

Inspiring Women Among Us 2020

BOOKS OF INFLUENCE

Joyce Henley

NOVEMBER 18 12:00PM - 1:30PM

A book panel with community discussion and a compilation of inspiring books. Come ready to listen, participate, and to suggest a book or two! Moderated by Catherine Hansen (CBC)

> **ACCESS ONLINE:** bit.ly/iwau-2020

ACCESS ONLINE: bit.ly/iwau-2020



Join Rosemary Wardley (National Geographic) for this joint NRESi Colloquim:

Mapping in a Man's World-Amazing Tales of Feminist and Queer Mapping Adventures in a Male Dominated Field



National Day of Remembrance

2020 Report

Zoë A. Meletis Annie Pumphrey Annie Booth Brenda Clotildes



ZR

CLAIMING

SPACES

堂

The Prince George
Public Librar

Inspiring Women Among Us featuring

come to discuss. Youth welcome!

My Prairie Hon Film Discussion

Gather to discuss th about musician Rae Hosted by GenderO

Please watch filr



SHARING POWER NOW! DIVERSIFYING LEADERSHIP

eractive reading and workshop mpts and texts. Engage with y and come out with a piece of iting of your very own.

bit.ly/iwau-2020



NOV. 23 9:00-10:30AM



12:00PM - 1:30PM

A book panel with community discussion Come ready to listen, participate, and to suggest a book or two! Moderated by

and a compilation of inspiring books. Catherine Hansen (CBC) Mapping in a Man's W Tales of Feminist Mapping Adventure Dominated

Colloquir



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS, SPONSORS, DONORS, SPEAKERS, AND PARTICIPANTS!







Welcome

"IN ORDER TO HEAR OTHERS, YOU SHOULD BE SILENT"
-URSULA GUIN

"CARING FOR MYSELF IS NOT SELF-INDULGENCE, IT IS A SELF-"CARING FOR MYSELF IS NOT SELF-INDULGENCE, IT IS A SELF-"CARING FOR MYSELF IS NOT SELF-INDULGENCE, IT IS A SELF-"CARING FOR MYSELF IS NOT SELF-INDULGENCE, IT IS A SELF-"PRESERVATION AND THAT IS AN ACT OF POLITICAL WARFARE"

-AUDRE LORDE

The quotes above represent two reasons we thought it important to persevere and host IWAU 2020. Moving to an all-online format due to COVID-19 restrictions, we ceded space for important voices and cared for ourselves and others. The Black Lives Matter movement at home and in the US and the ongoing work from Indigenous leaders and scholars in Canada stress the importance of representation, understanding, and investment in true change. We focused on listening to and learning from such voices, with an eye to diversifying leadership. The 2020 US election, among other events, showed us how much this kind of gathering and conversation is needed by illustrating that sexism, misogyny, racism, and white supremacy are all alive and well and seeking to prevent underrepresented voices from gaining power. All of this made our 2020 theme **Sharing Power Now! Diversifying Leadership** quite timely.

We host IWAU in defiance of the cultural pressures to sit, smile, and behave. In this difficult year, we achieved our usual goal of bringing people together in the community, to learn from and to celebrate women and other members of underrepresented groups. We are particularly grateful for the contributions from transgendered community members and Indigenous speakers every year. We offer support and solidarity in working towards an improved understanding of gender relations and equity.

We did not know exactly what to expect when moving to an online series of events (Nov. 18-25) but we are pleased with the outcomes and feedback. We are sorry that we did not succeed in reaching some of our regular and long term participants, however. We also know that COVID-19 has been particularly hard on women, especially women of colour, and we respect that some people were simply unable to attend given additional burdens.

Some IWAU things were the same as usual: with support from 11 community partners, we hosted 22 events (schedule on page 13); hundreds of people participated (over 360); invited guests responded positively to invitations and events; we shared space together and discussed persistent barriers and challenges faced by girls, women, and others. We also continued our growing focus on intersectional feminism; we addressed unconventional topics and offered diverse activities, politely pushed the limits of partner organizations and their practices; we enjoyed beautiful posters and insightful questions from students and others in our midst, and we were recognized with another Official City Proclamation.

Some things were quite different this year. For one, Brenda Clotildes took on more of an organizational leadership position (thank you, Brenda!). We also received outstanding technical support from UNBC's Centre for Teaching, Learning, and Technology (thank you Grant and Jacquelyn!), and most attendees seem to access sessions with relative ease. We welcomed participants from further afield thanks to technology (e.g. MB; ON; NY; OH; DC). And, although we could not gather and socialize in person (such a loved part of IWAU, with informal access to participants and invited guests), we ran coffee/tea tabs at 5 local businesses, hoping to warm bellies and souls pre/post events. Online hosting also offers the potential to share more event-related resources thanks to special guests/speakers, CFUR Radio, Global Fridays, and NRESi. We are working on posting links to resulting talks, videos, and notes. Please see iwau.ca for updates.

