

Promoting a Culture of Accessibility and Inclusion Forum

Chelsea Hotel, Toronto - Churchill Ballroom

December 5, 2016

Forum Sessions and Speaker Biographies

Keynote Speaker: Gil Penalosa, Founder and CEO of 8 80 Cities

Gil Penalosa is passionate about cities for all people. He created 8 80 Cities centred on a simple but powerful philosophy; if you create a great city for an 8 year old and an 80 year old, you will create a successful city for all people

Gil advises decision makers and communities on how to create vibrant cities and healthy communities for everyone regardless of age, gender, or social status. His focus is on the design and use of parks and streets as great public places, as well as sustainable mobility: walking, riding bicycles, using public transit, and the new use of cars.

Beyond Compliance: Accessibility Self-Assessment Tool for Organizations

This presentation profiles the online accessibility self-assessment tool developed by The Regional Municipality of York for public, private and voluntary sector organizations under the Government of Ontario's EnAbling Change Program. Through a set of questions this tool helps organizations establish a baseline of accessibility, identify new initiatives and track organizational change over time. Attendees will come away with a practical understanding of the tool and best practice measures that an organization can do beyond compliance with legislation to create a culture of accessibility and inclusion.

Speakers:

Lois Davies, Manager, Social Policy and Accessibility, The Regional Municipality of York

As Manager, Social Policy and Accessibility, Lois Davies has coordinated corporate accessibility activities at York Region since 2005, with a long history of working with people with disabilities, policy analysis and advocacy activities. Her work is achieved in collaboration with representatives from across all departments and York Regional Police. This work continues in the community through multiple stakeholder and community collaboration initiatives. Lois is a member of the Government of Ontario's Accessibility Standards Advisory Council/Standards Development Committee and received a 2015 David C. Onley Award for Leadership in Accessibility.

Kim Adeney, Program Manager, Accessibility, The Regional Municipality of York

As Program Manager, Accessibility, Kim Adeney helps lead compliance and accessibility activities for York Region. Kim has been project lead on the EnAbling Change Program's "Accessibility Self-Assessment Tool for Organizations" in addition to other work activities. Her portfolio includes supporting the work of the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee, compliance monitoring and reporting, creating policies and processes to achieve compliance with legislation, implementing accessibility awareness and community collaboration activities.

Ruth Wright, Director, Strategic Human Resources Research, The Conference Board of Canada

Ruth leads a team of researchers who work with senior level Canadian human resource professionals and other stakeholders on critical workforce issues, including inclusive talent management strategies. Ruth brings to this position thirty years of experience in workforce research. She has authored numerous reports and briefings in the areas of human resources management, and inclusive workplace practices. She authored a groundbreaking report and employer guide in 2001 entitled Tapping the Talents of People with Disabilities, which was designed to forge better connections between employers and various stakeholders that support individuals with disabilities. In 2012, Ruth's research team developed the Employers' Toolkit: Making Ontario Workplaces Accessible to People With Disabilities. It helps employers comply with the Employment Standard as set out under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. It was updated in 2015 and translated into French. A companion report on the Business Benefits of Accessibility was published in 2014. The Conference Board was the 2015

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recipient of JOIN's Business Leaders Award. Ruth has a Master's degree in Industrial Relations from Queen's University. She joined the Conference Board in 1989 and has a background in journalism and publishing.

Enhancing Ability Throughout the Lifespan Through Physical Literacy

Physical literacy is the gateway to physical activity, it is inclusive by definition, and it is a lifelong journey. By developing and maintaining physical literacy, we can enhance the quality of life for our citizens. This session will define and explain the concept and application of physical literacy, and look at how physical literacy enhances abilities of daily living, as well as increases the opportunities for an active and healthy lifestyle. Physical literacy is a prevention strategy, it is a rehabilitation strategy and it is an inclusion strategy. We will explore what this means, how to facilitate it in different settings and across the lifespan. We will also discuss what some of the key transition points are in terms of gaining or losing people from an active lifestyle, complete with information from research and recent publications to support this work and what we can do to attract and retain them on their physical literacy trajectory.

Speaker:

Andrea Carey, Canadian Sport for Life

Andrea Carey is the Principal of Concentric Consulting Inc., a health and sport promotions company engaging communities through Physical Literacy and Canadian Sport for Life. Additionally, through CanAssist, Andrea has been driving inclusion at UVic and is coordinating OneAbility, a regional collective impact style initiative in Greater Victoria around increasing opportunities for people with disabilities to be engaged in sport and physical activity.

