



Innovation Lab 2026
Centering Community Participatory
Knowledge Co-Creation in the Age of AI
January 30 – 31, 2026

PARTICIPANT PACKAGE

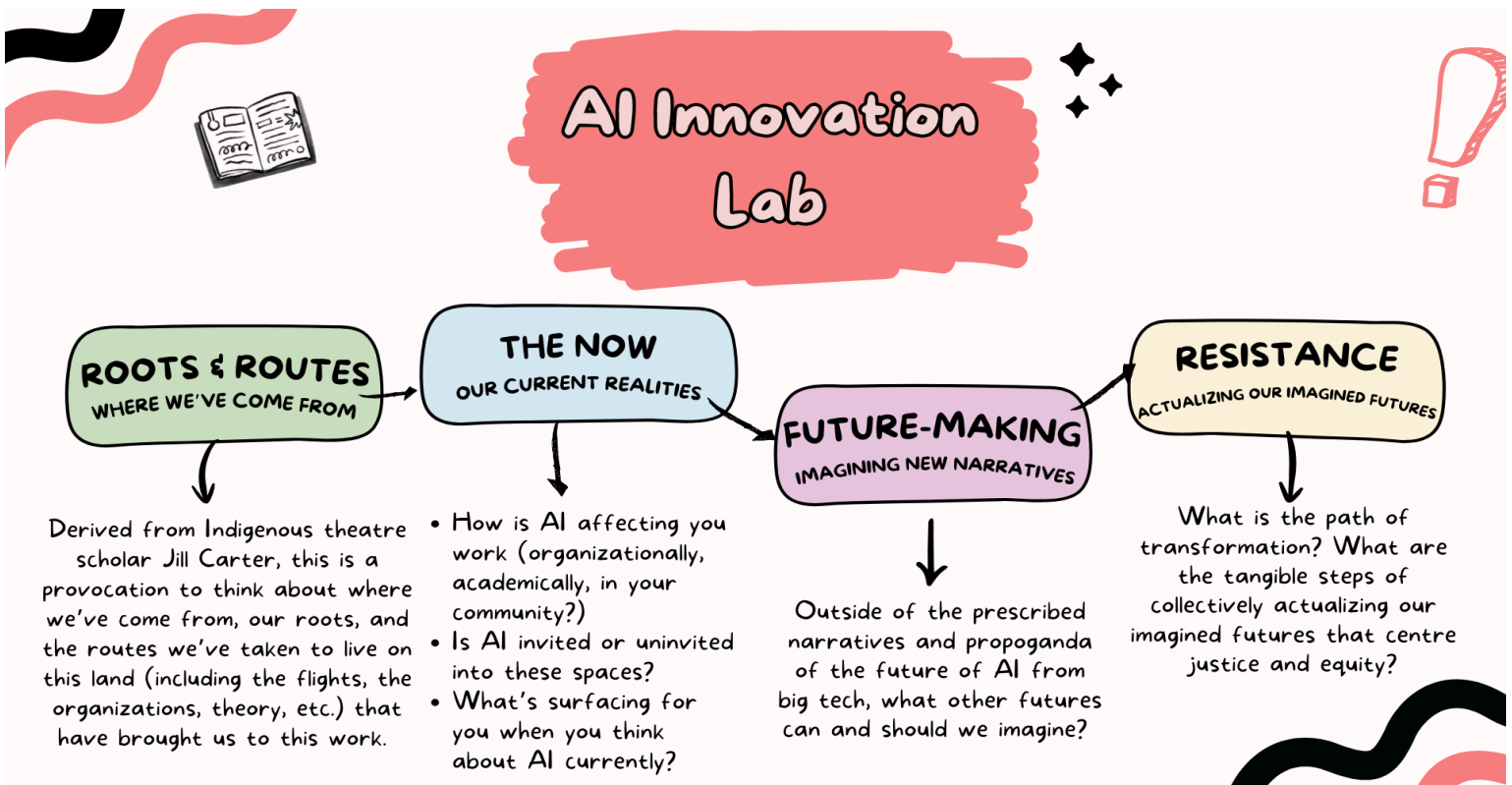
Welcome

Kick-off International Development Week 2026 with the [Knowledge for Change \(K4C\) Tkaronto Hub](#) – the [Ontario Council for International Cooperation \(OCIC\)](#), the [Center for Community Learning and Development \(CL&D\)](#), the [Knowledge Equity Lab](#) at the University of Toronto Scarborough – for our **Innovation Lab 2026: Centering Community Participatory Knowledge Co-Creation in the Age of AI.**

With the emergence of new technologies, particularly AI, knowledge creation, validation, and application in local and global development are rapidly evolving. Knowledge production is inherently political, shaped by power dynamics over whose knowledge counts, who is included or excluded, and who benefits or is affected. As AI increasingly mediates these processes, it raises urgent questions of equity, inclusion, and justice.

