

8:15 Registration
8:45 Welcome
9:00-9:50 Presenters
1 The Power of Self-Advocates
2 On Barriers
3 The Power of Community
9:50-11:00 Workshop 1 (pick one)
1A Trauma & Mental Health
1B Human Rights
11:00-11:15 Coffee Break
11:15-12:25 Workshop 2 (pick one)
2A Sec. 11 & Advocating to SDs
2B Sexual Health
2C IEPs & Language Matters
12:25-1:20 Lunch
1:10-1:20 Door Prizes
1:20-1:40 Start with Strengths
1:40-2:50 Workshop 3 (pick one)
3A Strategies for School Refusal
3B Discussion on Class Action
3C Inclusive Education
2:50-3:05 Coffee Break
3:05-4:35 Student Self-Advocate Panel
4:35-4:40 Final Announcements

### The Power of Self-Advocates

**Conrad Tyrkin** of **BC People First**

**Conrad** is a Board member of BC People First (BCPF), a self-advocate organization run by self-advocates for self-advocates. Conrad is a powerful speaker, using his voice at conferences, city councils and schools. He will be talking about BCPF, the benefits of being part of a group and why being a self-advocate is so important to him.

### On Barriers

**Micaela Evans**

**Micaela** is a 23 year old disabled woman with Spinal Muscular Atrophy, who has spent her life advocating for her needs since before graduating high school and moving across the province for University. She is passionate about intersectional feminism and activism, specifically on issues of disability policy and sexual health. Micaela currently works in the nonprofit sector with a disability organization as a Communications and Events Coordinator. In her spare time you can always find Micaela with coffee in hand, freelance writing or binge watching a new tv show.



### The Power of Community

**Nicole Kaler**

**Nicole** has 3 school aged children in the Surrey School District. After her eldest child's Autism diagnosis, Nicole dedicated herself to becoming a career parent committed to the caregiving and advocacy required to support her daughter. Nicole is currently focused on the volunteerism and community activism that can leverage the experience and knowledge that she has acquired in the process of securing her daughter's right to an education. Her efforts have included advocacy from the classroom, utilising every political level, and ultimately the Human Rights complaint at the Tribunal. Nicole wishes to use her experiences to empowered parents and challenge our education system so that all children have an equitable opportunity and a safe and healthy experience in BC public schools.



## WORKSHOP 1

### Trauma & Mental Health (Workshop 1A)

**Theresa Grech** of **TMG Consulting**

Trauma and Sensory integration: looking at it from a trauma informed and neurodevelopmental lens

Children who experienced trauma early on in life, live with neurodevelopmental effects where sequential brain development is disrupted, causing an instinctive response of being alert and fearful. For those children born with sensory integration disorders, we see similar instinctive reactions to everyday life from early on. Was it sensory integration disorders that made the person more vulnerable to trauma or early trauma that disrupted the normal development of the mechanisms for sensory integration? Regardless of which came first, each impact the other significantly and a better understanding of the overlap between the two and what more recent research is telling us, can help us as parents and professionals to more effectively address the child whose brain development has been disrupted not allowing them to properly integrate their sensory experience.

**Theresa** works with neurodiverse individuals, caregivers and families in the capacity of counsellor, behavioural therapist, and educator. She has a Master's in Counselling, is a Certified Psychiatric Rehabilitation Practitioner, and is registered with the Canadian Counselling Psychotherapy Association. She operates a private counselling practice called TMG Consulting in Vancouver that specializes in the provision of counselling, behavioural, and education in the areas of neurodevelopmental disorders, complex behavioural concerns, and brain health.

OR

### Human Rights (Workshop 1B)

**Laura Track** of **Community Legal Assistance Society**

This workshop will cover human rights legislation in BC and the process of making a human rights complaint. We will look at case studies and real-world examples involving students and schools, and have small and large-group discussions where participants identify potential discrimination, discuss possible legal arguments, and ask questions.

**Laura** is a human rights lawyer and the Director of Education in CLAS's Human Rights Clinic. She advocates on behalf of people who have experienced discrimination and assists complainants to navigate BC's human rights process. Laura also has a strong interest in making legal knowledge accessible. She delivers workshops and presentations to a wide variety of audiences to help people understand their human rights and comply with their legal obligations.

Laura earned her law degree from UBC in 2006, and holds a Masters in International Human Rights Law from Oxford University.