Concurrent Sessions:

1.1 Developmental Services Housing Task Force – Innovative Housing Solutions for Persons with Developmental Disabilities – Municipal Partnerships

Panelists from the Developmental Services Housing Task Force (DSHTS) will present early findings from some of the 18 Pilot Projects on how they succeeded and/or struggled to remove barriers for persons with developmental disabilities, as well as discuss new learnings on how a 'whole of government/community' approach will succeed in creating a culture of accessibility and inclusion.

Speakers:

Ron Pruessen, Chair, Developmental Services Housing Task Force

Ron works as a history professor at the University of Toronto. He has been actively involved in advocacy and organizing work in the developmental services sector for the past 15 years. He is a board member of Opportunities Mississauga for 21+, a volunteer group now representing 180 families working to improve the lives of adults with developmental disabilities. Ron has also served as a community group representative on the Peel Planning Group.

Sandra Datars Bere, Managing Director, Housing, Social Services and Deerness Home, City of London

Sandra is the responsible for the delivery of affordable housing in City of London and County of Middlesex, the delivery of essential social services programs including the Ontario Works program and oversees a 243-bed Long Term Care home.

She has worked in the housing and broader housing field for over 25 years, both municipally (City of St. Thomas/

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County of Elgin and City of London/ County of Middlesex) and with the Ministries of Housing, Municipal Affairs and Housing and Community and Social Services

Sandra serves as a board member of Housing Development Corporation, London, a new municipally-led, community supported development corporation tasked with developing new and innovation ways to create innovative housing opportunities in London / Middlesex

Leslie O'Reilly, Social Housing Consultant, Social Housing Unit, City of Toronto

Leslie has been working in the non-profit and public housing sectors for over 25 years, including 4 years of front line work with homeless and hard to house men and women at the Homes First Society in Toronto; 8 years of housing program delivery at three provincial ministries (MMAH, MOHLTC and MCSS) and 14 years as a Social Housing Consultant at the City of Toronto's Social Housing Unit.

Currently, Ron is the Chair and Sandra and Leslie are members of the Developmental Services Housing Task Force, which was created in 2014 by the Minister of Community and Social Services to bring together different parts of government, municipal partners and experts in housing and social services in order to recommend innovative housing solutions for people with developmental disabilities.

1.2 Age Friendly Communities: Building Accessible and Inclusive Communities for Older Adults

Drawing on expertise in knowledge exchange, gerontology, geriatrics and urban planning, learn about the challenges and successes from an interdisciplinary project team that is piloting both local and provincial academic-community partnerships with over 56 communities across the province.

Speakers:

Dr. John Puxty, Associate Professor and Chair of the Division of Geriatric Medicine, Department of Medicine at Queen's University

John Puxty is currently an Associate Professor and Chair of the Division of Geriatric Medicine in the Department of Medicine at Queen's University. He is co-Director of the Centre for Studies in Aging and Health at Providence Care. He is also the Chair of the Executive of the Senior's Health Knowledge Network.

He is an experienced academic geriatrician who has an extensive list of publications and academic presentations, and is the co-editor of two books. He has special interests in the development of eldercare services, age-friendly communities, quality improvement and the use of information technology both as an aid to learning and strategies for effective Knowledge and Information transfer.

Dr. John Lewis, Associate Professor, School of Planning, Faculty of Environment University of Waterloo

Dr. John Lewis is an urban planner and engineer with research expertise in the areas of urban and landscape design, geodesign software, accessible planning, and age-friendly communities. He has worked professionally as an urban planner for the City of York, as an environmental planning consultant for the provinces of Ontario and British Columbia, the Yukon Government, the Government of Canada, and is currently an age-friendly planning advisor to the Ontario Seniors' Secretariat, the City of Waterloo, the Town of Hanover, the Municipality of Huron East, and the Town of Orangeville. A faculty member of the School of Planning at the University of Waterloo since 2005, Dr. Lewis is also a member of the University of Waterloo's Research Institute for Aging and is the CEO and CTO of Vidyā Technologies Inc.

Dr. Birgit Pianosi, Associate Professor, Huntington University

Dr. Birgit Pianosi is an Associate Professor and the past chair of the Gerontology Department at Huntington/Laurentian University (2006-2014). She holds a Ph.D. in Psycho-Gerontology from Germany and has completed two M.A. programs (in Human Development and in Psycho-Gerontology). She is a Credentialed

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Professional Gerontologist (C.P.G.) with the National Association for Professional Gerontologists and a certified coach for Gentle Persuasive Approaches in Dementia Care.

Birgit is an executive board member of the Seniors Health Knowledge Network (SHKN), the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE), co-chair of Behavioural Supports Ontario's (BSO's) Knowledge Translation & Communications Advisory Board, a Steering Committee member of the North-East Specialized Geriatric Centre (formerly Services), a member of the Age-Friendly Community Task Force at City of Greater Sudbury and a member of the Greater Sudbury Seniors' Community Network.