Designed for participants across the K4C Tkaronto Hub—including leaders within global and local development organizations, early-career practitioners and students, and newcomer community researchers and organizers—the lab aims to create an exploratory space for dialogue about AI around shared concerns, hesitations, and opportunities; to identify the aspects of our work we want to protect, preserve, and uplift; and to consider what we wish AI designers understood about our communities.

This two-day, in-person, hands-on space will draw on Community-Based Participatory Action Research (CBPAR) methods. This approach is relational, justice-oriented, and rooted in lived experience, treating knowledge as co-created rather than extracted. Check out our framework for the lab, illustrated below. We hope you'll enjoy this unique opportunity to co-create knowledge and imagine ethical, community-centered approaches to AI.



OCIC Land Acknowledgement

OCIC recognizes and honours the Indigenous peoples who have historically, and do presently, live and work on the traditional, both treaty and unceded territories that we operate on. These include the Huron Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, the Haudenosaunee, the Anishinaabe, the Mississaugas of the Credit River First Nation, and many others. We acknowledge that our staff, Board, volunteers, members and broader community operate on the treaty and unceded territories of these and numerous other Indigenous peoples and nations.

As we reflect on our role within a settler-colonial context, we acknowledge the importance of naming the Indigenous peoples and nations on whose lands we live, work and play, and understand the importance of framing our engagement in the international cooperation sector and beyond through the lens of reconciliation and decolonization. We recognize that we have a responsibility to stand in solidarity with Indigenous peoples who have and continue to fight for social justice on their own lands.

Regent Park Community Centre Land Acknowledgement

The City of Toronto acknowledges that we are on the traditional territory of many nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. The City also acknowledges that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Williams Treaties signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.

Getting to the Regent Park Community Centre

We look forward to seeing you at the **Banquet Hall** at Regent Park Community Centre.

Address: [402 Shuter St, Toronto, ON M5A 1X6](#)

Commuting via the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC)	<p>The Regent Park Community Centre is also accessible via the TTC streetcars and buses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● By Streetcar (Line 505 Carlton): Take the 505 Dundas streetcar to the stop at Dundas Street East at Regent Park Boulevard. From there, the community centre is a short walk (approximately 4-5 minutes) south on Regent Park Boulevard and then east on Shuter Avenue to number 402● By Streetcar (Line 506 Carlton): Take the 506 Carlton streetcar to the stop at Parliament Street and Gerrard Street East. Walk a few minutes east along Gerrard Street E, then south to Shuter Ave.● By Streetcar (Line 501 Queen): Take the 501 Queen streetcar to the stop at Dundas Street East at Regent Park Boulevard. From there, the community centre is a short walk (approximately 4-5 minutes) south on Regent Park Boulevard and then east on Shuter Avenue to number 402● By Bus (Line 121 Esplanade-River) Take the 121 Esplanade-River bus from the station at 1 Front St West - Union Station. Get off at the stop on River Street at Dundas Street East. The community centre is a short walk from this stop (about 5-7 minutes)
Commuting by GO Transit (GO Bus and GO Regional Train)	<p>The closest GO regional train station is Union Station. This train station is about 3 kilometres away, and you will still need to travel by transit or car to the venue.</p>
Travelling by VIA Rail	<p>The closest VIA station is Toronto Union Station, which is about 3 km away. You will still need to travel by transit or car to the venue.</p>
Vehicle Parking	<p>Paid public parking at Daniels Spectrum is available in a lot located underneath the building. The vehicle entrance is located at the rear of the building, accessed via</p>

	<p>Sackville Street on the western side of the building. Parking is \$10.00 for 8 hours and can be paid by cash or credit card.</p> <p>Nearby Green P options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 0.6 km away-100 Cooperage Street — \$1.75 / 30 min ● 0.7 km away- 83 Tannery Road — \$1.75 / 30 min ● 0.8 km away- 323 Richmond Street East — \$3.00 / 30 min
<p>Accessibility</p>	<p>Regent Park Community Centre has accessible entrances and accessible washrooms. Please view the Accessible Feature at the end of this page.</p>

Health and Safety

The event will be a mask-friendly environment for all participants. While not mandating the use of masks, we ask all participants to review the most recent Government of Canada and provincial guidance on COVID-19 and other communicable illnesses and kindly request that you refrain from attending should you have any symptoms or related concerns.

