

2024 Crimes Against Women Conference

Speakers



1. **Connie Walker**

Pulitzer Prize and Peabody Award-Winning Indigenous Journalist

Named one of TIME's 100 most influential people of 2024, Connie Walker has spent over two decades shedding light on often overlooked Indigenous stories. A Pulitzer Prize and Peabody Award-winning investigative journalist, her work has exposed the crisis of violence in Indigenous communities and the devastating impacts of intergenerational trauma stemming from Indian Residential Schools. A powerful storyteller, Walker's presentations help audiences better understand their role in reconciliation and provide valuable tips for meaningful inclusion in the workplace.

A member of the Okanese First Nation in Saskatchewan, Walker is the host of the acclaimed podcast *Stolen* from Gimlet Media and Spotify Studios. Its second season, "Stolen: Surviving St. Michael's", is considered one of the most comprehensive investigations into a single residential school. It exposed systemic abuse that permeated St. Michael's Indian Residential School in Duck Lake, Saskatchewan for decades and preserved the testimonies of survivors through a modern-day oral history project.

In 2023, "Stolen: Surviving St. Michael's" won a Pulitzer Prize and a Peabody Award, becoming the first podcast to win both awards in the same year. It also won an Edward R. Murrow Award, an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award, a National Magazine Award from the American Society of Magazine Editors, and an honourable mention from the Dart Awards for Excellence in Coverage of Trauma. The series was also named one of the best podcasts of the year by *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *Esquire*, and *Vulture* and featured in *The New York Times*, *Vogue*, and *Rolling Stone*.

Prior to joining Gimlet Media in 2020, Walker spent nearly two decades as a CBC reporter and host. She created and led the public broadcaster's Indigenous Unit in 2013 and was part of the team of reporters whose work exposed the crisis of missing or murdered Indigenous women. They were recognized as a finalist of the Michener Award and awarded the RTDNA's Adrienne Clarkson Award. In 2016, Walker launched the award-winning podcast *Missing & Murdered*, which exposed audiences to the systemic issues at the root of violence facing Indigenous women and girls.

Walker is a sought-after keynote speaker on the power of storytelling to create empathy and understanding, the importance of meaningful representation, and trauma-informed practices. She has presented to diverse audiences including Seattle Arts & Lectures, Tribeca Film Festival, Swarthmore College, Victoria Island

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University, Toronto-Dominion Bank, City of Toronto, TMX Group, and Fogler Rubinoff LLP.

2. **Debra Newell** **Surviving Dirty John** **Dirty John - Netflix**

Debra Newell is the owner of Ambrosia Home Inc., as well as the founder and former President of Ambrosia Interior Design Inc. Debra has won numerous awards throughout the years nationwide and internationally for model homes, clubhouses, custom homes, and country clubs. Debra has worked all over the world including a huge development called Orange County outside of Beijing, China, to textile manufacturing in Egypt along with the design of a hotel in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. She has also owned retail stores in California and Nevada. Debra has designed for Property Brothers along with other shows for Design.

Debra now devotes much of her time as an advocate for change and awareness helping women all over the world. Debra has been featured in People, US, Harper Bazaar, Forbes, The New Yorker, Vulture, Refinery29, and Bustle just to name a few. Additionally, she has made appearances on Dateline NBC, Dr Phil, Dr Oz, Megyn Kelly, Today, Inside Evil with Chris Cuomo, Kelly Clarkson, Fox News, Oxygen The Dirty Truth, and Netflix Dirty John among others.

Debra has been on numerous podcasts sharing her story regarding John Meehan. Debra has published a book called *Surviving Dirty John* which won the Indy award in 2022. Debra was a keynote speaker at several events including, Wounded Warriors, Crimecon, and Crimes against Women.

3. **Mark Zulinski** **Basil Borutski Case Study**

Retired Detective Inspector Mark Zulinski began his policing career with the Cornwall Police Service where he served from May 08th 1985 to October 5th 1998. He worked 6 years with the Service's Criminal Investigations Branch where he was the lead investigator in several homicide investigations.

In October 1998 he joined the Ontario Provincial Police and was posted at the SD&G Detachment where he worked uniform patrol and the Crime Unit.

