

2010 CTF Women's Issues Symposium

Advancing Women's Rights ... Next Steps

February 9-10, 2010, Toronto, Ontario

Hosted by the

Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario
480 University Avenue, Suite 1000 Toronto Ontario M5G 1V2



Canadian Teachers' Federation
Fédération canadienne des enseignantes et des enseignants



Association
des enseignantes
et des enseignants
franco-ontariens



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Program

Tuesday February 9th, 2010 at the ETFO Office

7:00 p.m. Welcoming Remarks – **Mary-Lou Donnelly**, CTF President and **Sam Hammond**, ETFO President.

7:15 p.m. Introduction to play – ETFO Deputy General Secretary **Marilies Rettig**

Get Yourself Home Skyler James is a riveting 30-minute dramatic monologue based on the true story of a small town teenager from Texas who naively joins the American military after high school graduation. When fellow soldiers uncover Skyler's hidden sexual orientation, she flees the country and seeks sanctuary in Canada after facing months of harassment, abuse, prejudice, and threats of violence that leave her feeling unsafe and unprotected.

7:45 p.m. **Wine and cheese.**
Julie Millard to say a few words on behalf of the Ontario Teachers Insurance Plan (OTIP) sponsoring the evening reception.

Wednesday February 11th, 2009 at the ETFO Office

7:30-9:00 a.m. Breakfast and Registration

9:00 – 9:15 Greetings and introductions – CTF President **Mary-Lou Donnelly**
James Ryan, President of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA)
Benoît Mercier, President of l'Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO)

9:15 – 9:30 Ice breaker activity – Mary Morison, Executive Assistant, Professional Services, ETFO

9:30 – 10:30 Keynote speaker: **Marina Nemat**, author.
In 1982, as a 16-year-old student tired of hearing propaganda about Ayatollah Khomeini from members of the Revolutionary Guard – who had replaced the teachers in her Tehran high school after the 1979 revolution – she asked the woman in charge of her calculus class if she could please get back to the main subject. "If you don't like what I am teaching, you can leave the classroom," the woman answered. So Nemat packed up her books and left the room. To her surprise, so did her whole class; it was the beginning of a school wide three-day student strike. She was subsequently arrested and imprisoned as a political prisoner. Marina will talk about her story and journey to Canada where

she now lives and how we as teachers and union activists can make a profound difference in the lives of women and girls.

- 10:30 – 10:45 Break
- 10:45 – 12:00 **Rebeca Sevilla** – Education International.
Rebeca is Coordinator of EI's Human & Trade Unit Rights Unit. She is Peruvian and she lives in the Netherlands. She will speak from a global perspective on women's issues as an Aboriginal person, feminist and human rights activist.
- 12:00 – 1:00 Lunch (provided)
- 1:00 – 2:00 **Panel discussion:**
Teacher leaders from across Canada will provide a snapshot of issues faced by women in education in their respective jurisdictions as well as initiatives and programs organized by their teacher organizations to counter barriers.
- 2:00 – 2:15 Break
- 2:15 – 3:15 **Small group discussions:** Break-out groups to discuss the next steps that need to be mapped in order to move forward on women's issues at the local, provincial/territorial, national and international levels.
- 3:15 Summary of discussions (groups reporting back) and synopsis of what are the next steps at the local, provincial/territorial, national and international levels.
- 4:00 Closing