



MARCH 2020 MONTRÉAL | TORONTO | VANCOUVER

Building Connected Communities

Montréal, Toronto and Vancouver are celebrated as some of the most diverse cities in the world and are advancing what it means to function as vibrant inclusive societies.

Diversity plays a key role in the quality of life and global strength of our cities, which is why these three events are essential to contributing to promoting diversity in these communities.



About Equitas

Based in Montreal, Equitas is Canada's oldest and most active human rights education organization. We work for the advancement of equality, inclusion and respect for human dignity through transformative human rights education programs.

With the strong support from government for over 25 years and from leading corporations in Canada, our programs create positive social change at home and around the world.

By the numbers

10 Indigenous communities reached across Canada

54 communities reached across Canada

140 countries where human rights defenders participate in our programs

16 600 followers on social media

250 000 children and youth reached through our programs in Quebec

1 070 000 children and youth reached through our programs in Canada

4 000 000 people reached through our programs around the world

The Events

Montréal — March 25, 2020
Toronto — March 26, 2020
Vancouver — March 30, 2020

#EquiTalks

Equitas' annual events, or EquiTalks, under the theme of Building Connected Communities, bring together over 100 leaders from the corporate, philanthropic, academic and community sectors in different cities to meet and share lessons learned on building more equitable and inclusive communities.

The events offer guests an opportunity to engage in a moderated discussion with our guest speaker and hear from a diverse panel, following a period for cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and networking.



Roundtable Discussions

Exclusive roundtable discussions are held prior to the public events with our guest speaker and thought leaders in the field of diversity and inclusion. Be one of a select few to join in a discussion with our guest speaker and gain a unique perspective on human rights issues and contribute to the conversation.

Participants in our roundtable discussions work in diverse sectors: we have had important participants from civil society and the public sector, including an Indigenous Grand Chief and a City Counsellor, as well as leaders from the corporate sector working at the forefront of diversity and inclusion initiatives at corporations such as TD and RBC. In addition, trailblazing academics and leaders in the community sector take part in the discussions, creating an environment rich in thought-provoking dialogue and cross-sector collaboration.



- Strategies
- More vocal, being allies and speaking out
 - Speaking up for values
 - Building a shield of resilience
 - deconstruct cultural rules + stereotypes
 - negotiating safe spaces, ie different audiences in different social media
 - Be aware, speak up & judge if I am safe
 - Fight against affirmation bias
Get it out different

Our Guest of Honor

Victor Madrigal-Borloz is the United Nations Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. He assesses the implementation of international human rights law, raises awareness, engages in dialogue with all relevant stakeholders, and provides advisory services, technical assistance, capacity-building to help address violence and discrimination against persons on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

From 2013 to 2016, Mr. Madrigal-Borloz was a member of the UN Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture and oversaw a draft policy on the torture and ill-treatment of LGBTI persons.

“There are 2 billion people that live in environments where homosexuality has been criminalized, and whoever is born an LGBT person will be born a criminal, due to factors that are not under her or his control and have to do simply with who they are and who they love.

My dream is to see a world free of criminalization of same-sex relations by 2030.”

– Victor Madrigal-Borloz



Our Past Guests of Honor

Over the years, Equitas has hosted important figures in human rights and women's rights, including:

- **Alaa Murabit** – United Nations High-Level Commissioner on Health Employment & Economic Growth, Canadian Meritorious Service Cross recipient and one of 17 Global Sustainable Development Goal Advocates appointed by the UN Secretary General
- **Alice Nderitu** – renowned armed conflict mediator and recipient of the Global Pluralism Award
- **Rita Izsák-Ndiaye** – former United Nations Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues and presently Chair of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- **Michelle Bachelet** – United Nations High-Commissioner for Human Rights and the first female president of Chile



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