worked for the səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation) to support the development of land rights on reserve. His community organizing began with Force of Nature Alliance, a grassroots environmental organization based in Metro Vancouver, where he collaborated with local citizens, community leaders, and elected officials to reduce emissions and to bring about positive environmental change. Outside of work, Sunil continues to organize with various social and environmental organizations, including as director for Force of Nature Alliance and for KEATCA, a public post-secondary education endowment fund that supports individuals in Canada living below the poverty line through annual grants.

Allison Murray

While studying a Master's in Communications, Allison got her break as a newswire reporter – the first step in her decade-long career in the field of communications. Since then she's experienced nearly every angle of the communications spectrum, working as a public relations and marketing-communications practitioner at agencies in Vancouver and Miami, leading a national magazine as editor-in-chief, and working as a communications manager at the headquarters of a financial institution in Vancouver. In the past few years, Allison has also started to work with local non-profit organizations.

John Young

John Young is a B.C. Energy Transition Strategist for the David Suzuki Foundation. He holds a B.A., from Evergreen State College in International Political Economy, and attended Graduate Studies at York University in Political Science. His primary areas of expertise these days are in strategic communications, writing, political strategy, climate advocacy, social justice, and organic farming. He loves to work on his land, grow all of his family's food, forage mushrooms and fish with gratitude, and spend time with both human and four-legged family.

Emily Lowan

Emily Lowan (she/her) is the Fossil Fuel Supply Lead for Climate Action Network Canada, residing on unceded Tiohtià:ke territories in so-called Montréal. Emily focusses on strategic direction and convening to put a strong cap on oil and gas emissions and push-back against false solutions like LNG and Pathways Alliance. Over the past seven years, Emily has been embedded in the climate justice movement, leading successful divestment and electoral campaigns, investigative research initiatives, grassroot direct action and legislative advocacy.

Britt Runeckles

Britt is a passionate advocate for climate action and a strong believer in the power of pension funds to play a leading role in the transition to a zero-carbon economy. A graduate of the University of British Columbia, their experience in Climate activism started with campaigning on university divestment and reinvestment campaigns. At Shift, Britt is responsible for tracking the climate commitments of Western Canada pension funds and building a network of pension beneficiaries who wish to be informed about the risks that climate change poses to their retirement fund.

Shawn Smith

Shawn (they/them) is a Staff Lawyer at WCEL supporting both the Access to Justice and Revitalizing Indigenous Law for Land, Air and Water (RELAW) teams at West Coast Environmental Law. They are a white settler of mixed Western European ancestry, who was born and raised in the territory of the Aamjiwnaang people on a small farm near Sarnia, Ontario. Originally shaped by the experience of growing up next-door to Sarnia's Chemical Valley, Shawn is particularly focused on the effects of extractive industries on the health and rights of Indigenous and settler communities, the land, waters, and beings beyond human. They have a BA from the University of Guelph (2013) and graduated in 2022 with the inaugural cohort of the Joint Canadian Common Law and Indigenous Legal Orders program at the University of Victoria (JD/JID).

Alida Morris

Alida (she/her/hers) is WCEL's Access to Justice Program Manager. In this role, she offers complementary non-legal supports to individuals, non-profit organizations and First Nations who contact West Coast for summary legal advice or who receive funding for environmental legal work. Alida is a settler of mixed Chinese Caribbean, Dutch and Anglo-Canadian ancestry who was born and spent most of her life in Toronto, the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee, the Wendat, the Anishnaabe and the Mississaugas of the Credit peoples. Her work has been focused on advancing social justice by supporting people experiencing marginalization to navigate settler-colonial systems and take greater control of their lives.

Hazel Thayer

Hazel Thayer is a climate communicator, video creator, and former amateur stand up comedian. She uses her platforms on Instagram, Tiktok and Youtube to dispel Big Oil disinformation, and explain the nitty-gritty of environmental economics accessibly, and hopefully, entertainingly. You can find her wherever you find your videos under the username @hazelisonline.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING

ASK ME ANYTHING!

FORWARD! is going to feature an incredible line up of experienced trainers and facilitators, and subject matter experts. To help deepen our connections and expand our understanding, we've asked them to stick around over the weekend and make some informal slots available to meet with you (yes you!). Check out their workshop or panel, and then book a slot with them to keep the conversation going.

You can find their availability and sign up at the registration table throughout the weekend.

ART SPACE

FORWARD! is going to be exciting – and stimulating. Head to the art space to get your hands dirty with some constructively creative activities to fight back against climate chaos.

There will be some art-based workshops offered in this space throughout the weekend, and it will be open in between these sessions for those that want to practice their art-based activism.

If you are looking to take some materials for rallies and future actions back home with you, please let *FORWARD!* organizers know, so we can make sure to co-create some over the course of the weekend.

ACTION GROUPS

We are welcoming participation from existing groups, teams and collectives, as well as those new to climate and social justice organizing at *FORWARD!* An important goal for the weekend is to connect participants with one another and with networks in their community to support more people to take action for a fossil fuel free future.

If you're already part of a local group, and/or are traveling with other people, you may wish to meet up beforehand to plan how to get the most out of the weekend. If not, we will be hosting action planning meetings on the Sunday for participants to get together and make plans for how they want to use the skills and inspiration they have gained over the weekend to make plans for the coming months.

COMMUNITY AGREEMENTS

We want to make sure we are curating a brave space at *FORWARD!* that fosters safety and participation from, and for, all attendees. To that end, we are encouraging participants to abide by some community agreements. If you have agreements you would like to contribute that would help you to participate in the weekend, we'd love to hear from you. Please send suggestions to frackfree2024@gmail.com

Together, We Know A Lot

Try to meet people where they are at, understanding that not everyone is coming with the same level of experience or knowledge.

Take Space, Make Space

If you are often the first to speak, leave room for others. Usually the observer? Your contributions have value, try to speak up.

Ask For What You Need, Offer What You Can

Be Curious & Respectful

Not everyone shares the same perspective on issues we all care about. Try to be curious rather than judgemental about others' opinions.

Take the Wisdom, Leave the Names

This is a space for sharing, try to respect the privacy of those who may share personal experiences for the education of others.

Listen to Understand, Rather Than Respond



JOIN US ON SLACK

CONTACT US

Email

FrackFree2024@gmail.com

Website

frackfreebc.ca