



# Labour on the Margins

**SOCIAL JUSTICE SERIES**  
 Free public symposium  
 Community Education Programs

Learn and share about labour issues and challenges and co-develop strategies for advocacy and action.

*Labour on the Margins* will focus on three distinct groups of labourers who experience marginalization: sex workers, migrant farm workers, and immigrant workers. The program will showcase some of the grassroots organizing that is ongoing in these communities, as well as academic, political and activist perspectives.

**November 16, 7–9:30 pm & November 17, 9 am–5 pm**

Location: Segal Graduate School of Business, SFU  
 500 Granville Street (at Pender), Vancouver

**Reservations required.**  
**Please call 778-782-5100 to reserve.**

Presented by Community Education Programs, Continuing Studies, Simon Fraser University.

For more information please contact:  
[community-ed@sfu.ca](mailto:community-ed@sfu.ca)

Generously sponsored by:



David and Cecilia Ting Fund

Supported by:



Centre for Labour Studies.

## Symposium Facilitator

**Derek Evans** is a writer, teacher, scholar, and activist. His work in peace and human rights spans three decades and five continents, and bridges local and global concerns.

Mr. Evans served two terms as Deputy Secretary General of Amnesty International, and has led more than seventy international delegations conducting human rights investigations or peace negotiations. He was formerly Executive Director of the Naramata Centre, one of Canada's foremost experiential learning institutes.

He is an Associate of the Wosk Centre for Dialogue at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, where he teaches in a specialized graduate program on conflict and negotiation. He is Principal of Evans & Associates, a professional firm providing consultancy services in the fields of conflict transformation, human rights, governance and strategic development. During the past two years he has worked primarily for the UN, providing leadership in the area of children and AIDS.

Mr. Evans is a regular political columnist, and is the author or co-author of some fourteen books, most recently *Before the War* (2004) and *Dispatches from the Global Village* (2007). He is married to Pat Deacon, a homeopath in private practice. They are parents of three adult children, and live in the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia, Canada. For more information visit [www.derekevans.com](http://www.derekevans.com).

November 16

## Keynote Presentations

**Raj Chouhan** was elected as the New Democratic Party MLA for Burnaby-Edmonds on May 17, 2005. Mr. Chouhan serves as Opposition Critic for Human Rights, Multiculturalism and Immigration. Born in the Punjab province of India, Mr. Chouhan was the founding President of the Canadian Farmworkers' Union and served as a Director of the Hospital Employees Union. Mr. Chouhan also served as a member of the Labour Relations Board of B.C. and the Arbitration Bureau of B.C.

A founding member of the B.C. Organization to Fight Racism, Mr. Chouhan has worked relentlessly in promoting human rights and racial equality. He has served as the Vice President of B.C. Human Rights Defenders since 2003. Mr. Chouhan has taught courses on Human Rights, the B.C. Labour Code and collective bargaining since 1987.

**Dr. Guy Standing** is Professor of Economic Security at the University of Bath, UK and Professor of Labour Economics at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia. From 1999 until March 2006, he was Director of the Socio-Economic Security Programme of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), based in Geneva. In 1998–99, he was in the "transition team" for the ILO's new Director General, set up to help restructure the organization.

Dr. Standing is co-chair of the Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN), an organization of economists, philosophers and other social scientists from over 40 countries. He has a doctorate in economics from the University of Cambridge and a master's degree in industrial relations. He has written and edited books on labour economics, labour market policy, unemployment, labour market flexibility, structural adjustment policies, and social protection policy. Recent books include: *Promoting Income Security as a Right: Europe and North America* (2005); *A Basic Income Grant for South Africa* (2004); and *Beyond the New Paternalism: Basic Security as Equality* (2002).

He was Coordinating Editor and main writer of the ILO's Economic Security for a Better World, a global report issued in 2004. He is on the Editorial Boards of several academic journals, including the Journal of European Social Policy, Development and Change, the European Journal of Industrial Relations, Comparative Labor Law and Policy Journal, and Global Social Policy.

November 17

## Keynote Presentation

**Regi David** is an Organizer at the Workers' Action Centre (WAC) in Toronto. The WAC works with non-unionized workers who are in low wage, temporary, contract and non standard work. WAC brings workers together to address problems in the workplace and helps non-unionized workers fight for better working conditions, better wages and to resist abusive and exploitative employers. Ms. David mobilizes and advocates on behalf of low income workers, women workers and immigrant workers. Her social activism began when she was fourteen years old in war torn Sri Lanka. She worked with women's groups to organize women and community members around women's rights, human rights and health issues. Her activism continued in Germany and subsequently in Canada where she was a union organizer for over 6 years before joining the WAC. In addition to her activism Ms. David has been involved in community and street theatre through groups such as Company of Sirens.

## Panel/Workshop Presentations

**Justicia 4 Migrant Workers** — an immigrant based, grassroots organization in Ontario and British Columbia. Together with the workers, Justicia struggles to defend and expand the rights of seasonal agricultural migrant workers who come yearly to work in Canada under the Federal Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program known as SAWP.

**BC Coalition of Experiential Communities (BCCEC)** — a consortium of sex worker activists who work to eliminate the oppressive systems and forces that create harm for individuals in the sex industry. The coalition operates under the principle that members commit to creating an environment of inclusion. The BCCEC support diverse perspectives and experiences except where they contribute to harm of sex workers; it does not support enforcement or rehabilitation models that either promote the continued criminalization of sex workers or sex worker dependency on social programs.

**MOSAIC** — a multilingual non-profit organization dedicated to addressing issues that affect immigrants and refugees in the course of their settlement and integration into Canadian society. MOSAIC's mandate is to support and empower immigrant and refugee communities, helping them to address critical issues in their neighborhoods and workplace.

## Closing Speaker

**Marjorie Griffin Cohen** is a Professor of Political Science and Women's Studies at Simon Fraser University. She is a political economist and an activist who writes on public policy and economics with special emphasis on issues concerning labour, women, and the Canadian economy. Her most recent book is *Remapping Gender in the New Global Order* (2007). She is currently the principle investigator of a five year SSHRC Community-University Research Alliance Grant (CURA) "Re-defining Public Services in British Columbia: Challenges to Economic Security and Alternative Possibilities." This project (called the Economic Security Project) brings together 22 community-based researchers, 22 researchers from universities in B.C. and many students in the study of the impact of recent government changes on vulnerable populations.