Ms. Pianosi is the Chair of the Board of the Sudbury German Language School.

Birgit values her family. She is married and has two active boys, who keep her busy at home. She loves traveling and spends much of her spare time with her family in Germany.

Lucy Marco, Grand River Council on Aging

A lifetime resident of Brantford, Ontario, and retired after 57 years in the work force, Lucy brings "lived experience" from 17 different careers and 50+ years in volunteer service in 35 community organization. Some examples of community recognition are Citizenship and Immigration Canada Citation for Citizenship, Rotary Sunrise Paul Harris Award, YMCA Brantford Peace Medal and Brantford/Brant Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Business Achievement Award.

Alexandra Graham, Community Development Coordinator, City of Brantford

Alexandra is passionate about supporting community change-makers. She works with community groups in Brantford and Brant County to help create age-friendly-cities, support youth, reduce poverty, and ensure food security. Alexandra holds an Honours Bachelor of Arts from the Richard Ivey School of Business at Western University and a Masters in Urban Planning from the University of Waterloo.

1.3 Access for All – Innovation in the Municipal Sector

Municipalities are harnessing their create energy to enhance accessibility and inclusivity for all people, regardless of age or ability. This workshop will hear from 4 innovators working in the municipal sector.

Speakers:

Steve Murphy, Accessibility Advisory Coordinator, Niagara Region

After spending 20 years providing front line service to a variety of clientele at the municipal, regional and provincial levels you become aware that communities care about their citizens and their quality of life. You also realize you don't have to do all the work yourself, partnerships work and they are available, if you have a cause and an "ask".

Erin Straughan, Planner – Transit Policy and Accessible Services, York Regional Transit

Erin Straughan has over 13 years of experience working for York Region Transit. Erin has built strong relationships with residents and stakeholders across York Region and within the transportation industry. Erin provides critical support to the Transportation Services Department and other Regional stakeholder projects and initiatives, ensuring adherence to Regional standards and requirements set out by the Accessibility Legislations. Erin continues to promote travel training and accessible York Region Transit services for all residents in urban, suburban and rural communities across the Region.

Julie Salter-Keane, Community Services Manager, City of Kingston Julie has over twenty-five years of experience in municipal government working in the City of Kingston and several municipalities in eastern Ontario. She has worked in community planning and has been a champion for many Official Plans and Zoning

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By-laws.

Since taking on the portfolio of Accessibility Compliance Project Manager for the City of Kingston, Julie manages a diverse project portfolio for the City's Community Services team. Her responsibilities include the preparation of policies to adapt to changing provincial legislation in Accessibility under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act and with the approval of membership in the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities she worked with the Seniors Advisory Committee to complete an Age-friendly City of Kingston Plan.

Warren Rupnarain, Accessibility and Diversity Coordinator, City of Vaughan

Warren Rupnarain is the Accessibility and Diversity Coordinator for the City of Vaughan. Warren is responsible for leading the City's efforts to implement accessible services and programs that support a barrier-free community. He also develops and implements workplace diversity-related strategies, services and programs to engage and support communities and stakeholders.

Before Vaughan, Warren was the Accessibility Coordinator for the City of Markham, where he coordinated the City's efforts in meeting all legislative requirements to implement best practices that ensured equity and inclusivity of people with disabilities.

Prior to joining Markham, he worked at the March of Dimes as the Government Relations Advocate. While in this role, he appeared on Canada AM, CBC Radio, City TV, Toronto Star and various other media to raise awareness of disability and accessibility issues. He was also the lead advocate and host of "Warrens World." During this project he promoted accessibility and interviewed politicians to obtain opinions and support on the creation of a "Canadians with Disabilities Act."

1.4 Promoting a Culture of Accessibility, Adaptability, and Inclusion (AAI) in Public Sports and Recreation

This session will discuss best practices and trends in accessible, adaptive and inclusive sports and recreation. This will include opportunities and challenges presented by AODA, as well as case study programs that focus on gaps and inclusion around mental health and programming for adults, youth, and children.

Speakers:

Archie Allison, Director, Access and Awareness at Variety Village

Mr. Allison began his career working with persons with a disability when he was hired as a program instructor at Variety Village in 1984. Throughout his years at Variety he continued his studies and training and is currently the Director of Access and Awareness.

Mr. Allison has assisted in creating many programs for children with disabilities which focus on providing all children, regardless of their abilities, a barrier free environment and curriculum in which to play. In his current position Mr. Allison leads a team who deliver Integrated Outreach and Physical Education programs to over 10,000 students in Ontario each year.