All in all, IWAU was not too shabby! It still managed to draw people together, to energize during a dark/hard time of year, and to offer community and inspiration. And as usual, it was **the people, not the platform** that made IWAU 2020 a success. **BIG THANKS** to all of those who made it possible, again. We particularly thank Dr. Annie Booth who may simply join as a participant next fall, since she will be on sabbatical. We look forward to seeing you all next time!



OUR FIRST EXPERIENCE HOSTING A VIRTUAL EVENT!



Taking a look at IWAU 2020



free events were offered. including workshops. lectures, discussions, and online community gatherings.



>364

number of attendances from across North America including Ontario, New York State, and Manitoba.



led events and they were all members of under-represented groups

COMMUNITY **PARTNERS**

were integral to the success of IWAU 2020









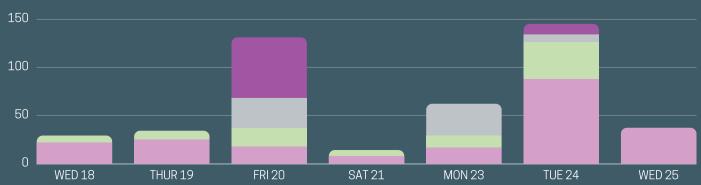
STUDENTS

gained valuable experience through volunteer and paid positions.

LOCAL BUSINESSES

were supported through our coffee and tea tabs including The Makerie, Uda Dune Baiyo (The House of Ancestors), NUGSS' Degrees @ UNBC. Zoe's Java House and Café Voltaire

ATTENDANCE AT SESSIONS



"I really enjoyed the conversations (...) in both workshops. I think the world of your community. You all make things happen; you all get things done."

-Shawna Dempsey, internationally renowned artist and Co-Director of Mentoring Artists for Women's Art (Winnipeg). She gave two mentorship-related workshops at IWAU 2020.

The lecture I attended for IWAU was fascinating. That GIS specialist from National Geographic was hyper-talented and very modest...

-Hugues Massicotte, retired UNBC Professor

I just wanted to say that I attended the Imposter Syndrome webinar yesterday and it was AMAZING! The facilitator was really dynamic and it was incredibly engaging for a webinar. Thank you for sharing.

-**Emily Duncan**, at the University of Guelph



IWAU's social media and web presence increased substantially for the 2020 event, including the building of a new website and social media plan.

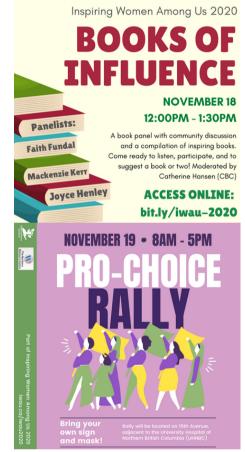
Review of Events

Memorable moments, questions raised, and ideas forwarded during IWAU 2020

IWAU 2020 kicked off in an unusual way with a live welcome to the traditional and unceded territory of the **Lheidli T'enneh**, led by **Elder Darlene MacIntosh** being interrupted by a fire drill. We took it as good luck! Thank you to Annie and Darlene for putting up with the interruption.

Local CBC personalities **Faith Fundal** and **Catherine Hansen**, alongside community members **Mackenzie Kerr**and **Joyce Henley**, fired up IWAU 2020 with a lively panel
about **Books of Influence**, co-hosted with the **Prince George Public Library**, giving us all ideas for books to read.

Over 25 people braved the cold outdoors for another great **Northern Women's Centre Pro-Choice rally** near our local hospital. Signs were held, fun was had, and we received lots of supportive honks.





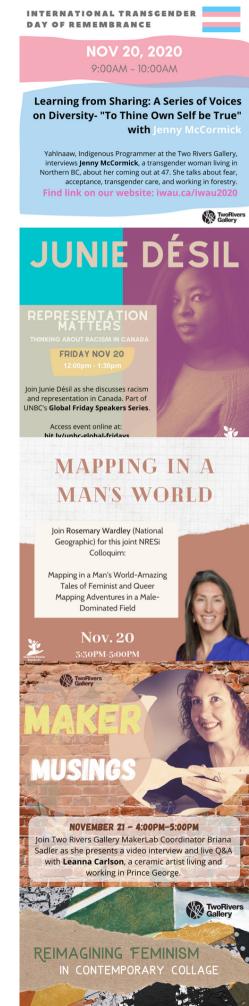
Gender Outlines' Bryn Hanks, and Two Rivers Gallery's Yahlnaaw created 3 events to help mark the 2020 International Transgender Day of Remembrance. These included a podcast-related Q&A, a ceremony and discussion about transgender safety, and a film-related discussion. (NFB film My Prairie Home about non-binary Canadian musician Rae Spoon).

