



Women Rising From Poverty: Strategies, Transformative Educational Projects, Empowering Initiatives

A UNCSW68 Parallel Event Presented by CFUW-FCFdu

March 12, 2024 | 10:30AM – 12:00PM | CCUN 10th Floor

Session Theme

Women overcoming poverty. Learn about programs in both developed and developing nations that are:

- Using technology to overcome barriers to provide accessible digital education
- Empowering women with relevant skills
- Overcoming economic abuse and supporting financial success
- Enabling full economic participation in Indigenous communities

Speakers

Meseret (Mesi) Haileyesus

Executive Director, Canadian Center for Women's Empowerment (CCFWE)

Presentation Title:

Economic Justice: Navigating Pathways to Women's Economic Safety Through Inclusive Policy

Presentation Synopsis:

The presentation focuses on the often-overlooked issue of economic abuse and injustice, with a specific emphasis on critical policy gaps for women's economic safety. We navigate through the barriers and best practices to transform policy. We dissect the roles of policymakers, financial institutions and stakeholders, and consumer lawyers in fostering resilience and forging a path toward a future free from economic injustice. Join us as we collectively strive to raise awareness and champion policies that shield individuals, especially women, from the insidious impact of economic abuse, ultimately paving the way for a universal right to financial security.

Speaker Biography:

Meseret Haileyesus is an economic justice and health equity advocate, thought leader, businesswoman, philanthropist, change-maker, and entrepreneur. She is a founder of the Canadian Centre for Women's Empowerment, with a keen interest in addressing systemic barriers and other challenges that prevent women and girls from fully realizing their human rights. She studied Midwifery and Nursing, BSc Economics, and master's in public health. She has been nominated for several awards, including Canadian Excellence in Global Women-Children's Health, RBC Entrepreneur Award, and Canadian Choice Award.



Yvonne Jones, MP

Member of Parliament for Labrador, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada

Presentation Title:

Women Rising from Poverty from a 'Northern Perspective'

Presentation Synopsis:

Women across Canada's north face unique socio-economic challenges compared to their southern counterparts, including limited employment opportunities, social services, insufficient internet access, and mobility hurdles. Furthermore, the impacts of climate change and colonialism remain evident. However, targeted programs exist that address these systemic issues, empowering women in the North to break through the ice and reach their potential.

Speaker Biography:

The Honourable Yvonne Jones was first elected as the Member of Parliament for Labrador in 2013, and she is currently Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Northern Affairs and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Defence (Northern Defence).

Ms. Jones previously served as a Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministers of Natural Resources, Northern Affairs, Intergovernmental and Northern Affairs and Internal Trade, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs, and Indigenous and Northern Affairs.

Before entering federal politics, Ms. Jones served as mayor of her hometown Mary's Harbour and was a Member of the House of Assembly of Newfoundland and Labrador for Cartwright—L'Anse au Clair for 17 years. Ms. Jones is a member of NunatuKavut Community Council and is a proud Inuit.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Heidi Yetman

President, Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF)

Presentation Title:

Using Development Cooperation Work to Improve Access, Retention, and Educational Opportunities

Presentation Synopsis:

Simameni means 'Stand Up' in Swahili and is the name of the Canadian Teachers' Federation's project aimed at improving access, retention, and educational opportunities for secondary school-aged girls in schools in Uganda. The project addresses two key drivers of poverty: lack of access to education and gender inequality. Heidi Yetman recently visited Uganda and will give a first-hand account of how Simameni works to raise girls and their families out of poverty through education.

Speaker Biography:

Heidi Yetman completed a master's in art education at Concordia University in 2018. Her thesis focused on the intersection between educator, artist and activist. In 2016, after 23 years in the classroom, she began her work in union leadership as president of her local union. Today, she is the President of the Canadian Teachers' Federation, and she is the voice for quality public education and social justice on a national level in Canada.

