

Speaker Bios:

Melina Laboucan-Massimo - Melina Laboucan-Massimo is Lubicon Cree from Northern Alberta. Melina is the Founder of Sacred Earth Solar and Co-founder and Healing Justice Director at Indigenous Climate Action. Melina is the inaugural fellow at the David Suzuki Foundation where her research focused on Climate Change, Indigenous Knowledge and Renewable Energy. She is the host of a new TV series called Power to the People which profiles renewable energy in Indigenous communities across the country. Melina holds a Master's degree in Indigenous Governance at the University of Victoria with a focus on Renewable Energy. As a part of her master's thesis Melina implemented a 20.8 kW solar project in her home community of Little Buffalo which powers the health center in the heart of the tar sands. Melina also works on the issue of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women after the suspicious death of her sister Bella whose case still remains unsolved.

Harsha Walia - Harsha Walia is a South Asian activist and writer based in Vancouver, unceded Coast Salish Territories. She has been involved in community-based grassroots migrant justice, feminist, anti-racist, Indigenous solidarity, anti-capitalist, Palestinian liberation, and anti-imperialist movements, including No One is Illegal and Women's Memorial March Committee. She is formally trained in law and is the award-winning author of Undoing Border Imperialism (2013) and Border and Rule: Global Migration, Capitalism, and the Rise of Racist Nationalism (2021). She is also the co-author, with Carol Muree Martin, of the Red Women Rising: Indigenous Women Survivors in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside (2019) report for the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre where she worked for many years. In 2020 Harsha took on the role of the Executive Director for the BC Civil Liberties Association. She resigned from this role in the summer of 2021 after she was subjected to vicious campaign of racist backlash for statements that she made on her personal twitter account expressing outrage and solidarity with Indigenous survivors of residential schools after the widely reported exposure of unmarked graves at residential school sites across Turtle Island.