All participants are also requested to review the [OCIC Anti-Oppression and Anti-Racism Policy, and the OCIC Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment Policy](#) available on the About Us page of the OCIC website in advance of the event, and to act accordingly throughout the event and in all following engagements with the Council and its members.



Questions? Contact Mishka Watin, OCIC Membership and Administration Specialist, by email at mishka@ocic.on.ca

Code of Conduct

OCIC is committed to creating a safe and inclusive space. We ask all participants to commit to the following Code of Conduct, inspired by those of the Inter-Council Network (ICN) and Amnesty Canada, and adapted for OCIC's content and approach to this event.

- 1 RESPECT**, I COMMIT to being respectful to all participants regardless of language, race, national or ethnic origin, age, sex, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, ability, and any other identity or belief, throughout this event. I understand that any discrimination or harassment will not be tolerated.
- 2 INCLUSION**, I COMMIT to creating space for all to contribute and participate, to give prominence to the voices and stories of those who might be systemically excluded, and to make space for those that are more appropriately positioned to contribute.
- 3 HUMILITY**, I COMMIT to participating with a spirit of openness to learn and a recognition of the broad diversity of participants. I recognize that creating space for lived experiences to inform this space is necessary and that hearing others' stories is a privilege.
- 4 SAFETY**, I COMMIT to ensuring the physical, emotional, mental, sexual and spiritual safety of all participants in the sessions, and reporting any incidents of harassment and discrimination to the organizers.
- 5 SOLIDARITY**, I COMMIT to seeking common ground and inspiration to support collective action.
- 6 PATIENCE**, I COMMIT to being patient with technology, organizers, and each other. I recognize that everyone is on their own journey of learning.
- 7 OPENNESS**, I COMMIT to bringing an open heart and an open mind to my involvement in this event. I commit to being open to caring for others and myself, including taking space to decompress and realign my energy if needed.

Program

Day 1 Friday, January 30, 2025	
9:30 - 10:00	Participant Arrival, Registration & Morning Refreshments Meet K4C Tkaronto staff at the doors of the Regent Park Community Centre to get registered, enjoy light refreshments, and network with contributors and participants before our program begins.
10:00 - 10:30	Welcome & Land Acknowledgement The leaders of K4C Tkaronto’s partner organizations, Kimberly Gibbons (OCIC) , Leslie Chan (KEL) , and Elham Rousalian (CL&D) , will deliver a formal welcome and land acknowledgement, share the objectives of the lab, and share community guidelines for the lab.
10:30 - 11:30	Roots & Routes (A Visual Mapping Land Acknowledgement) Inspired by the work of Indigenous theatre scholar and practitioner Jill Carter and First Story Toronto Tours , this visual mapping exercise invites participants to reflect on where we come from—our roots—and the routes that have brought us to this land. These roots and routes include both literal and metaphorical journeys, such as migration, ideas, theories, travel experiences, organizations, and people that shape our work and our relationships to Turtle Island.
11:30 - 11:45	Health Break
11:45 - 1:00	AI Bingo A participatory activity facilitated by Leslie Chan , designed to build connections, surface perceptions of AI, and establish a shared starting point for the day’s discussions.
1:00 - 2:00	Networking Lunch
2:00 - 3:30	Panel Discussion - Grappling with AI: Ethics, Labour and Strategy in our Organizations This panel brings together NGO leaders and administrators to reflect on how AI is showing up in their organizations—whether invited or uninvited—and if and how it is being integrated into day-to-day work. Panellists will explore emerging questions, concerns, and possibilities in their work, with insights from Bella Lam (CEO, Jane Goodall Institute), Anna Jasinka (Associate Manager of Communications, Development, and Operations, CL&D), and Raaja Berry (UN Sustainable Development Goals Council Member).

