

In Tiohtià:ke (Montreal) on unceded Kanien'kehá:ka [Mohawk] territory

**Le Centre communautaire des femmes sud-asiatiques**



**FEBRUARY  
2019**

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**Qu'en pensez-vous?  
What do you think?**

- Let us know your thoughts about the bulletin.
- Que pensez-vous de notre journal?
- We encourage you to send in your stories and articles for upcoming newsletters in any language by the 25th of every month to:
- [sawccbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:sawccbulletin@gmail.com)
- Écrivez - nous à [sawccbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:sawccbulletin@gmail.com)

*Dear SAWCC members,*

*We hope you are keeping warm and dry during these days of unpredictable weather changes. This month's bulletin features a number of events taking place in the city that give voice to the experiences of women, migrants and minority groups. Once again our SAY collective inspires youth to share their experiences in innovative and artistic ways at the Unraveling in Rhymes events. As the CAQ government moves forward on its head-covering ban, resistance actions are being planned at various levels of education, please consider ways in which you can engage. Every letter counts, every action counts, but so does every constructive conversation! In this issue you can also read the common declaration for an increase in minimum wage that SAWCC supports. This month we also remember our African-Canadian sisters as they organize and celebrate various Black History month events in the city. As we look ahead to next month and IWD on March 8th, we ask that you keep the Women of Diverse Origins Conference and events on your calendars and consider joining us for them.*

*With peace and love*

*...Even when it's not pretty or perfect. Even when it's more real than you want it to be. **Your story is what you have, what you will always have. It is something to own.***

**- Michelle Obama**

## CENTRE Hours and Accessibility:



### Centre Hours/heure d'ouverture

Our centre is open 9-5 every weekday (Mon-Fri).

The Centre is wheelchair accessible.

Le centre est accessible aux fauteuils roulants.

**Volunteers —** If you are interested in helping out at the Centre, please contact Shipra (Ext. 106 or [shipra.b@sawcc-ccfsa.ca](mailto:shipra.b@sawcc-ccfsa.ca) to coordinate a meeting!

## SAVE THE DATE:

**Next Executive Council Meeting: February 22, Friday 2019**

**All members are welcome!**

## Membership Renewal

You may renew your SAWCC membership to ensure you get all the mailings and can participate fully in the organization.

Changes to your information (address, phone number, etc. email, etc.)? Download the membership form from our website, insert the correct information and send it along with your membership dues.

<http://www.sawcc-ccfsa.ca/EN/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Membership-form.pdf>

Please mail cheque to: SAWCC, 1035 Rachel est, Montréal, Qc., H2J 2J5.

Make cheque payable to: "South Asian Women's Community Centre".

Indicate in the note section: "membership".

*Making a donation to SAWCC at the same time?* Donations of \$20 or more will receive a tax-deductible receipt (for 2019 tax year). If including a donation indicate as well the amount towards "donation".

### **Membership dues:**

\$1-\$15 at your discretion.

Application approved by the EC

## SAWCC Bulletin -- submission guidelines:

SAWCC members are encouraged to send submissions to the Bulletin, to share items of interest with other members. Send submissions to: [sawccbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:sawccbulletin@gmail.com)

If using the post send to: SAWCC Bulletin, 1035 Rachel est, Montreal, Quebec, H2J 2J3

Submissions should reach by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Submissions may be original work or reprints (with permission) and can include --

art, reports, photos, information, opinion pieces, short fiction, poetry, announcements, recipes, etc.

Publication criteria are guided by SAWCC's commitment to not negatively discriminate on the basis of physical and mental ability, religion, colour, nationality, age, sexual orientation and identity, caste, and class. Publication is further guided by the feminist ethos of sisterhood, and principles of intersectionality\*, equality, equity, and transparency. As well, material that may compromise confidentiality of individuals without their consent will not be published.

SAWCC reserves the right to select, reject or edit submissions. When authorship identified, items reflect the views of the authors.

\*Intersectionality -- the interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, that create overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage.