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In 2001 he was promoted to Detective Sergeant and served as the Area Crime Supervisor for the Leeds and Grenville Detachment Crime Units.

In Sept 2004, he began an acting assignment at East Region Headquarters as a Regional Crime Supervisor and was promoted permanently to the rank of D/S/Sgt. In July 2006.

In October 2014, D/Insp Zulinski was successful in obtaining a position with the OPP Criminal Investigation Branch as a Major Case Manager in North East Region and was promoted the rank of Detective Inspector.

In September 2015 D/Insp Zulinski was assigned as the Major Case Manager in a triple Homicide that occurred in East Region, in which the accused Basil Borutski was convicted for the murders of 3 women.

D/Insp Zulinski retired from the OPP on December 31st 2018, after having served 33 years 8 months as a Police Officer.

4. Daryn Brito/ Detective Constable Jennifer Priebe

At age six, Daryn Brito was first compelled to take her life, on many occasions throughout her adolescence due to the continuous acts of sexual, physical and emotional abuse that she received from her father figures. Her desperate attempts to escape eventually led to hospitalization. At 12-years-old, Daryn attended her father's court trial after her younger sister reported his behavior to authorities. Due to the lack of accumulated evidence, Daryn's father would receive the penalties of losing custody of his children and a restriction of residency within the Kitchener-Waterloo Region.

During her teenage years, Daryn was abandoned by her mother in the treatment facilities and entered Family and Children's Services. She became a patient resident undergoing treatments of medication, psychiatric evaluation and therapy.

In 2019, Daryn entered a relationship with her eventual former boyfriend at the age of 18 while attending mental health treatment at a facility in Grand Bend. Later in their relationship, Daryn would file a domestic violence report against him which led to his immediate arrest, followed by a two-year bail period resulting from pandemic restrictions. During this time, Daryn would attend regular therapy which enabled her to overcome most of her traumatic past by employing a technique known as

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brainspotting. A court date was initiated for her ex-boyfriend's trial and he was prosecuted with five IPV related charges and received a term of incarceration for seven years.

Embracing her traumatic past, Daryn utilizes the knowledge she has gained to educate others on overcoming their struggles by volunteering at youth centers and collaborating with police and parole officers to assist in aiding domestic violence victims. Daryn's current endeavors include pursuing a Degree in Psychology at Wilfrid Laurier University, assisting with Youth in Care research and writing her first self-help novel. During post-secondary endeavors she has won various awards including the Soroptimist International. She intends to go on to complete a PhD in Psychology in September 2025 to improve rehabilitation methods for young offenders addressing the root cause of crime, trauma and state of survival.

Detective Constable Jennifer Priebe is a 16-year member of the Waterloo Regional Police Service. Her policing career began 'walking the beat' downtown and patrolling on bicycle (her favourite assignment!), to School Resource Officer and Recruiter. Detective Priebe is now with the General Investigations Unit after 4.5 years with the Intimate Partner Violence Unit.

Jennifer earned a diploma in Interior Design and worked as a kitchen designer for several years. After an encounter with an incredible Detective of the Niagara Regional Police Service who left a lasting impression on her, she embarked on a drastic career change, eager to be the same voice for victims. As continued support of a Survivor of Intimate Partner Violence, Detective Priebe attends speaking engagements drawing awareness to the importance of victim-centric and trauma informed investigations.

To ensure her own wellbeing, Detective Priebe practices yoga and is a triathlete, competing in nine Ironman's and most recently achieving her lifelong goal of racing at the World Championships in Kona Hawaii. She credits her accomplishments to the unwavering support of her husband who solves the world's problems with her over morning coffee and chases her around race courses. Jennifer's family is her foundational rock and she enjoys spoiling her nieces and nephews.

5. **Peter Collins** **Forensic Psychiatrist**

Peter Collins has been the forensic psychiatrist with the Ontario Provincial Police, since 1995. From 1990 to 1995 he was a member of the first profiling unit of the Royal

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Canadian Mounted Police (Violent Crime Analysis Section) and was involved in the development of the Violent Crime Linkage Analysis System (ViCLAS). Since 1992 he has been a member of the crisis/hostage negotiation team of the Toronto Police Service Emergency Task Force.

