

## BANQUET KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Dr. Ruth Warick**

**Thursday, July 13 @8:00 PM**



Born hard of hearing, Ruth became active in the disability movement in her early 20s and is a founding member of the national hard of hearing association in Canada. She is currently President of the British Columbia Chapter of the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association and is immediate past president of the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH).

Dr. Warick was employed by the University of British Columbia (UBC) for more than 25 years and as a Senior Accessibility Advisor, she had responsibility for facilitating reasonable accommodations for students, staff, and faculty with disabilities. Her work was based on a framework of recognizing the intersectionality of people's lives, including gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and identity as Indigenous people.

She is currently employed as Director of Programs + Services for Wavefront Centre for Communication Accessibility, a social enterprise agency serving those who are Hard of Hearing Deaf and DeafBlind. Previously she served on its board and was a board chair.

Dr. Warick's innovations include being a founder of a services agency for Deaf and hard of hearing persons in Saskatchewan, and establishing an award-winning Seniors' Education Centre at the University of Regina. She also established the first development projects on education, employment, and healthcare of hard of hearing people for IFHOH.

She serves in the international cross-disability movement as the First Vice-President of the International Disability Alliance, which interfaces with the United Nations on implementing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. She has been involved in leadership positions in IDA since 2006.

Ruth has a doctoral degree from the University of British Columbia and was recognized for her work by being named a recipient of the University's President Award of Excellence in Diversity. She is actively involved in issues related to education, employment and accessibility. She lives in Vancouver, Canada.