Poet **Junie Désil** reminded us in her Global Fridays talk that a commitment to anti-racism work requires investments in initiatives, supports, leadership training, and mentorship. It also entails creating space for BIPOC-led committees and adequately compensating BIPOC members for their time. She delivered an excellent talk on racism in Canada, and a writing workshop.

Rosemary Wardley, Senior Cartographer at National Geographic, took us on queer and feminist mapping adventures, where we learned about the Lesbian Herstory Archives, outgoingnyc.com, and @GeoChicasOSM. Her talk was attended by more than 60 people tuning in from locations across and well beyond northern BC.

Via a **Two Rivers Gallery**-hosted event, local ceramicist **Leanna Carlson** taught us about the process of digging and drying your own clay (it takes about two years to cure!), as well as showcasing the various types of throwing and glazing she has used in her decades-long career.

Sara Knelman, the new Executive Director of **Two Rivers Gallery** introduced us to the world of collage and collage-inspired art as feminist social commentary.



Elaine Alec, author, Indigenous planner and Founding member of **Alderhill Planning**, read from her powerful book **Calling My Spirit Back**, and asked "Where do you find your strength?" She shared stories of her struggles and successes, and reminded us that "knowledge is no good if you don't share it."

Shawna Dempsey, successful artist and **MAWA**-based mentoring expert, reminded us of key roles mentors can play as well as assets and strategies they can bring. She invited us to try our hands at role-playing mentors and mentees and to reflect on what makes a good mentor.

Members of Claiming Spaces met online with Mayor Lyn Hall and UNBC Acting President Dr. Geoff Payne to discuss the project's video resources (primarily aimed at youth), the process, and possible expansions. Claiming Spaces is a collaborative project between IWAU and The City of Prince George, with funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. We hired two talented graduate students (Penina Harding and Annie Pumphrey) during the summer of 2020. See their work at iwau.ca/claimingspaces.

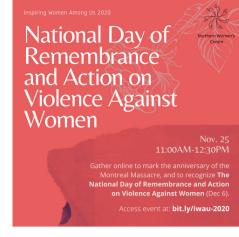
Carla Wainwright of **Chinook Yoga** led a group through chair yoga moves, reconnecting us with our bodies and reminding us that even stretching in our chairs can bring joy, inspiration, and re-connection with our bodies.

PGPIRG's Dara Campbell and Mindy Gobbi (UNBC

Recruitment) contributed material on intersectional identities, racism, and feminism to a special IWAU podcast. It was an episode of **The Abstract** (thank you Kristen and Jeremy!), a podcast featured on **CFUR** and other listening platforms (Spotify; Apple podcast store). The (free) episode also features a winning segment on beauty standards, from 1st year UNBC student **Nadia Mansour** who won the IWAU 2020 podcast contest run by Dara and Mindy.



Sarah Boyd, Executive Director of the Northern Women's Centre, successfully led the first online Prince George commemorative ceremony for the National Day of Remembrance of and Action on Violence Against Women (and the Montreal Massacre), on Nov. 25, with help from many memorable speakers, students, and other special guests.



Connections with Local Businesses and Partners

Inspiring Women Among Us always aims to invest in social/community aspects during our events and to reach out to local businesses as possible. As part of the 2020 events, we paid for coffee/tea tabs at the following local businesses: Books and Company's Café Voltaire; The Makerie; Una Dene Baiyo/House of Ancestors; and NUGGS' Degrees @ UNBC; and Zoe's Java House.

IWAU 2020 media partner The Jim Pattison Broadcasting Group was integral to our success, and we are also grateful for coverage received from CBC Radio, CFIS Radio, CFUR Radio, CKPG TV, and Prince George Matters.

Our major partners most years since 2015 have been UNBC and the City of Prince George. We are so grateful for their ongoing support. This year there were IWAU flag raisings in both places and it was, by City Proclamation, IWAU Sharing Power Now! Week between Nov. 18-25th, 2020. We thank The Social Sciences and Humanities Council of Canada for funding in prior years.

