

24 Sept 2018

“Refugees: heros or zeros? Understanding what it means to be stateless”

Pearson College UWC Global Affairs Speaker Series This Thursday

Metchosin – Victoria Community Leadership Award recipient Sharmarke Dubow is set to address the challenge of regaining one’s dignity, respect and a sense of belonging after a refugee experience from a very personal perspective at an upcoming Pearson College UWC Global Affairs Speaker Series talk.

As a refugee from Somalia who settled in Victoria, Dubow will share his own story and discuss the role of international humanitarian law, what it means to offer protection to people who are stateless, and how to humanize the refugee story. Dubow currently co-chairs immigrant and settlement at the national level for the Canadian Council for Refugees, is active with local refugee and resettlement organizations and recently decided to become a candidate for Victoria City Council.

Who: Victoria community organizer and advocate Sharmarke Dubow

What: Pearson College UWC Global Affairs Speaker Series

Where: [McConnell Theatre/Max Bell Hall/Pearson College UWC, 650 Pearson College Drive, Victoria B.C. \(In Metchosin\)](#)

When: 2:45 pm Thursday, 27 September 2018

Why: Today, more than 65 million people have been forcibly displaced with 23 million people categorized as refugees – the highest number since the UN High Commission on Refugees was established in 1950.

About Sharmarke Dubow

Sharmarke Dubow is a Victoria-based organizer, connector and human rights advocate. Sharmarke fled his home country of Somalia when he was 8 years old and was a refugee for more than two decades before resettling in Canada. These experiences convinced him to dedicate his life to social and environmental justice issues. He currently works

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with the Canadian Council for Refugees, a working group looking at broader social justice context related to newcomers in Canada, including systemic racism, racialization of poverty, employment and income security, housing and homelessness, health, family reunification, and equitable access to services and basic entitlements. He also served two years on the executive committee of the Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR) and worked for the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria and the Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society. He also served local organizations and initiatives including the Victoria Tenant Action Group and Youth Crime Prevention Steering Committee.

About [Pearson College UWC](http://www.pearsoncollege.ca)

Pearson College UWC (www.pearsoncollege.ca), located on the unceded territory of the Scia'new (Beecher Bay) First Nation, is Canada's most globally-minded school and one of 17 United World Colleges around the globe. With an enrolment of 200 students, the College draws accomplished young leaders and changemakers, ages 16-19, from 160 countries and every province and territory of Canada. Pearson's two-year, pre-university curriculum is based on the International Baccalaureate (IB) program with a strong emphasis on experiential education at the residential campus along Pedder Bay on the unceded territory of the Scia'new (Beecher Bay) First Nation. The College opened in 1974 and was created as a living legacy for former prime minister and Nobel Peace Prize recipient Lester B. Pearson. The College purposely recruits a deliberately diverse student body, including young people from regions of conflict and challenging socioeconomic circumstances, to encourage young people to learn and live together to bring about meaningful changes in their communities and across the globe.

For more information, please contact:

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