## ***SAWCC supports the movement to increase minimum wage to \$15 per hour***

### **COMMON DECLARATION FOR THE \$15 PER HOUR MINIMUM WAGE**

Since 2012, campaigns to increase the minimum wage to \$15 per hour has become a major issue across North America. In Canada, Alberta, Ontario and British Columbia have already announced an increase in the minimum wage to \$15 per hour. In Quebec, despite a strong movement organized by unions, community organizations, student groups and political groups, the minimum wage will only reach \$12 per hour beginning on May 1, 2018. However, research, such as that of the IRIS, confirms that a wage of \$15 per hour is the minimum necessary to get out of poverty and allow a person to live a decent life in Quebec. The entire working conditions of precarious workers should be improved. Increasing the minimum wage to \$15 per hour is an essential first step in this direction.

#### **CONSIDERING THIS SITUATION, WE DEMAND \$15 PER HOUR MINIMUM WAGE AND SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:**

- Given that for the vast majority of the population, wages are the main source of income and 21% of wage earners in Quebec are paid less than \$15/hr, **we consider the increase in the minimum wage to \$15 an essential way to reduce poverty.**
- The minimum wage, even though it is indispensable, is not the only way to fight against poverty. **Therefore, when this increase is adopted, it should not result in a reduction of public services and social programs.**
- In our society of Quebec, community organizations play a significant role, providing a large variety of services and filling in the gaps of government organizations. **We believe that the increased funding for these organizations is required, with a full respect for their autonomy,** in order for them to be able to pursue their social mandates and provide their employees a living wage above \$15 per hour.
- Precarity and the poverty are a reality for an important number of people. However, some segments of the population are particularly affected by low wages, such as women, racialized people, recent immigrants, temporary migrants, people with disabilities, and Aboriginal people. Given this fact, raising the minimum wage would help improve the living conditions of these people significantly. That is why, with the same voice, **we claim a decent minimum wage and denounce all types of marginalization and social exclusion.**

**By signing this declaration, the various organizations support officially the claim for a minimum wage of \$15 per hour.**

After being on hiatus for over a year, we successfully re-launched our Unravelling in Rhymes poetry and creative writing workshop series on January 26th!

A group of 14 participants gathered at The Open Centre to partake in an afternoon of writing and sharing, while being open to vulnerability and fostering courage in sharing and writing about our truths.

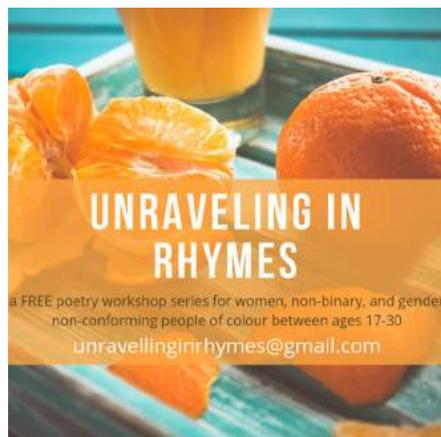
We had the absolute pleasure and honour of inviting **Moe Clark** as our guest poet facilitator for the afternoon. Moe is a Métis multidisciplinary artist and a nomadic songbird with wings woven from circle singing and spoken word. Originally from Treaty 7, she's called tio'tia:ke (Montreal) home for over a decade. Moe fuses together vocal improvisation with multilingual lyricism to create meaning that is rooted in personal legacy and ancestral memory. Apart from performance, she facilitates creative workshops in various contexts; she produces festivals and performances; and she mentors emerging artists.

Moe Clark also loves the looping pedal, and so our first Unravelling in Rhymes workshop involved creating soundscapes and recording spoken poetry as a group. We also spent time free-writing in response to reflections on natural elements of our earth, land and climate.

We are grateful for such a lovely afternoon of warmth, tea and fruits, sunshine, and writing our truths and vulnerabilities in a shared space of love and creativity.

Stay tuned for the next workshop in April, 2019! Workshops are part of the Youth Program and South Asian Collective initiatives, and take place once every season, and are open to women, non-binary, gender-fluid, 2 Spirit and gender non-conforming people of colour between the ages 17 and 30 years old.

