



## IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE OTHERS

My name is Annie Ohana, and I am the Indigenous Department Head and founder of MustangJustice at LA Matheson Secondary in Surrey. We were blessed to be the first public school to host the Others on Feb 24<sup>th</sup> as part of our Black History Month and Love is Louder Celebrations. I invited several other schools and we ended up having over 150 students in Surrey, Nanaimo, and Howe Sound join in on the incredible session. We also had administrators and teachers from other parts of Surrey as well. Since the session several educators from Vancouver Island, Burnaby, and Vancouver have reached out to bring the panel to their schools.

As a school with a very high majority BIPOC population the message of intersectional and interfaith action against racism and violence mixed with real life experiences that challenged students to consider their role as bystanders, accomplices, and change-makers.

The panelists were incredibly thoughtful, filled with humility as they took on tough questions, and brought real world experiences that truly brought the message home of the dehumanization, discrimination, and ostracization faced by all types of folxs in Canada.

I would compare the panel to a type of Avengers super group, incredible community leaders coming together to reclaim “Otherness” away from White Supremacist settler colonial discrimination and to showcase and role model how working together brings safe and positive spaces. It is also a panel filled with celebration and pride and to be perfectly fitting for our motto of Mentorship Through Identity. Proud in who they are, proud in what they have overcome, and showing incredible skills of critical thinking, students learned so much through the sharing by each person.

We should not fear dialogue around the systems that condition us to “other” humans around us. With The Others showing the way, we can shine a light on how to decolonize our minds, on collaborating for justice, and learning humbly all along the way.

We are already planning future sessions from this one panel alone, and are supremely excited to continue the journey we started on Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Intersectional Empowerment For All  
Unceded Coast Salish Territories of Kwantlen, Katzie, Semiahmoo, and QayQayt peoples

**ANNIE OHANA (she/her Pronouns) M.Ed in Equity Studies**

LA MATHESON SECONDARY

Indigenous Department Head

MustangJustice Program Founder/Director

Social Justice, Indigenous Teacher Advocate, Law, Social Sciences, Anti-Oppression/Justice & Equity Curriculum

Specialist/Community Organizer

**Teacher Sponsor:** MustangPrideGSA, Justice Leadership

**Community:** SFU Mentor in Teaching For SJ Grad Program, Next 100 Years Mentorship Through Identity, Shakti Team, Safe Schools Coalition, MarchOn, IndusMedia, NEVR, OneVoiceCanada, Global Peace Alliance, Solid State Co-Op Advisory Board, Lumbala Leadership Advisory Board, SHER Vancouver Advisor

Local Representative to BCTF? WR Long International Solidarity Committee/ STA Rep/ SJ Rep/ BCTF Workshop Developer/Facilitator/

**STA Cmtes:** indigenous Education, Status of Women, Economic Justice, Environmental Justice, International Solidarity, Convention, PAPER, Social Justice