

Democracy Bootcamp

Richmond, B.C. | February 29 - March 1, 2024



CIVIX

CIVIX would like to acknowledge that we are meeting on the traditional territories of the Stó:lō, xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), and scəw̓ aθən məsteyəxʷ (Tsawwassen) Nations.

AGENDA

Thursday, February 29

6:30 - 6:55 PM **Welcome and CIVIX Ambassador Awards**
Including opening remarks from Anton Boegman, Chief Electoral Officer of British Columbia.

6:55 - 8:00 PM **Democracy in Crisis, Panel Discussion**
Experts discuss current challenges to democracy, including growing divisions, disinformation, distrust in institutions and low rates of electoral participation, as well as strategies for how to address them.

Panelists:

- Ahmed Al-Rawi, SFU
- Maxwell Cameron, UBC
- Miriam Lapp, Elections Canada
- Paula Waatainen, VIU
- Meera Bains, CBC (moderator)

8:00 - 9:30 PM **NETWORKING RECEPTION**

Friday, March 1

7:30 - 8:25 AM **BREAKFAST**

8:30 - 8:45 AM **Introduction**
Including opening remarks by Miriam Lapp, Elections Canada.

8:45 - 8:55 AM **TABLE ACTIVITY**

8:55 - 9:55 AM

Facilitating Effective Discussions

Review of guiding principles and approaches for facilitating discussion in the classroom, along with a preview of PoliTalks resources.

10:00 - 10:15 AM

BREAK

10:15 - 10:45 AM

Democracy in a Box

Elections BC will preview its Democracy in a Box Activity Kit which explores democracy and voting – past and present – in British Columbia.

10:50 - 11:50 AM

Student Vote

An overview of the program and outcomes, followed by a preview of program resources. Teachers will have time to discuss best practices at their tables.

11:50 - 12:40 PM

LUNCH

12:40 - 1:40 PM

Digital Media Literacy Skills

An introduction to the two CTRL-F modules designed to equip students with the skills they need to find and evaluate online information.

1:45 - 2:45 PM

Political Insiders, Panel Discussion

In a special edition of the *Hotel Pacifico* political podcast, three campaign strategists share an insider's perspective from past elections and provide insights on upcoming campaigns.

Panelists:

- Kate Hammer
- Mike McDonald
- Geoff Meggs

2:50 - 3:00 PM

CLOSING REMARKS



AHMED AL-RAWI

Dr. Ahmed Al-Rawi is the Associate Professor of News, Social Media, and Public Communication at the School of Communication at Simon Fraser University. He is also the founder of the Disinformation Project. His research interests are related to news, global communication, and social media with emphasis on Canada and the Middle East. Al-Rawi is also a founding member of the Media & Digital Literacy Academy in Beirut. His new research project which is funded by an SSHRC Insight grant investigates the issues of racism and democracy from the perspective of racialized Canadian journalists, the online public, and news content, partly to understand whether racism negatively influences democracy.



MAXWELL CAMERON

Dr. Maxwell A. Cameron teaches in the Department of Political Science and the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs at UBC. He has served as the Director of the Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions, in which capacity he co-created the Institute for Future Legislators. In 2013 he was awarded a UBC Killam Teaching Prize. In 2020 Cameron was named a Distinguished Fellow by the Canadian Association of Latin American and Caribbean Studies. He was the recipient of the 2022 Guillermo O'Donnell Democracy Award and Lectureship by the Latin American Studies Association for his work on democracy in Latin America.



MIRIAM LAPP

Dr. Miriam Lapp is Senior Director, Research, Consultations and Civic Education at Elections Canada. She is responsible for the agency's stakeholder mobilization and civic education programs, as well as for research and consultation services. For much of her career, her work has focused on identifying and addressing barriers to electoral participation. Before joining Elections Canada in 2002, she was an assistant professor of political science at Western University. She holds a Ph.D. in political science from the Université de Montréal, with a specialization in electoral participation.