Workshops are generally provided in collaboration with **Vallum Magazine**, one of Canada's top poetry journals encouraging dialogue between Quebec and the rest of Canada through the exchange of ideas and writing with acclaimed and emerging artists in Canada and internationally.



## Excerpts of a letter to our children's school and school board to take action on the Quebec head covering law —Anjali Abraham

Bonjour Mme. [Principal] and Governing Board Members,

...As we approach the end of the first fifth of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century I believe it is a good time to consider how we've progressed so far intellectually, culturally, and socially in the field of education and in Québec society. The view from [our school] is bright, but my purpose is to urge action from our little corner to the broader education system at a time when the CAQ government is using narrow-minded ideas to keep our society divided and distracted from far more critical issues in education and for our well-being.

**I am emailing you to request a position be taken by the school community and the Marguerite Bourgeys School Board on the issue of religious symbols, as it would affect their employees while also contradicting the principles of cooperation and peace promoted in our [school's] International Baccalaureate (IB) program.**

As parents of two children at [our school] there is much for us to be optimistic about. We notice how our kids' global (IB) education and the multicultural community within [our school] reinforces ideas of global as well as local peace and collaboration...Our kids seamlessly go between four cultural communities and have friends that come from many more cultural communities, and in whose diversity they celebrate. **In fact, for our kids, as with many of their friends and peers in our local Québec context this is absolutely "normal."**

We teach our kids daily that there is a lot to learn from people that appear different and above all we teach them to follow the Golden Rule; to treat every person as you would want them to treat you. As a teacher myself, it is the only classroom rule I insist on and hold myself accountable to with my own students. **Following the golden rule has served me and my students well. We believe that members of the CAQ government missed the point of this golden social rule or worse still choose to ignore it to maintain power by keeping our society divided.**

Last year, our son was extremely fortunate to be under the care of Mme. ABC, who taught him in a peaceful, artistic, and caring manner about various cultures of the world. Mme. ABC's head-covering served in no means to undermine the education she provided my son. It in fact reinforced the lessons she was teaching him about celebrating diversity. Mme. ABC's contributions to education and our school community are of immense importance and relevance. **[Our school] is richer specifically because of the presence of people like her and not in the absence of it.**

Culture is expressed in external and internal ways. It is of vital importance to recognize that while external symbols are an expression of our identities so too are our internal attitudes. We cannot reduce any person to any one expression of their identity, it is a very simplistic way of looking at who we are. I am urging the school community and the larger Marguerite Bourgeys community to let our attitudes towards diversity be a reflection of who we are, this must be our contribution to a vibrant and diverse Québec society. **Rather than to remain silent, while narrow-minded views and divisive attitudes which reflect an oppressive society are spread, I hope that our thoughts will urge the school and school board to take a progressive stance** on this issue so we can move forward on numerous other pertinent issues in education – physical infrastructure, material resources, teacher professional development, smaller class sizes, support for special needs etc. etc. etc.

Sincerely

## Health Care For Mi- grants: Feb.12, 2019

### HEALTHCARE FOR MIGRANTS NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2019. 12 to 1 PM



CISR, Complexe Guy-Favreau, 200 boul. René-Lévesque Ouest,  
Montréal (Tiohtiáke)  
and in other cities across Canada

The UN has condemned Canada for denying healthcare on the basis of immigration status, but after 180 days, there has been no action from our government. Join the health community in calling on the government to stop denying health care to migrants.

