

February 10, 2025

UN Expert and Environment Experts to Speak in Montreal

Montreal, QC— With the attacks on the human rights system of the last few weeks, we reaffirm the critical importance of addressing pressing issues through a human rights lens. [Equitas](#), Canada's leading human rights education organization, is hosting Astrid Puentes Riaño, the UN Expert on Human Rights and Environment and other environment experts including Laure Waridel and Melissa Mollen Dupuis to Speak in Montreal to explore the powerful intersection of human rights and the right to a healthy environment. The event **EquiTalks: Connecting Climate Justice and Human Rights for a Just Future** will take place on February 13, 2025.

"Over the past decades, the climate crisis has caused escalating harm worldwide, disproportionately impacting marginalized communities and exacerbating human rights violations." said Odette McCarthy, Executive Director at Equitas. "Despite the challenges we face, there are numerous positive actions, projects, programs, laws, and court decisions that are fostering the changes we need. This is what we must learn about and replicate" added Astrid Puentes Riaño.

Event Details

Date: February 13, 2025

Location: Salle Polyvalente at Bell Canada - 1050 Beaver Hall Hill, Montreal

Networking session: 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm EST and **panel discussion** from 6:30 pm to 8 pm EST.

The event will feature **Astrid Puentes Riaño** (UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment), **Laure Waridel** (Ph.D., Ecosociologist and Associate Professor at UQÀM), **Melissa Mollen Dupuis** (Radio host, activist, environmentalist and member of the Innu nation of Ekuanitshit – Mingan), **Marie-Denise Douyon** (Visual artist), **Mehramat Kaur** (Slam artist). The event will be moderated by **Elysia Bryan Baynes** (Director of the Bishop's University Forum).

Panelists will be available as of 3:30 pm EST the day of the event for interviews and days prior to the event upon request.

To learn more about the event and the panelists: [EquiTalks: Connecting Climate Justice and Human Rights for a Just Future | Equitas](#).

This event is made possible thanks to the support of TD Bank Group and the Government of Canada

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Media contact

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About Equitas

Equitas is Canada's most recognized and active human rights education organization. Through transformative education programs, Equitas advances equality, social justice, and respect for human rights in Canada and globally. For more information, visit equitas.org.