Other community partners who contributed to our 2020 success and to other years are the Global Friday colloquium at UNBC; the Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Institute; The Northern Women's Centre; PGPIRG; The Prince George Public Library; Two Rivers Gallery; and CFUR (who live broadcast several events). We would also like to thank The Centre for Teaching, Learning, and Technology at UNBC for providing us with our tiny url and Jacquelyn, our amazing online tech support person.



November 18 -25, 2020 is proclaimed as "Inspiring Women Among Us Week" in the City of Prince George, whereas:

Inspiring Women Among Us (IWAU) aims to extend community-based discussions and actions with respect to reducing violence against women, and improving gender relations beyond important one day events and commemorative ceremonies typically held in recognition of Dec. 6th: our National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

IWAU is meant to both celebrate the achievements of women and girls, but also to draw attention to persistent gender-related inequities in our society, via offering an accessible and inclusive community-oriented series of free talks, workshops, panels, activities, films, and discussions to all interested in attending.

These events will present us with opportunities to reflect upon and address persistent barriers to access and success for women and girls as well as other underrepresented groups, for the benefit of society as a whole.

The City of Prince George supports the notion of power sharing across genders, as well as opportunities and accolades made for female leadership, and recognizes the expertise and contributions made by all members of society. The City and IWAU believe in promoting increased equity for the betterment of society.

Proclaimed by Mayor Lyn Hall

IWAU Awards

We work hard to keep Inspiring Women Among Us a free event and to provide accessible resources. For those who are interested in financially contributing to IWAU, we direct funding towards the **IWAU Student Award** at UNBC.

The **IWAU Student Award** is a non-academic award given to self-identifying women pursuing a degree at UNBC. Every year, the award is over-subscribed, and we receive applications from incredible women with heartbreaking stories about financial barriers and tough choices. Four awards of \$1000 each were awarded to deserving students in 2020/21.

Please consider donating. Find out more about IWAU Awards at **iwau.ca/iwau-awards**. We welcome individual donors and are currently looking for corporate sponsors.







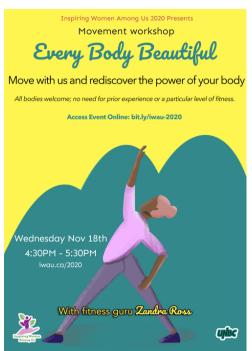


>\$36,000

has been raised to date

Visit unbc.ca/giving and choose "Inspiring Women Among Us Award"





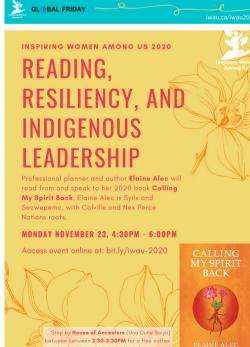




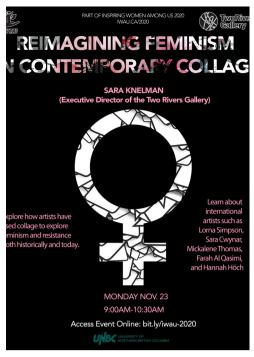




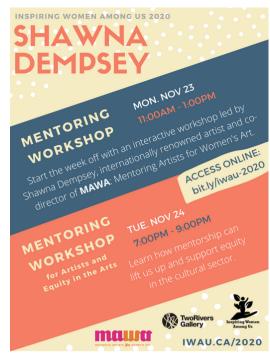




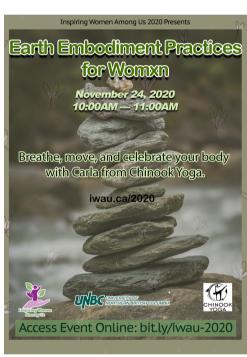
















National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

Gather online to mark the anniversary of the Montreal Massacre, and to recognize The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women (Dec 6).

Nov. 25
11:00AM-12:30PM
Access event at bit.ly/lwau-2020

Most posters for IWAU 2020 were designed by students Cassidy Thi My Huynh (College of New Caledonia) and Annie Pumphrey (UNBC) Presented by Inspiring Women Among Us

Nov 18-25



bit.lv/iwau-2020

All events are in Pacific Standard Time

Global Fridays Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Institute

GPI Prince George Public Library

GO Gender Outlines

IRG PG Public Interest Research Group AB The Abstract Podcast

CFUR 88.7 FM

TRG Two Rivers Gallery The Northern Women's Centre

TUE NOV 17

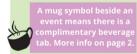
11:30 A M Flag Raising City Proclamation for IWAU and flag raising at City of Prince George and UNBC

WED NOV 18

12:00PM - 1:30PM **Books of Influence** A Canada Reads-style panel, with community discussion and a compilation of inspiring books PGPL

4:30PM - 5:30PM **Every Body Beautiful** A movement workshop with fitness and lifestyle guru

Zandra Ross.