Tweet it out and find out more at: [#healthcareformigrants.com](https://www.facebook.com/healthcareformigrants.com)

### Event:

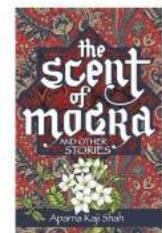
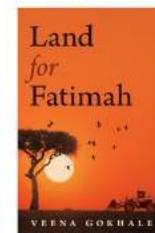
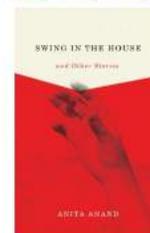
### Women Writer's in Conversation

### **Diverse Indo-Canadian (Women's) Voices**

authors Anita Anand, Veena Gokhale  
& Aparna Kaji Shah in conversation

Wednesday, February 20, 2019

L'Euguelionne, 1426 Beaudry, Montréal: 6:00-8:00pm



L'Euguelionne  
[www.librairieeuguelionne.com](http://www.librairieeuguelionne.com)

INANNA  
essential reading for feminists everywhere  
Véhicule Press

GUERNICA  
EDITIONS

Join in rallies across Canada on February 12th as the health community calls on the federal government to stop the denial of healthcare on the basis of immigration status!

Rallies will be held simultaneously in Valleyfield (QC), Victoria (CB), Vancouver (CB), Edmonton (AB), Saskatoon (SK), Hamilton (ON), Scarborough (ON), Niagara (ON), Toronto (ON), Ottawa (ON), Halifax (NS) et St. John's (TN)

: <https://www.facebook.com/events/5287577176>

## Events:

### IWD—March 8th and Women of Diverse Origins Conference



**A WORLD WITH EQUALITY  
Against FORCED DISPLACEMENT &  
NEO-FASCISM**

**8<sup>th</sup> March 2019  
INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN'S DAY**

in (Montreal) Tiohtiake  
unceded Kanien'kehá:ka territory



**join us!**

**DEMO Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March**

**Phillips Square (STE-CATHERINE STREET west, across from The Bay; metro McGill)  
5:30pm assemble**

**CONFERENCE Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, MARLENE HALE (Wefaweroc),**

**MARGARITA LOPEZ (Mexico) ; more to be confirmed**

**1-4pm, Room 4C1, Dawson College,  
340 Sherbrooke Street west. (metro Atwater)**

**FILM SCREENING "Portraits of a Search" (Spanish s-t in English, with  
French translation) Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March, UQAM, Pavillon De  
Seve, Room DS-R150, 320 Ste-Catherine east, (metro Berri-UQAM)**

**Organized by WOMEN of DIVERSE ORIGINS. All welcome!  
info [wdofo@gmail.com](mailto:wdofo@gmail.com)**



## **SAWCC ACTIVITIES FOR February-March 2019**

### **February Events**

Tuesday 5th Feb: Centre Staff training day

Tuesday 12th Feb: Valentine's day activity, Card making and a surprise breakfast

Tuesday 19th Feb: Gender equality at work

Friday 22nd Feb: SAWCC Executive Council meeting

Wednesday 20th Feb: Manifestation campaign "Engagez-Vous"

Tuesday 26th Feb: Employability in regions of QC

Thursday 28th Feb: Potluck & a how to plan stress free party

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### **March Events**

Saturday 2nd Mar — pre-demo Conference with women speakers — Indigenous Rights in Canada, Justice in Palestine, About the disappeared in Mexico, Secular fundamentalism in Quebec (details in poster on p.6; updates provided in March bulletin)

Monday 4th Mar — Film screening (details, poster p.6)

Tuesday 5th Mar Importance of 8th March & women's rights

Friday 8th Mar Demonstration March 5- 8 pm (details in poster on p.6)

Tuesday 12th Mar Info Session on DPG and its working

Thursday, 19th Tax return- with appointment only- Contact Iram at 514-528-8812/108

Tuesday 26th Mar Employment in regions in QC- 2

Thursday 28th Mar Nowroz Potluck

**Centre Communautaire des femmes sud-asiatiques**

South Asian Women's Community Centre  
 1035, rue Rachel est, 3ième étage.  
 Montréal, QC H2J 2J5

Phone: 514-528-8812  
 Fax: 514-528-0896  
 E-mail: sawcc@bellnet.ca

37 years of sisterhood, strength, struggle and success 1981-2018

[www.sawcc-ccfsa.ca](http://www.sawcc-ccfsa.ca)



# February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 Centre Staff Training	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Valentine's Day Activity	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Gender Equality Workshop	20 Manifestation Engagez-vous	21	22 EC Meeting	23
24	25	26 Employability in Qc	27	28 Potluck		