

big dreams promised the immigration officer to always remember that being a Canadian is not the end of her dreams; it is the beginning!

I am a Woman!

I am an Immigrant!

I am an Immigrant Woman!

I am an Immigrant Woman with Big Dreams!

I am an Immigrant Woman with Big Leadership Dreams!

Lily Pourzand—Expert in Gender Based Violence—Director at Sandgate Women’s Shelter of York Region Inc.—B.A. in Women’s Studies—LLM from Osgoode Hall Law School in feminism and socio-legal studies, I am a first-generation immigrant woman in Canada who overcame enormous barriers, unlearned, learned, grew, and moved forward. Resiliency is the highlight of my strengths, and I honour them through my unique life journey.

I embrace my successes as well as failures. This combination enriches my self-identity and defines my life narrative. As a racial woman in a leadership position in social services and an educator, I am aware of systematic barriers. I am motivated to work harder to create more equitable and accessible opportunities for the next generations.

I am a proud feminist operating through my core anti-oppression and anti-racism framework. I genuinely believe in inclusivity, diversity and equity in theory and practice. Intersectionality is at the centre of my day-to-day operation.

“Women’s Personal is Political,” and we need more diverse women in politics, decision making, and senior leadership positions to take meaningful steps towards eliminating gender-based violence and discrimination.

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MEGHAN EAKER

nehiyaw iskwew

you should talk less
about indigenous topics
my professors tell me
at my mid-term evaluation

they give me a good mark anyways
because i am white

they want to mold me
control me
assimilate me
into acting more like how i look

the admixture of white blood
tames the savage
and increases his intelligence
i once read
in a history book

if so, i am a failed
experiment in eugenics
because i refuse
to be tamed
to be assimilated
to be silent