



# McLAUGHLIN COLLEGE

York University Syria Response and Refugee Initiative: [www.yorku.ca/refugees](http://www.yorku.ca/refugees)

## REFUGEE RIGHTS DAY IN CANADA MONDAY, APRIL 4TH



*Refugee Rights Day in Canada* is celebrated each year on April 4th to recognize and to acknowledge the Supreme Court of Canada's famous 1985 decision in *Singh*. This was one of the first decisions of the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) based on the then new constitutionally entrenched *1982 Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. In essence, the judgement stated that Section 7 of the *Charter*, "life, liberty and security of the person," applied to everyone who was in Canada, whether they had status, that is, citizens, permanent residents, valid visitors, etc., or they did not have status, refugee applicants, undocumented persons, etc. The *1985 Singh* decision is also famous for striking down the then existing refugee determination system because it did not adhere to *the principles of fundamental justice*. What followed in the wake of this major judgement was the establishment of a new refugee status determination system and the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada.

We rarely if ever, as a society, choose to set aside a day to recognize a judgement of the Supreme Court of Canada or any other court, national or international, for that matter, but, we have for the *1985 Singh* decision. This judgement of the SCC, for a number of very important reasons, merits such a distinguished recognition. Come and join us in the celebrations and find out why the *1985 Singh* decision is such a significant judgement of the SCC that it warrants such special recognition.

**MODERATOR:**



**DAVID LEYTON-BROWN**, Master of McLaughlin College and Professor of Political Science, York University.

**PANELISTS:**



**DEBBIE DOUGLAS**, Executive Director, Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrant (OCASI)



**MICHAEL CREAL**, Professor Emeritus, York University, and Chair of the Southwestern Ontario Sanctuary Movement



**RANA KHAN**, Legal Officer, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)



**REEM ALHAJ**, York University Keele Campus WUSC Committee Co-Chair & WUSC-sponsored Refugee Student

**Performance:**  
"Straight outta Global Health" - Student "Spoken Word" Artists on Canada's response to the global refugee crisis

Everyone welcome

MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2016  
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

SENIOR COMMON ROOM  
140 McLAUGHLIN COLLEGE

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

For further information, please contact Vicky Carnevale at [vcarneva@yorku.ca](mailto:vcarneva@yorku.ca), extension 33824.