PAULA WAATAINEN

Dr. Paula Waatainen teaches Social Studies Methods in the Faculty of Education at Vancouver Island University. At VIU, Paula conducts research into the design of more authentic assessments of citizenship competencies, such as the ability of students to deliberate on issues. In her 21 years as a high school Social Studies teacher in SD45, Paula was committed to engaging her students directly in political processes and in powerful simulations, such as an annual cross-grade Model Parliament. She was the lead writer on the BC Political Studies 12 curriculum and represents BC on Elections Canada's Advisory Circle of Educators.



MEERA BAINS

Meera Bains is a provincial affairs reporter working for CBC news based in Victoria and Vancouver. She has been with CBC for 17 years and part of an award winning news team and has worked for the CBC's national network news. She has covered federal, provincial, and municipal elections. She grew up in Kamloops, BC and has worked for Omni's multicultural channel as a TV producer before she decided to become a front line reporter.



MIKE MCDONALD

Mike is a lifelong British Columbian. He has worked extensively in BC politics for premiers Gordon Campbell and Christy Clark, whom he served as Chief of Staff in the Premier Office and campaign director for her re-election in 2013. Today, Mike is a partner and Chief Strategy Officer at Kirk & Co, one of Canada's leading communications and public engagement firms.

**KATE HAMMER**

Kate Hammer has nearly 20 years' experience in public policy, advocacy, social impact and communications. She is the Vice President of Engagement at Vancouver Foundation, where she oversees teams leading learning, evaluation, communications, marketing and advocacy work. She started her career as a reporter covering breaking news for the New York Times and the Globe and Mail, winning awards for her feature writing and investigative work, and later served a senior advisor to the former Premier of Ontario.

**GEOFF MEGGS**

Geoff Meggs has decades of experience at the provincial and municipal level in B.C., both as an elected official and at the senior executive level. He was appointed chief of staff to Premier John Horgan in 2017 and remained in that post until Horgan retired from provincial politics in 2022. Before that, Geoff served three terms as a member of Vancouver City Council, where he chaired various city committees and represented the city on the Board of Metro Vancouver. He held a range of senior communications roles in the labour movement, worked as chief of staff to Vancouver Mayor Larry Campbell, served as executive director of the B.C. Federation of Labour, and as communications director to Premier Glen Clark. The author of several books about B.C. fisheries and politics, Geoff lives in Vancouver.

Thank you to our partners for their
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C·I·V·I·X

civix.ca

CIVIX is a non-partisan registered Canadian charity dedicated to strengthening democracy through experiential civic education. CIVIX programming focuses on elections, government budgets, elected representatives, digital media literacy and constructive discourse.

STUDENT VOTE

studentvote.ca

Student Vote aims to build a habit of electoral participation. Coinciding with general elections, students learn about government and democracy, and cast ballots for their official local candidates.

poli**talks**

politalks.ca

PolITalks supports educators in bringing political discussions to the classroom. Resources and tools are designed to help students practice active listening, perspective-taking, and respectful self-expression skills, and build relevant contextual awareness.



Digital media literacy

ctrl-f.ca

Named for the keyboard shortcut for 'find,' CTRL-F is an evidence-based program that equips students with skills to research and evaluate online information and to determine what to trust.



repday.ca

Rep Day connects students with their elected representatives for a virtual or in-person meeting. Rep Day aims to help students develop a better understanding of and sense of trust in the people and institutions within our democracy.



**STUDENT
BUDGET
CONSULTATION**

budgetconsultation.ca

The Student Budget Consultation combines civic education and financial literacy. Students learn about budgeting, examine the government's revenue and expenses, and explore current issues and political perspectives, before offering their own opinions on the upcoming federal budget.



504-639 Queen St W
Toronto, ON M5V 2B7

www.civix.ca
1-866-488-8775
hello@civix.ca