THUR NOV 19

8:00AM - 5:00PM **Pro-Choice Rally** Socially distanced rally—bring own sign & mask. Meet at 15th Avenue, adjacent to the University Hospital of Northern British Columbia

12:00PM - 1:00PM **Chair Yoga** Join Carla from Chinook Yoga, and learn how to find time and space to move your body and (re)focus.

CFUR Podcast Winner IWAU's Podcast winner goes

live on CFUR (88.7 FM) PGPIRG AB CFUR

International Transgender

FRI NOV 20

9:00AM - 10:00AM **Podcast Release** Learning from Sharing: A Series of Voices on Diversity. Interview rrg with Jenny McCormick.

10:30AM - 11:45AM Ceremony & Discussion

on Transgender safety. GO 12:00PM - 1:30PM

Representation Matters Join poet Junie Désil on 'Thinking ور About Racism in Canada'

3:30PM - 5:00PM Mapping in a Man's World Rosemary Wardley: 'Amazing Tales of Feminist and Oueer Mapping: Adventures in a Male dominated Field' NRESi

7:00PM - 9:00PM My Prairie Home Talk Watch the film about Rae Spoon at nfb.ca & come to discuss!

GO

SAT NOV 21

1:00PM - 2:30PM **Creative Writing** Workshop Led by Junie Désil

4:00PM - 5:30PM **Maker Musings** Live Q&A with ceramicist Leanna Carlson. Pre-watch video on Two Rivers Gallery socials & come to discuss

SUN NOV 22

DAY OF FEMINIST REST AND RESTURATION









- ALL GENDERS WELCOME -

DIVERSIFYING LEADERSHIP

Nov 18-25



Presented by Inspiring Women Among Us /

bit.ly/iwau-2020

All events are in Pacific Standard Time

GF Global Fridays

NRESi Natural Resources and
Environmental Studies Institute

Prince George Public Library

GO Gender Outlines PGPIRG PG Public Interest Research Group

B The Abstract Podcast

CFUR 88.7 FM TRG Two Rivers Gallery

The Northern Women's Centre

MON NOV 23

9:00AM - 10:30AM

Reimagining Feminism in Contemporary Collage

Sara Knelman of Two Rivers Gallery tells us about how artists have used collage to explore feminism and resistance.

11:00AM - 1:00PM **Mentoring Workshop** Start the week off with an interactive workshop led by Shawna Dempsey, internationally renowned artist and mentoring expert

TRG

4:30PM - 6:30PM Reading, Resiliency, and Indigenous Leadership

Professional planner and author Elaine Alec presents her 2020 book Calling My Spirit Back.

TUE NOV 24

10:00AM - 11:00AM **Earth Embodiment Practices for Womxn** Celebrate your body with Carla from Chinook Yoga.

11:30AM - 12:30PM **PGPL Feminist Storytime**

Find event at PGPL facebook.com/pglibrary

12:00PM - 1:30PM Imposter Syndrome: **Sharing Stories & Strategies**

Led by life coach Zandra Ross.

5:30PM - 6:30PM **Claiming Spaces**

Watch videos at iwau.ca & come to discuss!

7:00PM - 9:00PM **Mentoring Workshop** Workshop for artists about equity in the arts, led by Shawna Dempsey TRG

WED NOV 25

11:00AM - 12:30PM Commemorative Ceremony

Gather to mark the anniversary of the Montreal Massacre and to recognize The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women



Complimentary Tea/Coffee Tab Times & Locations:

To receive a free beverage, visit the following locations at these times and say "I'm ready to share power now!"

(ends when tab runs out)

WED. NOV 18 Cafe Voltaire 11:00AM - 12:00PM

- ALL GENDERS WELCOME -

FRI. NOV 20

House of Ancestors (Una Dune Baiyo) and Zoe's Cafe 9:30AM - 10:30AM

Degrees Coffee (UNBC) 11:00AM - 12:00PM and 2:30PM - 3:30PM

SAT. NOV 21 Zoe's Java House 12:00PM - 1:00PM The Makerie

3:00PM - 4:00PM

3:30PM

MON. NOV 23 **House of Ancestors** 11:00AM - 11:00AM and 2:30 -

TUE. NOV 24 Degrees Coffee (UNBC) and Zoe's Java House

WED. NOV 25 Degrees Coffee (UNBC) and The Makerie

11:00AM - 12:00PM

10:00AM - 11:00AM



CKPGToday.ca







FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL

INSPIRING WOMEN AMONG US