Mr. Allison instructs weekly classes where he teaches courses based on inclusive recreation. He has created and taught various certification courses on behalf of Variety Village for students, educators, coaches and industry leaders that focus on ability awareness, advocacy and accessibility issues.

When he is not teaching, Mr. Allison sits on a number of volunteer committees devoted to the inclusion and advocacy of those with disabilities in the greater Toronto area.

He is the Director of the Active Living Conference, which is celebrating its 20th years and brings the community and disability issues together in a positive learning environment.

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Kelly Arbour-Nicitopoulos, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education, University of Toronto, Adjunct Scientist, Bloorview Research Institute, Co-founder, Igniting Fitness Possibilities Program

Dr. Arbour-Nicitopoulos is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education. She is also an Adjunct Scientist at the Bloorview Research Institute. Her research interests are directed towards promoting community participation, in particular physical activity, in clinical and community-based populations with chronic disability and mental illness across the lifespan, with a focus on (i) identifying social cognitive predictors of physical activity, and (ii) examining the effectiveness of theory-based physical activity interventions. Dr. Arbour-Nicitopoulos has contributed to the development of a national telephone-based physical activity counseling service (Get In Motion), as well as a physical activity toolkit (SCI Get Fit Toolkit). She is also co-PI (along with her colleague Dr. Virginia Wright of the SPARK Lab at Bloorview Research Institute) of an inclusive, community-based physical activity program (Igniting Fitness Possibilities) for children and youth.

Lorene Bodiam, Advocate for People with Disabilities, City Of Toronto, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Lorene Bodiam is the Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation Advocate for People with Disabilities. She has designed and provided leadership and expert advice for a full spectrum of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation programs and services for people with disabilities. The challenge of balancing advocacy and risk management through on-going issues makes up a significant part of her job. In addition, she is responsible for ensuring Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation complies with the Provincial legislative requirements under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

Lorene has been recognized for her work; in producing a comprehensive study entitled "Getting Services Right for Torontonians with Disabilities: Demographics and Service Delivery Expectations"; in creating the first recreational booklet in Toronto which was made fully accessible and was recognized by Mayor Miller and members of council; and in co-ordinating the accessibility efforts in Toronto's 2010 Municipal Election. She lends her expertise to city-wide initiatives (both divisionally and corporately). Lorene has worked extensively in partnership with the disability community through the development and co-ordination of a highly involved and respected Parks, Forestry and Recreation Community Disability Steering Committee as well as working actively with over 300 agencies.

She has a special interest and expertise in social inclusion and community development.

Daniel Eisenkraft-Klein, Sports and Recreation Coordinator, Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre

Daniel Eisenkraft Klein is the Recreation and Leisure Coordinator at the Miles Nadal JCC and has previously worked with Right To Play, Toronto FC and Special Olympics Canada. His focus is on inclusive community recreation programming and reducing barriers to children's athletics.

Liviya Mendelsohn, Manager, Accessibility and Inclusion, Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre

Liviya Mendelsohn is the Accessibility and Inclusion Manager at the Miles Nadal JCC (MNjcc). At the MNjcc, she facilitates an ongoing initiative to assess and improve the accessibility of facilities, programs and services, guided by a community advisory a young adult access committee, and a robust staff accessibility committee. Every program at the MNjcc is open to people of all abilities, and the Access and Inclusion department offers 23 inclusive arts and culture and all abilities fitness programs.

MNjcc has been recognized as by the Ontario Non-Profit Network as a provincial accessibility best practice case study organization, and an innovator in accessibility by the Canadian Mental Health Association. Liviya is also the artistic director of the ReelAbilities Toronto Film Festival and chair of the Toronto Community of Practice on Equity and Inclusion.

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Closing Speaker

Marie-Lison Fougère, Deputy Minister Responsible for Accessibility, Seniors Affairs and Francophone Affairs

Marie-Lison Fougère is the Deputy Minister of Accessibility, Francophone Affairs and Seniors Affairs since December 1, 2015. Prior to assuming this role, she acted as Interim Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

Ms. Fougère served for eight years as Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy and Programs Division, at the Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities. In this role, she was responsible for strategic policy development and program design for both postsecondary education and labour market skills training. From 2005 to 2007, Ms. Fougère was Assistant Deputy Minister of the Office of Francophone Affairs (OFA) where she led the transformation of French-language services in the Ontario Public Service. She also has ten years of progressive experience at the Ministry of Education, during which she held a variety of policy/program director portfolios. Ms. Fougère studied political science and German literature at Dalhousie University (Halifax) and Heidelberg University in Germany. She also holds a Master's degree from York University in Toronto. She is fluent in French, English, and German.