3:30 - 3:45	Health Break
3:45 - 5:00	<p>Participatory Theatre - From Abstract to Lived Experiences</p> <p>Facilitated by Malika Daya, this playful, low-stakes session uses Theatre of the Oppressed techniques, including Image Theatre, to explore power, surveillance, and mainstream AI narratives from big tech, while imagining alternative futures. Through guided exercises, participants will engage with diverse perspectives and bring AI out of the abstract by sharing their lived experiences.</p>
5:00 - 5:30	Afternoon Refreshments & Socializing

Day 2 Saturday, January 31, 2026	
10:00 - 10:30	<p>Participant Arrival, Registration & Morning Refreshments</p> <p>Meet K4C Tkaronto staff at the doors of the Regent Park Community Centre to get registered, enjoy light refreshments, and network with contributors and participants before our program begins.</p>
10:30 - 10:45	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Start the day with a warm welcome and introduction to the sessions ahead from hosts Shehara Athukorala and Malika Daya.</p>
10:45 - 12:15	<p>Panel Discussion - Why Affect and Emotions Matter in A.I.</p> <p>AI is often framed as a technical or policy issue, but it is also deeply emotional. Excitement, anxiety, anger, fatigue, and grief shape how we make decisions, set boundaries, and imagine what's possible. This panel explores how emotions are produced, circulated, and mobilized in digital life, and why discomfort can be a site of learning, solidarity, and ethical action. Alongside a conversation on grief and diverse emotions, we'll name what AI asks of us, and what we refuse to lose.</p> <p>The panel features Dr. Megan Boler (Professor & Associate Department Chair, OISE), Noah Khan (PhD Candidate in Social Justice Education at OISE) and Jade Huang (Grief tender and Sourcekeeper of the Sacred Grief Collective).</p>
12:15 - 1:15	Networking Lunch
1:15 - 3:00	<p>Collective Design Sprint</p> <p>Led by Alex Ryan, this facilitated session invites participants to imagine possible futures for AI that move beyond prescribed narratives from big tech, and to explore early ideas for bringing these visions to life, through guided prompts and small-group brainstorming that centers lived experience and community knowledge.</p>

3:00 - 3:15	Health Break
3:00 - 4:30	<p>Creative Resistance Zine-Making</p> <p>Facilitated by Karen Natalia Villanueva-Paez, this closing, arts-based session invites participants to create pocket zines reflecting on key learnings from the Lab and the question, <i>“What kinds of AI futures are you imagining and why?”</i> These zines are both a takeaway and a reminder of the collective work begun together, and the work still ahead.</p>
4:30 - 4:45	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Final reflections and thank you delivered by Kimberly Gibbons, Leslie Chan, and Elham Rousalian</p>

Contributor Bios



Anna Jasinska (she/her) is the Associate Manager of Communications, Development & Operations at the Toronto Centre of Learning & Development. With an academic background in architecture, design and languages at the University of Toronto, a long-time passion for photography and a dedication to community development, she finds intersection in all three to support community and organizational impact. Within the various components of her role, Anna supports interdisciplinary partnerships to provide accessible learning opportunities, works with local groups and organizations to coordinate community programming and supports university student groups in understanding and developing interventions within the nonprofit sector. In 2025, she graduated from the United Way Greater Toronto's Next Leaders 10-month training program, focused on equity-first leadership practices. In her free time, she volunteers with local arts organizations, including a role as volunteer photographer with the DesignTO Festival.



Rajaa Berry works on energy policy and climate governance, with a strong focus on implementation and accountability in the energy transition. Based in Windsor–Essex, she led the development of a digital platform that maps renewable energy projects and connects them directly to policy and financing pathways, aiming to close the gap between targets and on-the-ground delivery. She is a COP29 delegate and youth negotiator, and her work explores how digital tools can support better decision-making and strengthen trust in the transition process.



Bella Lam has worked in the sustainable development and international cooperation sector for over twenty-five years, amplifying voices of local partners in Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Latin America over the past two decades. She joined the Jane Goodall Institute of Canada in 2016 working with the Programs team to promote community-led conservation through the lens of gender and climate justice. In 2022, Bella was appointed as the CEO to lead the Institute in forging a strategic path to address the three crises we face in our world today: climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental inequity. Her background in sustainable development is centred on the understanding that all aspects of the ecosystem: people, wildlife and the environment, are deeply interconnected. Bella is also the Vice-Chair of the Ontario Council of International Cooperation Board, supporting civil society organizations based in the province. She is a strong advocate of working in a multi-stakeholder environment and leveraging collaborative partnerships to scale up impact.



