



# Victims of Hate: We ALL Have a Role to Play

Wednesday, April 24

9 – 4 PM, Comox Rec Centre

7 – 9:30 PM, Stan Hagen Theatre, NIC

## A Community Conference on Racism, Homophobia & Hate and an Evening of Social Justice Theatre

**8:30** Coffee and pastry

**9:00** Dr. Betty Donaldson, President, Community Justice Centre

### **Welcome & Aboriginal Acknowledgement**

**9:15** Chief Bev Sellars Xatsūll First Nation (Soda Creek Indian Band)  
"They Called Me Number One: Life in the Residential Schools"

**10:00** Morning Break

**10:15** Rev. Scott Agur, Comox United Church

### **"Making GBLT Welcome in Comox United Church"**

**11:00** Rob Thompson, Doctoral Candidate, Athabaska University

### **"Internet Safety: How hate spreads inCyberspace"**

**11:45 – 1:15** Lunch break on your own

**1:30** Susan Barr, Former Chair, SD#72 Board of Trustees

### **"Changing School Climate Through Policy in SD#71: The development and Implementation of the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Policy"**

**2:30 – 2:45** Afternoon Break

**2:45** Don McRae, Minister of Education and MLA for Comox Valley

### **"Alleviating Hate in Schools: BC's ERASE Programme"**

**3:30** Bruce Curtis, Chief Administrator, Community Justice Centre

### **"Theatre- a Lens for Conveying the Impact of Hate: The Torn Rainbow Project"**

**4:00** Closing Remarks

**7:00 – 9:30** Theatrical Double Bill at Stan Hagen Theatre, NIC

**"Everybody Comes to Tim's"** by Allison Williams

Nanaimo District Secondary Drama Department

**"Torn Rainbow or Sticks & Stones & Names May Break Me"** by Lori Mazey

Vanier Secondary Drama Department

A Victims of Crime Awareness Week Event funded by



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# Conference Speakers

**Chief Bev Sellars** is chief of the Xat'sull (Soda Creek) First Nation in Williams Lake, British Columbia. She returned to the First Nations community of Soda Creek after an extended period of "visiting other territories." While she was away, she earned a degree in history from the University of Victoria and a law degree from the University of British Columbia, and she served as adviser for the B.C. Treaty Commission. She was first elected chief from 1987-1993 and was re-elected Chief upon her return to the community. She has spoken out on behalf of her community on racism and residential schools and on the environmental and social threats of mineral resource exploitation in her region.

**Rev. Scott Agur** is a retired United Church Minister who now lives in the Comox Valley and is an active member of the Comox United Church community. He served as Chair of the Affirming Task Force which explored the issue of whether to become an "Affirming" church, which means making an explicit commitment to, and practice of, being welcoming and inclusive of the LGBT community at all church and church-related events. The two years the church devoted to this process occurred six years after a previous effort was defeated. Agur will describe the history of the process and its outcomes. More importantly, he will describe and discuss the plans adopted for implementing the new policy and its implications for the church.

**Rob Thompson** is an educator with 30-plus years of secondary school and related experience, who has piloted numerous education and training projects and has been honoured with national and local awards for his contributions to education. A sought after speaker at national and international conferences, and the author of several novels and plays, he is currently engaged in doctorate studies, in online and computer learning, where he continues to build on his MA research into how your children and grandchildren actually use computers and technology.

**Susan Barr** was chair of the School Trustees for the Comox Valley when the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Policy was adopted in February 2010 and the regulations and implementation strategy were adopted in January, 2011. The policy is widely regarded as one of the early, and most advanced among the twenty school districts which have such policies. She is a Social Worker with the Home and Community Care Unit of VIHA. As part of her Master of Public Health and Social Policy at UVic, she served as an elder-care policy advisor to the Minister of Health. Susan is an active member of the musical theatre community in the Valley.

**The Honourable Don McRae** is the Liberal MLA for Comox Valley and has served in Cabinet as Minister of Agriculture and now as Minister of Education. From the mid 1990's to 2009, he taught SS, Military History, and Psychology at George P. Vanier Secondary School, and served as a City of Courtenay Councillor for seven years, between 2003 - 2009. As Minister of Education he has responsibility for the implementation of BC's Expect Respect And a Safe Education (ERASE Bullying) programme. The programme is based on ten strategic directives to all schools in BC aimed at a reduction in bullying and the creation of a safer school climate of safety over the next five years.

**Bruce Curtis** is Chief Administrator of the Community Justice Centre. As a restorative justice programme, the CJC has, for the past six years, been instrumental in conducting a wide range of community dialogues, arts events, and inter-faith projects seeking to address the issues of hate crime, racism, and homophobia in the Comox Valley – at the individual and the systemic levels. He is a high school teacher, university instructor, social justice advocate, and a former labour relations practitioner in the university setting in Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver.