

HUMAN RIGHTS NEWS

Updates from the Atlantic Human Rights Centre and the
St. Thomas University Human Rights Department

WINTER 2022

Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Law to Deliver Lodhi Lecture



The Atlantic Human Rights Centre Annual Dr. Abdul Q. Lodhi Memorial Lecture in Human Rights will be given by Dr. John Borrows, Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Law.

The lecture entitled “The Resurgence of Indigenous Law in Canada” is his reflection on the 40th Anniversary of the Canadian Constitution and Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Dr. Borrows says, “Indigenous peoples use law to regulate their affairs and resolve their disputes. Indigenous law functions through standards, principles, criteria, measures, guideposts, tradition, precedent, and processes to provide intellectual and cultural resources for making decisions. Indigenous law is growing in force and importance and this talk will discuss how and why this is occurring. In the process, legislatures, courts, corporations, law schools and other institutions in Canada are increasingly having to grapple with Indigenous law and Canadian law related to Indigenous peoples’. This talk will discuss how Indigenous peoples law is an increasingly active force across the land.”

John Borrows is Professor of Law at the University of Victoria Faculty of Law. He is the author of books including *Recovering Canada: The Resurgence of Indigenous Law* (Donald Smiley Award Best Book in Canadian Political Science, 2002), *Canada's Indigenous Constitution* (Canadian Law and Society Best Book Award 2011), *Drawing Out Law: A Spirit's Guide* (2010), *Freedom and Indigenous Constitutionalism* (Donald Smiley Award Best Book in Canadian Political Science, 2016), *The Right Relationship* (with Michael Coyle, ed.), *Resurgence and Reconciliation* (with Michael Asch, Jim Tully, eds.), and *Law's Indigenous Ethics* (2020 Best Subsequent Book Award from Native American and Indigenous Studies Association, 2020 W. Wes Pue Best Book Award from the Canadian Law and Society Association).

He is the 2017 Killam Prize Winner in Social Sciences and the 2019 Molson Prize Winner from the Canada Council for the Arts, the 2020 Governor General's Innovation Award Winner, and the 2021 Canadian Bar Association President's Award Winner. He was appointed as an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2020. He is also a member of the Chippewa of the Nawash First Nation in Ontario.

The lecture will take place online on Thursday, March 3rd, at 7:00 p.m. AST.

To register for this event, please [click here](#).



Atlantic Human
Rights Centre



STU.ca/humanrights

STU.ca/AHRC

Atlantic Human Rights Centre Fellow Alex Neve leads national research project “Federalism and International Human Rights Law”

The AHRC is acting as a partner in the local component of a national research project entitled “Federalism and International Human Rights Law”, under the leadership of New Brunswick-born AHRC Fellow, Alex Neve, former Secretary General of Amnesty International Canada, and now Adjunct Professor of International Human Rights Law with the Faculties of Law at the Universities of Ottawa and Dalhousie. The ultimate purpose of the project is to advance a proposal for a strengthened approach among federal, provincial and territorial governments to the implementation of Canada’s International human rights obligations.



About the idea behind it, Alex says: *“Canada is seen and sees itself as a country with a strong commitment to human rights, globally and at home. There has, however, been remarkably little consideration of whether we measure up to that reputation and aspiration where it matters most, ensuring that international human rights are consistently and effectively upheld across the country... Given the country’s constitutional division of powers, depending on the subject matter the authority to address specific human rights concerns in Canada may be divided between or shared by federal, provincial and territorial governments. Federalism therefore requires innovation in ensuring that human rights are meaningfully and consistently respected across the country.”*

He continues: *“No federal, provincial or territorial government has an expressly empowered Minister of Human Rights. Instead, responsibility for upholding human rights is dispersed across government. While all Ministers should of course take human rights seriously, this lack of explicit human rights leadership poses a challenge to clarity and accountability ...What is needed is an approach that brings federal, provincial and territorial governments together in a manner that delivers effective, coordinated, consistent, transparent and accountable international human rights implementation in this country. The responsibility to comply with international human rights does not attach singularly to any one government in Canada. The obligations attach to the country as a whole. Governments, working together, must live up to that responsibility.”*

Alex is now supervising student research teams from coast to coast, who will examine the outcomes of United Nations-level human rights reviews of Canada to identify locally relevant issues and recommendations. They will also examine what mechanisms are in place at provincial/territorial level to act on those recommendations and generally ensure compliance. This will be done through desk research on provincial government and UN documents, interviews with government officials, lawyers and civil society and Indigenous groups, Freedom of Information Requests, and review of media reports and other sources. Ultimately each team will prepare a written report of their findings which will be compiled with the others from across the country.

The AHRC component of this project involves a St Thomas University human rights student research intern team: Brianna Bourgeois and Elisha Gunaratnam who will study New Brunswick, and Paytra Waibel and Graci Young who will study PEI. All the other student research intern teams on this project covering the other jurisdictions are from (12) law schools across the country, including Dalhousie, U of T and Osgoode, Queens University, University of Manitoba, and UBC, among others.

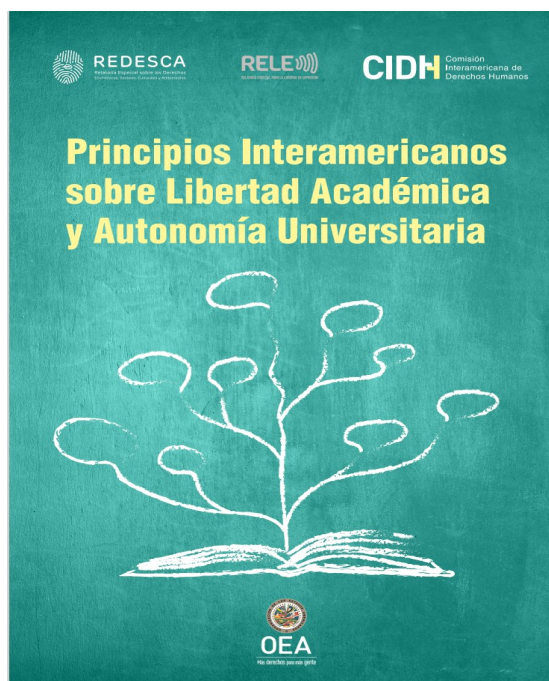
Atlantic Human Rights Centre Endorses the Inter-American Principles on Academic Freedom and University Autonomy

The Atlantic Human Rights Centre has endorsed the Inter-American Principles on Academic Freedom and University Autonomy, proposed by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, and Special Rapporteur for Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights.

According to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, “The objective of the Inter-American Principles is to provide a tool that integrates the standards developed by the Inter-American Commission concerning academic freedom and university autonomy. At the same time, this instrument seeks to serve as a frame of reference for OAS States Parties to take into consideration to ensure that their academic freedom laws, policies, and practices are in compliance with Inter-American human rights norms and standards.”

Among other things, the Principles recognize that “academic freedom is an independent and interdependent human right, which enables the exercise of a series of other rights, including the right to freedom of expression, the right to education, the right of assembly, freedom of conscience, freedom of association, equality before the law, freedom of belief and religion, and the right to the benefits of culture and scientific progress, as well as labor and trade union rights, all of which are recognized” already in various international and Inter-American human rights instruments.

The Principles furthermore emphasize that “students, faculty, academic staff, researchers, and other Individuals as well as institutions of the academic community play an essential role as catalysts, generators of knowledge, and agents for discovery, self-reflection, progress, the promotion of democratic principles, ownership of human rights, respect for diversity, the fight against authoritarianism in the Americas, the education of individuals, and the response to and search for solutions to the challenges facing humanity, and are subject to particular vulnerability in authoritarian contexts, since they may face restrictions, risks, and violations of their human rights as a result of their research, thinking, and criticism, especially when they are involved in the discussion of matters of public interest, and therefore enjoy special protection.” **(continues over)**



Atlantic Human Rights Centre Endorses the Inter-American Principles on Academic Freedom and University Autonomy

Among the Principles adopted are:

- protection of academic freedom;
- autonomy of academic institutions;
- non-discrimination;
- protection against State interference;
- protection against acts of violence;
- inviolability of academic space;
- prohibition of censorship and exceptionality of the exercise of States' punitive power;
- protection against and prevention of private parties' acts or omissions;
- human rights education as a duty;
- access to information, internet, and other technologies;
- protection of international mobility and cooperation;
- application in public and private institutions;
- inclusive dialogue in the context of higher education; and
- implementation as a duty.

For full details please [click here](#).

To learn more about the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, [click here](#).

Get Involved! Submit News of Your Human Rights Activism

Are you involved in human rights activism?

Would you like to share how you actively promote human rights in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Wolastoqiyik/ Mi'kmaq/ Peskotomuhkati Territories, or the wider Atlantic region?

The Atlantic Human Rights Centre would love to hear from you!

Submit news of your human rights activism to be shared in the Fall 2022 Newsletter, or on the AHRC Events webpage.

All submissions may be emailed to ahrcentre@stu.ca.

Atlantic Human Rights Centre Welcomes New Board Members

Husoni Raymond

Husoni Raymond was born and raised in Jamaica. He grew up witnessing human rights violations which led to his involvement in numerous youth human rights programs, including Respect Jamaica and the Rights Awareness Program (RAP). Husoni completed his degree in Public Policy, Criminology and Human Rights at St. Thomas University in Canada. There, he was influential in starting the conversation about anti-Black racism within the University and the New Brunswick broader community. He served on the student union for four years, notably being elected as the first Black Student Union President in his University's history. He received the New Brunswick Multicultural Council's Champion of Cultural Diversity award in 2019 for his community contributions. Husoni is now pursuing his Juris Doctor degree from Osgoode Hall Law School. However, he remains an active member of Black Lives Matter Fredericton and Black Lives Matter Canada.



Julianna Peter–Paul: Student Observer

Julianna Peter-Paul is from Metepenagiag Mikmaq Nation. She is working towards restoring Indigenous sovereignty in all aspects and reaffirming the inherent rights to the Wabanaki territories. Majoring in Communications and Public Policy at St. Thomas University, she hopes to become a change maker.

Julianna also has passions for storytelling, Indigenous ways of being, and oral history. With experience in producing podcasts and audio projects, she has gained knowledge and developed a relaxed way of storytelling through oral ways. Most of her creativity stems from the land and water along with stories that have been passed down to her.

Welcome, Husoni and Julianna!

The Atlantic Human Rights Centre is also pleased to announce that human rights lawyer, Aditya Rao, will act as Advisory Board Chair until Fall 2022.



Black History Month Events

St. Thomas University Events

February 9: “Employment, Entrepreneurship and Opportunities as a Black person”

This event, hosted by the St. Thomas University Black Students’ Association, will be held on February 9th at 1:00 p.m. (AST) via Zoom.

For more information, please contact blackassociation@stu.ca.

February 10: “Africa for the Africans: A History of Self-Determination Before Decolonization”

Dr. Adom Getachew of the University of Chicago will deliver a keynote Zoom lecture on February 10th from 6:30-7:30 p.m. (AST).

To register, please [click here](#).

February 17: “Walking while Black— A discussion of the issues, stereotypes and microaggressions affecting the Black community”

This event, hosted by the St. Thomas University Black Students’ Association, will be held on February 17th at 1:00 p.m. (AST) via Zoom.

For more information, please contact blackassociation@stu.ca.

University of New Brunswick Events

February 1-28: “Black History Month: Rediscovering the Roots of Black New Brunswickers” This project brings portraits of Black New Brunswickers to the streets of Fredericton where banners will be displayed on the streets of downtown Fredericton throughout the month of February.

To learn more, please [click here](#).

February 3: “Why Black History Matters in American Medicine”

This event, organized by the University of New Brunswick Department of History will feature a keynote lecture by Dr. Deirdre Cooper Owens at 7:00 p.m. (AST) via Teams.

To learn more, please visit [click here](#).

New Brunswick Events

February 1-28: 2022 Pride, Race, Unity, Dignity, Education Inc. Black History Month Speaker Series Pride, Race, Unity, Dignity, Education Inc. and New Brunswick Black History Society are teaming up to bring a series of free, interactive online talks by presenters from around the province.

To learn more, please visit www.prudeinc.org.

Black History in Fredericton Exhibition

This permanent exhibition is dedicated to the Black Heritage of the Fredericton Region.

To learn more, please [click here](#).

National Virtual Events

February 8: Capital Pride “Our Voices Speaker Series: Black Representation in the Media”

This live panel discussion will focus on addressing Black and Queer representation in the media.

To learn more, please visit www.capitalpride.ca

February 18: Capital Pride “Queer Black Excellence Showcase”

This event will feature performances from Queer Black Canadian trailblazers.

To learn more, please visit www.capitalpride.ca

February 23: Capital Pride “Our Voices Speaker Series with Kim Katrin”

This keynote discussion with Kim Katrin Milan will focus on Black Queer and Trans Liberation.

To learn more, please visit www.capitalpride.ca



HUMAN RIGHTS AND MEDIA LECTURE SERIES

Presented by the Atlantic Human Rights Centre, St. Thomas University's departments of Human Rights, Journalism, and Communications and Public Policy, NB Media Co-op and RAVEN.

LECTURE SERIES | FULL SCHEDULE

SPIN DOCTORS AND COVID-19

JAN. 18 @ 5:30 PM | ZOOM

Nora Loreto, writer and editor of the Canadian Association of Labour Media (CALM), on her new book, *Spin Doctors: How Media and Politicians Misdiagnosed the COVID-19 Pandemic*.

POLITICAL BOTS

FEB. 1 @ 5:30 PM | ZOOM

Elizabeth Dubois, Associate Professor of Communications, University of Ottawa, on Political bots: Understanding communication strategies using automation and AI.

FAKE NEWS

FEB. 8 @ 5:30 PM | ZOOM

Erin Steuter, Professor of Sociology, Mount Allison University, on how to spot fake news.

HATE SPEECH

FEB. 10 @ 5:30 PM | ZOOM

Aditya Rao, a human rights lawyer, on hate speech and human rights in Canada: The fight over Section 13 of the Canadian Human Rights Act.

NON-CONSENSUAL DISCLOSURE OF INTIMATE IMAGES

FEB. 15 @ 5:30 PM | ZOOM

Hilary Young, Professor of Law at the University of New Brunswick, on Civil Recourse for Non-Consensual Disclosure of Intimate Images.

PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY

FEB. 22 @ 5:30 PM | ZOOM

Laura O'Brien, UN Advocacy Officer for Access Now, on defending peaceful assembly in the digital age.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

MAR. 17 @ 5:30 PM | ZOOM

Fenwick McKelvey, Assistant Professor, Communication Studies, Concordia University, explores the ways AI is shaping our lives and communications.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE GLOBAL SOUTH

MAR. 31 @ 5:30 PM | ZOOM

Siti Maimunah, a rapporteur for the People's Tribunal at COP26 in Glasgow, on telling the stories of people of the Global South affected by climate change.

ADVANCING THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

APR. 12 @ 5:30 PM | ZOOM

Kaitlyn Layden, a disability rights advocate, on engaging the media to advance the rights of people with disabilities.

LECTURE SERIES PRESENTED BY



Human Rights Department Welcomes Part–Time Professor

Dr. Tracy Glynn

Dr. Tracy Glynn teaches courses on social justice, social movements, environmental praxis and the media at St. Thomas University and the University of New Brunswick. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of New Brunswick in the disciplines of political economy, sociology and social anthropology. Her doctoral research examined the gendered nature of everyday resistance to nickel mining in Indonesia. Her current research challenges climate activists to consider the social and environmental impacts of the metals boom for electrification. She is also part of teams conducting research on the situation of migrant workers in Atlantic Canada and the integration of refugees in southeast Europe during COVID.

From 2006 to 2018, she was the forest campaigner at the Conservation Council of New Brunswick, one of Canada's oldest environmental organizations. Previously, she was the international mining campaigner at the Jakarta office of JATAM, a grassroots network that supports communities affected by mining, oil and gas in Indonesia. She is a board member of MiningWatch Canada and engages in solidarity networks such as Breaking the Silence that work with land defenders in Guatemala, Colombia, Turtle Island and beyond. She is also the coordinating editor of the NB Media Co-op and is active with the New Brunswick Coalition for Tenants Rights, Reproductive Justice New Brunswick and Solidarité Fredericton.

In Winter 2022, she is teaching the Human Rights and Social Media course and has organized the Human Rights and Media lecture series highlighted on the previous page.

Welcome, Dr. Glynn!



Standing Up for the Human Right to Equality

Student-led groups at St. Thomas University have proven their commitment towards advancing human rights and promoting equality on campus. Get involved or otherwise show your support!

Asian Students' Association

St. Thomas University Asian Students' Association was founded in 2021 by three female leaders in the St. Thomas community, to provide students with a space to learn about each other's culture, promote diversity, and serve as a voice for Asian students. The aim of the Asian Students' Association is to promote cultural diversity and advocate for change. This is achieved by hosting events and activities on campus in a welcoming, safe, and inclusive environment.

Connect with STUASA on Instagram @stu.asa or reach out to them by email at asa@stu.ca.

Black Students' Association

St. Thomas University Black Students' Association (STUBSA) was created to promote solidarity among students of colour at the university. It is STUBSA's mission to create spaces conducive to discussions on race, allyship, inclusivity and other topics. The organization aims to be the main voice of Black students on the St. Thomas University campus and to plan and execute Black History Month initiatives each year in partnership with St. Thomas University. As we approach the month of February, which is historically celebrated as Black History Month, STUBSA prepares a host of activities. Given the climate surrounding the pandemic and the need to remain safe, all activities will be conducted virtually.

Connect with STUBSA on Instagram @stubsba or reach out to them by email at blackassociation@stu.ca.

Indigenous Students' Reconciliation Committee

The Indigenous Students' Reconciliation Committee is invested into the further decolonization of the University on a student level by hosting events and fundraisers for St. Thomas University's Indigenous and non-Indigenous population. The Committee is determined to create a safe space for all students and faculty to gain knowledge on the history, culture and societal issues that Indigenous people face.

Connect with the Indigenous Students' Reconciliation Committee on Facebook at STUdent Reconciliation Committee or reach out to them by email at su_indigenous@stu.ca.

Latin American Students' Association

The Latin American Students' Association, better known as LASA, acts as a liaison between Latin American Students and the St. Thomas University Community. LASA strives to offer a safe space and environment for the Latin American community to share their culture and traditions. LASA is dedicated to ensuring that each Latin American student is represented and feels comfortable sharing their culture and traditions with the broader STU community by creating a space for learning and support.

Connect with STU LASA on Instagram @stu_lasa or reach out to them by email at lasa@stu.ca.

Sexuality and Gender Advocacy

St. Thomas University Sexuality and Gender Advocacy (SAGA) is a student-led group that was created for LGBTQIA+ people and their allies. The member population of SAGA is comprised of STU students and club executives, while partners, friends and students of other universities and the community are non-members. The group provides a safe space for both members and non-members to join and socialize by hosting a series of both social and educational meetings.

Reach out to STU SAGA by email at saga@stu.ca.

University Women's Centre

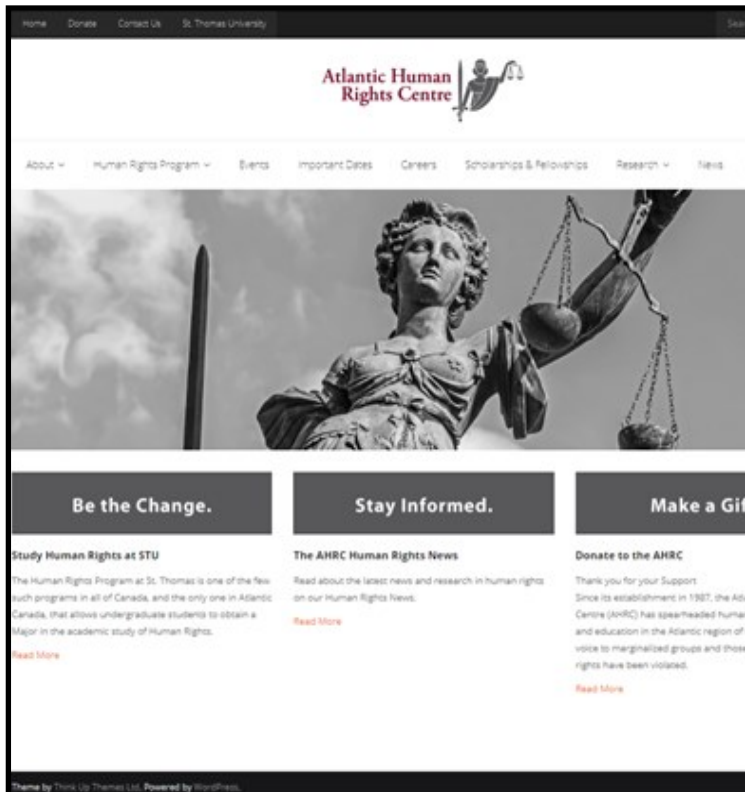
The University Women's Centre is a safe space on the UNB campus that serves the tri-campus community. Their room is available for students to study, hang out, and breastfeed in a comfortable, non-judgemental environment. The Centre also serves as a resource on campus that provides information on safe-sex, sexual health, safe injections and social and education programs, women's shelters, and more. The Centre values inclusivity and respect and are guided by consideration for intersectionality and diversity. Their goal is to promote a campus environment where all people can live and work in an atmosphere of mutual respect, understanding, security, and equality by affirming the dignity of all self-identified women.

Connect with the University Women's Centre on Instagram @uwomenscentre or reach out to them by email at universitywomenscentre@gmail.com.

Fall 2022 Human Rights Course Offerings

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30 AM					
9:00 AM			9:00-10:20 Dr. S. Murphy Intro. to Human Rights		9:00-10:20 Dr. S. Murphy Intro. to Human Rights
9:30 AM					
10:00 AM			10:00-11:20 Dr. S. Murphy Rights Revolution in Canada (Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms)		10:00-11:20 Dr. S. Murphy Rights Revolution in Canada (Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms)
10:30 AM					
11:00 AM					
11:30 AM		11:30-1:00 Dr. C. Szurlej Capstone Seminar (Digital Rights)		11:30-1:00 Dr. C. Szurlej Capstone Seminar (Digital Rights)	
12:00 PM					
12:30 PM					
1:00 PM		1:00-2:20 Dr. A. DiPaolo Intro. to Human Rights		1:00-2:20 Dr. A. DiPaolo Intro. to Human Rights	
1:30 PM					
2:00 PM		1:00-2:20 Dr. S. Murphy Political Rights and their Limits		1:00-2:20 Dr. S. Murphy Political Rights and their Limits	
2:30 PM		2:30-4:00 Dr. C. Szurlej Environment and Human Rights	2:30- 5:20 Dr. A. DiPaolo Moot Court	2:30-4:00 Dr. C. Szurlej Environment and Human Rights	
4:00 PM		4:00-5:20 Dr. A. DiPaolo Popular Culture and Human Rights		4:00-5:20 Dr. A. DiPaolo Popular Culture and Human Rights	
5:30 PM	5:30-6:50 Prof. M. Comeau Intro. to Human Rights		5:30-6:50 Prof. M. Comeau Intro. to Human Rights		
6:00 PM					
6:30 PM		5:30-6:50 STAFF International Human Rights	5:30-6:50 STAFF International Human Rights		

Atlantic Human Rights Centre Website



Please visit our website

<https://wp.stu.ca/ahrc/>

On the website you can find human rights events and view opportunities related to human rights locally, nationally, and internationally, and read current news related to the Atlantic Human Rights Centre and Human Rights Program at St. Thomas University.

LODHI MEMORIAL LECTURE IN HUMAN RIGHTS

The Resurgence of Indigenous Law in Canada



**DR. JOHN
BORROWS**
CANADA RESEARCH CHAIR
IN INDIGENOUS LAW
University of Victoria
Law School

Indigenous law is growing in force and importance and this talk will discuss how and why this is occurring. In the process, legislatures, courts, corporations, law schools and other institutions in Canada are increasingly having to grapple with Indigenous law and Canadian law related to Indigenous peoples.

This talk will discuss how Indigenous peoples law is an increasingly active force across the land.

**MARCH 3 @ 7PM (AST)
Via Zoom**

REGISTER: [STU.CA/LODHI](https://www.stu.ca/LODHI)

Do you have a listing you want to share?

Contact us!

Brianna Bourgeois

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ahrcentre@stu.ca

Dr. Shannonbrooke Murphy

Acting Director, Atlantic Human Rights Centre

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