Megan Boler is Professor and Associate Department Chair at the Department of Social Justice Education at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, and Director of the [Centre for Media Culture & Education](#). The recipient of numerous major grants from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council, much of her research has focused on digital media and social movements. This past year she completed a large collaborative project titled "Queering Digital Tools Against Hate: Countering 2SLGBTQI Mis-/Disinformation with Community-Informed Digital Stories, Gamification, and Resources" as well as a funded "Critical Review of AI Anxiety among Post-Secondary Students". Her recent publications include the edited volume *Affective Politics of Digital Media: Propaganda By Other Means*, and a forthcoming essay "Digital Resentment and the Neoliberal Logics of Pain," in the 2026 *Routledge Companion to Digital Media & Democracy*. She teaches media studies, feminist theory and critical pedagogy.



Noah Khan is a PhD candidate in Social Justice Education at the University of Toronto. He is concurrently a Recognised Student at the Oxford Internet Institute in the DPhil in Social Data Science Program and a Visiting Assistant in Research at Yale University's Program in American Studies. His research focuses on the emotional dynamics of artificial intelligence development; he examines the ways in which emotions such as love, fear, grief, etc., affect how technology gets made in multiple countries such as Canada, the US, the UK, and India.



Jade Huang (she/they) is a politicized grief tender and sourcekeeper of the Sacred Grief Collective. Their work navigates the disorientation of accelerating collapse, orienting to grief as a teacher and an intelligence that reveals what we deeply love, long for, and seek to protect. Confronting AI as an entangled presence embedded in systems of harm, jade hopes to facilitate spaces to compost modernity's reflexes of urgency and certainty. By inviting somatic

regulation and relational attunement, they resist premature coherence and polarized debate—fostering the collective stamina to hold paradox, using grief as a compass to discern grounded, life-affirming responses in these uncertain times.



Alex Ryan is the CEO of Synthetikos, a boutique global strategy and innovation consultancy based in Toronto that helps transformational leaders to shift systems. He previously led partner solutions at MaRS, helping government and corporate partners accelerate the adoption of innovation in their organizations, markets and cities with a focus on youth employment, energy transition and tech stewardship. Alex is an Executive in Residence with the Business Design Initiative at Rotman and teaches strategy, foresight and design at the Canadian Forces College. Alex is co-founder of Alberta CoLab, the first provincial government innovation lab in Canada. Alex holds a PhD from the University of Adelaide in applied mathematics. His dissertation advanced a multidisciplinary approach to complex systems design.



Karen Natalia Villanueva-Paez (she/her) is a Colombian immigrant based in Toronto, Kanata (Toronto, Canada). She is a clinical social worker at North York General Hospital, where she works within the Neurology/Stroke and Internal Medicine unit. Karen serves on the board of directors for Toronto Centre of Learning & Development and the Día de los Muertos Collective, and is an adjunct lecturer in the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work at the University of Toronto.

With over a decade of experience in community development and non-profit management, Karen integrates her passions for popular education, activism, and visual arts to support and advocate alongside diverse communities.

Ontario Council for International Cooperation Bios



Shehara Athukorala (she/her) is a development professional with over 12 years of experience working with various donors, government institutions, non-profits, electoral management bodies, civil society, and community-based organizations in areas such as governance and advocacy, electoral reform, human rights, and inclusion of gender, disability, and youth in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Papua New Guinea. Shehara is a lawyer by profession (in Sri Lanka) and holds an Honours degree in Bachelor of Law from the University of Staffordshire, United Kingdom, and a post-graduate Certificate in International Development from Humber

College. Prior to joining OCIC Shehara worked for the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) in Sri Lanka in various capacities, including as Program Manager for six years. At OCIC, Shehara provides leadership in capacity building programming, OCIC communities of practice, and monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL). She also represents OCIC at the Inter-Council Network of Provincial and Regional Councils (ICN) MEL Committee.



