

'Water is Life' TALK KPU Course discussed human rights and the climate crisis in presentation by celebrated co-presenters and expert



1 Dr. Ross Michael Pink, Samantha Jack and Kine Afework (left to right) spoke at the 'Water is Life' course on October 14th.

On Friday, October 14th, Dr. Ross Michael Pink, Samantha Jack and Kine Afework presented the TALK KPU course “Water is Life” at the Surrey KPU campus in front of a class of TALK members.

“Water is Life” is one of many climate-oriented courses TALK is offering this year, sharing relevant and impactful information from Thailand, Ethiopia and on Indigenous reservations in Canada. The presentation was co-hosted by Dr. Pink, a dedicated advocate for water and human rights who has given presentations across the world. He is the co-founder of the NGO [Global Water Rights](#), a platform which he and his peers have used to further the goals of improving access to clean water and sanitation across the world. In “Water is Life,” Dr. Pink shared the impacts of climate change and specifically water irregularities in the nation of Thailand, where he has extensive experience with the situation.

Samantha Jack is a member of the Nuuchah-Nulth and Yale First Nations and recent graduate of KPU with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. She brought her extensive background in student support, [policy consulting](#) and reconciliation work to the presentation, prompting discussions with the class about the inhumane treatment of Indigenous peoples in Canada, focusing on several examples of nations who have suffered from extreme lack of clean water on reserve for decades at a time.

Kine Afework is a KPU student originally from Ethiopia who has worked with Dr. Pink in the past as a [Climate Change Ambassador](#), travelling to local high schools and giving presentations on the realities of climate change in Ethiopia to students. She is passionate about human rights and international law and is a talented public speaker. Her skills came across in this presentation as she spoke on the thought-



provoking issues regarding Ethiopia and other nations who rely on the Nile River for their main water source.

An annual membership for TALK KPU can be [purchased for only \\$10](#), with individual courses costing between an additional \$15 and \$20 each.

The [TALK KPU AGM](#) is coming up on October 24th from 10am to 12pm, and all TALK members are encouraged to attend either the Zoom version or the in-person version at the Richmond KPU in the Melville Centre for Dialogue, Room 2550B. The meeting is free for members and features snacks, drinks, and a riveting talk by BC Seniors Advocate Isobel Mackenzie.

TALK also is offering the [Compelling Conversations](#) presentation for free for TALK members, where KPU Chancellor and former elected Chief of the Tsawwassen First Nation Kim Baird will lead a discussion on the past and current struggles of Indigenous peoples in Canada and what the government can and is doing to mitigate them. This presentation will be hosted on Monday, November 7th from 7pm to 8:30pm at the Surrey campus in the Cedar Building, Room 1205A, and all members are welcome to attend.