

August 21, 2019

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## Luncheon Panel

### *The Power of Us – Stewards of our Environments Today!*

The Power of Us Luncheon Program invites community leaders to join delegates of ASI 2019 for lunch, listen to a panel of youth activists, and engage in conversation to explore how we can collectively foster environments that support societal mental well-being today and for future generations.

#### Moderator:

##### **Michele Dorsey**

Children's Commissioner and Advocate, PEI

Michele Dorsey, Q.C. was appointed Children's Commissioner and Advocate effective January 7, 2019. Prior to this appointment, Dorsey held deputy minister roles with the Department of Justice and Public Safety and most recently, the Department of Communities, Land and Environment. Dorsey is a certified mediator and a practicing lawyer of 30 years with a primary focus on negotiation and conflict resolution. She also has served on community boards including PEI Citizen's Advocacy, Child Care Facilities Board, PEI Family Violence Prevention Services, PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada, and the Family Caregivers Advisory Committee of Mental Health Commission of Canada. Her extensive experience and community involvement will provide the necessary leadership to the establishment of the Office for Children and Youth.



#### Panelists:

##### **Emma Lee Lyon**

Student, Westisle Composite High, PEI

Emma Lee Lyon is a 16 year old about to enter into her last year of high school at Westisle Composite High, PEI. She is very passionate about the mental health field and climate change. In her free time along with being a part of sports teams, she enjoys volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, coaching gymnastics and being part of her school's student council. Last summer she was very fortunate to have been able to participate at a summer enrichment program known as Shad at the University of British Columbia. This past July she was a part of an expedition to the Arctic known as Students on Ice where she was alongside 130 other students and 100+ experts in many fields such as climate change and was taught by Inuit elders. Emma is very excited to be a part of this event to share what she has learned, and to hear other people's point of view and learn from them as well.



## Holly Griffin

Athlete, Special Olympics PEI

Holly is 15 years old, entering grade 10 at Charlottetown Rural High School. She has Williams Syndrome which is a genetic disorder that comes with a lot of medical issues, developmental delays, cognitive challenges, abstract reasoning, spatial relations along with other intellectual concerns. There are also wonderful traits with this syndrome. Very friendly, she loves meeting people and being social able. Many people with Williams Syndrome are extremely musical and kind and honest. Holly is very musical and has participated in talent shows at school - she has no problem singing anywhere, anytime. She loves talking with her 2 golden doodles named Cooper and Charlotte, and hanging out with them. Holly has an older sister who is her best friend. Holly struggles every day to not be social able.



## Lindsay Vandewater

Program Support Assistant, Atlantic Council for International Cooperation

Lindsay Vandewater is a graduate of Saint Mary's University in Halifax with degrees in Psychology and Sociology. Originally born in Nova Scotia, Lindsay spent most of her life in British Columbia and returned to Nova Scotia for university. She currently works for Atlantic Council for International Cooperation (ACIC) as the Program Support Assistant. Lindsay is a passionate advocate for LGBTQ2S+ rights, gender equality, and sexual violence prevention and education. At ACIC, Lindsay has been trying to demonstrate the significance of LGBTQ2S+ communities in sustainable development through a series of blog posts and an event hosted during Halifax Pride. Lindsay enjoys macrophotography, podcasts, hockey and spending time at home with her partner and cat.



## Derrick Carl 'Deejah' Biso

ASI Board member

(They/Them/Theirs)

Deejah is a trans non-binary, queer artist and performer living in Windsor Ontario. Born and raised in Prince Edward Island, Deejah completed their undergraduate in Philosophy and Diversity and Social Justice Studies at the University of Prince Edward Island, and also partially completed a diploma in Graphic Design at Holland College. They have been working professionally as a graphic communication designer in Windsor since 2016 and supporting local supports for the LGBTQ2SIA+ community and liberation efforts. They are continuing their education with the University of Windsor's School of Creative Arts while working part time with Nouveau Event Planning and the City of Windsor. Deejah also volunteers as a member on the Artcite Inc. (Windsor ON) and Atlantic Summer Institute (Atlantic Canada Region) Board of Directors. Derrick also teaches yoga with the City of Windsor and was training and certified by the Maritime Yoga Teacher College located in Prince Edward Island.