Kimberly Gibbons (she/her) leads the OCIC team in supporting community-led development and an enabling environment for civil society organizations, and in mobilizing Canadians to achieve universal sustainable development. Executive Director of OCIC since 2005, Kimberly contributes actively to the work of the Inter-Council Network of Provincial and Regional Councils for International Cooperation (ICN) and Cooperation Canada, the Humber College International Programs Advisory Committee, Knowledge for Change (K4C) Toronto Hub, and Global Affairs Canada Civil Society Partnerships Policy Advisory Group (CPAG). She is a vocal advocate for the role of small and medium-sized organizations (SMOs), youth, and public engagement as key actors and approaches to strengthening local to global connections, transformative partnerships, and solidarity.

Kimberly has worked in many formal and non-formal education settings with youth and adults of diverse backgrounds in Asia, Central America, Europe and Canada. She holds a Masters of Education in Adult Education and Transformative Learning from OISE, University of Toronto, and studied human rights at the graduate level at the Commonwealth Institute, University of London, England. She has a Bachelor of Arts in International Development and Rural Extension Studies from the University of Guelph and completed her final undergraduate year of study at SNDT Women's University, Mumbai, India.



Sarah Judd (she/her) joined OCIC in November 2022 as the Communications and Content Specialist. Sarah has a Bachelors of International Development from Humber College. During her time at Humber she led a campaign for Humber to become designated as a Fair Trade Campus by committing to sourcing Fairtrade certified products. Her previous experiences include building partnerships across the fair trade and social enterprise sector and working with students and educators at a community environmental non-profit. She brings communications, marketing and partnership-building skills to OCIC. She is an advocate for climate justice, human-centered development, and a fair and just economy.



Lisa Swainston (she/her) has worked at OCIC since 2008 in a number of capacities. In her role as Director of Operations, she is responsible for developing and implementing operational processes and procedures that better enable the staff and Council to achieve our strategic directions and funded programs. Lisa also supports financial and administrative management of all operations, oversees membership renewal and development, and provides direction on operational and member service activities. Outside of OCIC Lisa is a Board Director for Amnesty International Toronto, and is an advocate for human rights, social justice, equality and inclusion, with a strong interest in Indigenous rights and corporate accountability. Lisa has an Honours B.A. with majors in Criminology and Sociology and minors in French and Indigenous Studies (formerly called Aboriginal Studies) from the University of Toronto, and Certificates in Project Management from Humber College; Fundraising and Volunteer Management, and Practical Management Strategies from George Brown College. Lisa has taken several courses in Organizational Management and Human Resources from Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson).



Pragya Tikku (she/her) is a development professional with extensive experience across civil society and the United Nations. Since November 2022, she has been working with the Ontario Council for International Cooperation (OCIC) as their Community Engagement and Gender Equality Specialist. Previously, she served as a Consultant for Inter-Governmental Processes, Humanitarian Action, and Women, Peace, and Security with UN Women India. Pragya holds a Master's in Public Policy from McGill University and a Master's in Human Development and

Childhood Studies from the University of Delhi. With her academic background and professional experience, her expertise lies in development and policy issues impacting women and children, particularly in Gender Equality, Women's Empowerment, Child Rights, and Women, Peace, and Security.



Mishka Watin (she/her) holds postgraduate certificates in International Development and Marketing Management from Centennial College and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of the Philippines. Before joining OCIC, Mishka co-founded a volunteer group in the Philippines and led various community-centered initiatives focused on Permaculture, education, mental health, environmental conservation and rehabilitation, and cultural preservation. Her work included leading advocacy campaigns, providing

expressive and eco-therapies to street children and victims of abuse and trafficking, creating therapeutic and educational spaces for underprivileged youth, and teaching social sciences. Mishka is also an experienced graphic designer and has served as a communications and CSR officer for Permaculture-inspired hotels and museums while acting as the lead conservation educator at a nature sanctuary. At OCIC, Mishka primarily drives member engagement, manages membership processes, provides administrative and logistical support, and assists with fund diversification efforts, communications, MEAL activities, and organizational development.

Toronto Centre for Learning and Development Bios



Alfred Jean-Baptiste (He/Him) is a community leader and educator who continues to engage and contribute to academic upskilling and social development in Ontario. In 2008, he received the prestigious Council of the Federation Literacy Award, recognizing his exceptional impact on literacy initiatives across the province. In 2016, the University of Toronto honoured him with the Arbor Award for outstanding volunteer service.

