



DEMOCRACY BOOTCAMP BC

THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2023

6:30 to 6:45 pm — Welcome/Opening remarks

6:45 to 8:00 pm — “Democracy in Crisis” Panel Discussion

Experts discuss current challenges to democracy, including growing divisions, distrust in institutions and disinformation and low rates of electoral participation, as well as how to address them.

- Panelists: Ahmed al-Rawi, Catherine Broom and Stewart Prest
- Moderator: Janet Webber

FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2023

8:30 am to 8:45 am — Overview & Icebreaker Activity

8:45 am to 9:25 am — Facilitating Effective Discussions

Guiding principles and approaches for building discussion-friendly classrooms.

9:30 am to 10:10 am — Perspectives and Biases

Exploring the PoliTalks program themes and activities focused on perspectives, values and biases, and strategies for fostering constructive discourse.

10:10 am to 10:20 am — BREAK

10:25 am to 11:40 am — Discussing Controversial Issues

Best practices for facilitating political discussions in the classroom, including table discussion using a Structured Academic Controversy protocol. This session will also address common challenges that can arise in discussion.

11:45 am to 12:20 pm — Voter Participation and Elections BC

Review of voter participation trends and related research, as well as outreach initiatives to engage future voters.

12:20 pm to 1:00 pm — LUNCH

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm — Panel Discussion

Current and past politicians from various parties discuss what they are observing and experiencing in the current political climate, and share insights they have about how to improve democratic engagement.

- Panelists: Jenny Kwan, The Hon. James Moore, Mary Polak and Dr. Andrew Weaver
- Moderator: Meera Bains

2:05 pm to 2:45 pm — Digital Platforms & Verification Skills

An introduction to the relationship between online information and informed citizenship, followed by a hands-on practice session using CTRL-F lateral reading skills.

2:45 pm to 3:00 pm — Closing remarks