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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MAY 30, 2019

CREATING EFFECTIVE ACTIVISM AND CHANGE EIGHTH COMMUNITY DIALOGUE EVENT FOCUSES ON POLITICAL ACTIVISM

Stratford, ON, May 30, 2019 –

The Stratford Public Library and the University of Waterloo Stratford School of Interaction Design and Business are excited to host the eighth lecture in the Community Dialogues series. Join our expert panelists on Tuesday, June 18th at 7pm as they examine how involvement can transform a landscape and inspire others to take action.

Julia Merritt, CEO of Stratford Public Library adds, "Civic engagement is an essential component of Canadian life, and we are delighted to have such a panel to share their knowledge on how to create change in our world. We look forward to sharing another engaging evening with the community!"

The lecture will consist of a free community conversation with four experienced panelists.

- Anna Drake is an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Waterloo, where she teaches political theory and gender and politics. Her research examines deliberative democracy's inclusion framework with a specific emphasis on oppression and activism.
- Shana MacDonald is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication Arts at the University of Waterloo. Dr. MacDonald is a practice-based researcher and co-convener of the collaborative (www.qcollaborative.com), a feminist design lab dedicated to developing new forms of relationality through technologies of public performance.
- Heather Smyth is an associate professor in the Department of English at the University of Waterloo, and is also a Board member at Sistering women's drop-in in Toronto's west end. At Sistering she chairs the Research Committee and the Social Advocacy Committee and has recently completed a community-based research project on marginalized and homeless women's oral histories.
- Fiqir Worku is a recent graduate from the University of Waterloo with a BSc Health Studies major, Philosophy minor and a Health Research Specialization. Her passion for equity-seeking groups has led to leadership roles in the University of Waterloo's Black Association for Student Expression (UWBASE) and RAISE (Racial Advocacy for Inclusion, Solidarity and Equity). Fiqir is also the recent recipient of the 2019 Lincoln M Alexander Award.

This lecture will follow the same format of the very successful Living with Less Plastic event held in March 2019, with a discussion on channeling high emotions into effective, positive, political change. The lecture and following question and answer period will be moderated by Shannon Dea, Associate Professor of Philosophy with the University of Waterloo.

The Stratford Public Library and University of Waterloo Stratford School are committed to an ongoing series of community dialogues designed to enlighten, foster communication, and strengthen community knowledge and ties. This

informative event will take place at the University of Waterloo Stratford School (125 St. Patrick Street, Stratford).

Register online by visiting splibrary.ca/EffectiveActivism

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Robyn Godfrey at 519-271-0220 x132 / rgodfrey@stratford.ca or Katherine Prospero at 519-888-4567 x23026 / katherine.prospero@uwaterloo.ca