Since 1994, Jean-Baptiste has served as Executive Director of the Toronto Centre for Community Learning and Development (CCL&D), where he spearheads programs that empower marginalized communities through education, social enterprise initiatives and skills training. His academic roles include his tenure as an adjunct lecturer at the University of Toronto's Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work and School of Public Policy and Governance, beginning in 2022. Jean-Baptiste is also a published author. In 1996, he wrote *Caribbean English and the Literacy Tutor: A Manual*, a groundbreaking guide designed to assist Canadian tutors working with Caribbean Creole

heritage adult learners. Earlier in his career, Jean-Baptiste served as St. Lucia's youngest Senator and Minister of Social Services in 1982, where he played a pivotal role in fostering community reconciliation during a period of political instability.



Elham Rasoulia (she/her) is the Lead of the Immigrant Women Integration Program (IWIP) at the Centre of Learning and Development (CL&D) and a Research Coordinator at the MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions. She holds an academic background in Industrial Engineering from Iran. After immigrating to Canada in 2019, Elham began her professional journey at CL&D, where she was introduced to Community-Based Participatory Action Research (CBPAR). She co-conducted her first CBPAR project on the affordability and availability of childcare for newcomer families in Toronto.

In 2024, Elham became a mentor in community-based research through the UNESCO Knowledge for Change (K4C) Toronto Hub, an initiative led by UNESCO Co-Chairs in Social Responsibility in Higher Education and Community-Based Research. This mentorship further strengthened her capacity to lead and embed community-based research within the Immigrant Women Integration Program, reinforcing her commitment to community-driven knowledge sharing and social change.

Knowledge Equity Lab Bios



Leslie Chan (he/him) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Global Development Studies and Director of the Knowledge Equity Lab at the University of Toronto Scarborough. Leslie's work critically examines the global and institutional power dynamics that shape scholarly communication systems, digital infrastructures, and research evaluation.

As one of the original signatories of the Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI) and founding director of Boline International, Leslie has long championed the visibility and recognition of research from the Global South and alternative models of knowledge dissemination. He was Principal Investigator of the Open and Collaborative Science in Development Network (OCSNet), a multi-regional research initiative that contributed to the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science by foregrounding inclusive infrastructure, community-led research, situated openness, and epistemic pluralism.

Through the Knowledge Equity Lab and its partnership with the Knowledge for Change (K4C) network, Leslie fosters collaborative learning between students, scholars, and community organizations, supporting justice-oriented participatory research and pedagogical practices. He also contributes to global and national policy through advisory roles with organizations such as the Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), Invest in Open Infrastructure (IOI), and the Tri-Agency and the International Development Research Center in Canada.



Malika Daya (she/her) is a Canadian artist-scholar-practitioner of South Asian and Tanzanian descent whose work sits at the intersections of theatre and global development. Her practice spans directing, dramaturgy, playwriting, and producing, with an emphasis on intercultural performance, applied theatre, and arts activism. She is passionate about designing intentional artistic containers where diasporic artists hold space for difference, build solidarity, and explore the poetics of hyphenated identities.

Malika has worked internationally at the Art and Global Health Centre Africa and Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and locally with Soulpepper Theatre, Volcano, Community Arts Guild, Arts4all & more. She is the Co-Founder & Creative Director of [in draft collective](#), and Coordinator for the Knowledge Equity Lab. As a part of her artistic facilitation practice, Malika brings applied theatre into community settings, working with immigrants, policy-makers, civil society organizations and university students on social justice projects they are stewarding. Malika holds a Bachelors in International Development and Master's in Theatre from the University of Toronto.

Notetakers

Yagiz Boran

Fatoumata Binetou Camara

Celeste Gutierrez

Yuxi Liang

Evaelle Mangle

Caroline Nakitende

McKenna North

Riya Osti

Hui Yang

Thank You

This initiative is undertaken with financial support from the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada. The Innovation Lab 2026 was realized as a result of the interest and collaboration of many, including the Knowledge for Change (K4C) Tkaronto Hub, OCIC Board Directors and members, Youth Policy-Makers Hub participants, students, newcomer community researchers and organizers, volunteer note-takers, staff, and our broader community.

Sincere thanks to each and every one of you for your engagement and for generously sharing your knowledge and experience with us all.