Peter obtained his Masters in Applied Criminology, from the University of Ottawa, his Medical Degree from McMaster University and completed his postgraduate medical training in psychiatry and forensic psychiatry at the University of Toronto. His clinical appointment is with the Complex Illness and Recovery Program at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, and he is an Associate Professor, in the Division of Forensic Psychiatry, Temerty Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto.

He is a consulting editor with the Journal of Threat Assessment and Management, published by the American Psychological Association, and a columnist with Blue Line Magazine.

He retired from the Canadian Armed Forces (Reserves), at the rank of Lieutenant-Commander, and served on 2 deployments in Southern Afghanistan. In October 2012 he was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in recognition of his contribution to the Canadian Forces. He presently serves as an advisor, to the Toronto Police Service, Military Veterans Wellness Program, to assist veterans in crisis.

In 2023 Peter was appointed to the National Expert Committee on Countering Radicalization to Violence, by the Minister Public Safety, Canada.

In 1997 Peter was elected a member of the International Criminal Investigative Analysis Fellowship. In 2017 he received a lifetime achievement award from the Canadian Critical Incident Association. Peter is an authority on violent crime and has worked with, and instructed, numerous criminal justice agencies in North America, and 25 countries internationally, including the FBI, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Interpol, and Europol.

6. **Simone Bell/ Christine Clark**

Simone Bell is the Human Trafficking Victim Support Specialist at Ottawa Police Service. She has been in this role for two years. This role is the first of its kind within OPS. Simone has been working in the field of Anti HT for 8 years. During her career she has trained the public, service providers and police nationally and international

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on Victim Mind, trauma and community mobilization. Previously she founded The Hope Found Project within Voice Found that supports victims/survivors with their healing and recovery. As a survivor of human trafficking her goal is to support survivors and prevent exploitation through public education.

Christine Clark is the Community Education Coordinator with A New Day Youth and Adult Services; a non-profit anti-human trafficking organization. For fifteen years, Christine was a decorated foster parent with the Children's Aid Society of Ottawa. When Christine closed her foster door to take on a new role in anti-human trafficking, she quickly became a valued member of our local and surrounding communities. Christine has spent countless hours on prevention using her lived-experience and knowledge to speak with thousands of youth through school boards in Eastern Ontario, training police services, victim services, and so on. In the spirit of work/life balance, Christine enjoys wrangling her three dogs and watching reality TV in her spare time.

7. **Dr. Jody Carrington**

Renowned Psychologist/Human Connection Expert/Bestselling Author

Dr. Jody Carrington is a renowned psychologist and a charismatic keynote speaker celebrated for her profound expertise in human connections. As a leading authority in addressing complex, human-centered challenges, Dr. Carrington excels in guiding individuals and organizations through the intricacies of re-establishing relationships in today's increasingly disconnected society. She boldly believes that all humans have the capacity for good; however, so many of us these days, because of isolation and burnout, have lost access to that good. Through her insightful analysis, Dr. Carrington explores how societal detachment occurs and outlines practical, meaningful solutions for reconnection. Her approach combines a deeper understanding of how necessary acknowledgment has become and she underscores how this need is so much bigger than recognition. Her dynamic and heartfelt presentations, infused with humor and honesty, captivate and energize audiences worldwide.

She is the Founder and Principal Psychologist at Carrington & Company, she has served as a civilian member of Canada's national police force, the RCMP, and practiced with the most complex cases on a psychiatric inpatient unit. Dr. Jody's balance as a devoted practitioner and brilliant communicator result in an ability to authentically connect through impactful presentations that has set a new bar in talking about the shifting landscape of mental health. Dr. Jody has authored three

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best-selling books including *Feeling Seen* (Harper Collins, 2022) and hosts the widely celebrated podcast, "Everyone Comes from Somewhere." From major theatres and convention halls of 5,000 attendees, to boardrooms of 20 senior leaders, she revels in connecting and delighting an audience of any size, championing the profound need for genuine human connection in an era often dominated by digital communication. Her work is trusted by many of the world's Fortune 500 companies, professional sports teams, education and healthcare leaders all working to solve similar core challenges in creating a new set of rules to support and motivate their teams.

She is a mom to three, a wife to her (very lucky) husband, a hockey coach, a daughter, and a sister, navigating this world, alongside everyone she has the privilege to learn from and serve.