



# Families

the  of community

Inclusion  
Alberta

VIRTUAL FAMILY CONFERENCE  
April 8-9, 2022

# WORKSHOP

Friday, April 8 / 10 am – 2:30 pm

## Community and Belonging: Cultural Shifting and the Power of Social Capital

Presenter: Al Condeluci, Ph.D., Consultant, Author, Advocate and Change Agent

Dr. Al Condeluci will bring his almost 50 years as a leader and author in strategies for building bridges to community participation and belonging for persons with disabilities in this informative and interactive workshop. Too many individuals with developmental disabilities find themselves in separate spaces rather than in community spaces where their passions can be exercised and their contribution to community life and relationships appreciated.

Recognizing and making the most of social capital can be an effective means for individuals with disabilities to move from the margins of community to become integral community members, to the benefit of all. Al will focus on the role of families and support staff as well as the role of community members and organizations in the needed cultural shift. Workshop participants will learn the 4 key steps to cultural shifting, including the differences and necessity for both bond and bridge building. Participants will also learn how to enlist the support of positive gatekeepers to enable communities of belonging and participation to emerge.

This workshop will be significant value and interest to individuals with

disabilities, their families, friends and those who work in and provide leadership within human services.

*Al Condeluci has been an advocate, a catalyst for building community capacities, and leader in understanding social culture since 1970. He was the CEO of Community Living and Support Services (CLASS) until his retirement in late 2018. CLASS is dedicated to its mission - working toward a community where each belongs. CLASS, under the 47 years of Al's leadership, grew to become the third largest disability specific agency in Southwestern PA with a budget of \$16 million and a staff and payroll complement of 400. Al remains associated with the University of Pittsburgh's School of Social Work and School of Health and Rehabilitation Science where he teaches, supervises students, and serves as adviser and consultant.*

*Today he is recognized as a national leader and consultant on human services and community issues. He speaks annually to national and international audiences reaching some 15,000 people each year. His books have won praise and awards for their thoughtful approach to culture and community and are now used at many colleges, universities and in-service settings. Al was instrumental in*

*founding the Interdependence Network (IN), a collaborative effort between disability-based human service organizations from around the United States and Canada. The network explores the concept of social capital, community engagement and inclusion in the lives of people with disabilities as a primary strategy for enabling people with disabilities to become full members of society.*

*Along with his professional activities, Al is involved in a variety of civic volunteer roles. He is on the Board of the Southwest PA Partnership for Aging, and other various community based groups. In 2018, Al received the Key to the City of Pittsburgh from Mayor William Peduto, the highest civilian honor that can be given to a citizen.*

For more information visit [www.alcondeluci.com](http://www.alcondeluci.com).

## President's Reception

Friday night, from 7pm – 8:30pm, Inclusion Alberta hosts its annual President's Reception. There will be an awards ceremony to honour several individuals and organizations that have made extraordinary contributions to the lives of children and adults with developmental disabilities. Many find the President's Reception to be an inspiring celebration of community inclusion.

In addition to the workshops and sessions listed, the Virtual Family Conference will also offer several fun opportunities for you to socialize, network and build relationships and connections with Conference attendees as well as speakers.

**Register now at [inclusionalbarta.org](http://inclusionalbarta.org)**

# OPENING PLENARY

Saturday, April 9  
9 am – 10 am

## Inclusion Begins and Ends with Relationships

*Presenters: Al Condeluci, Ph.D., Consultant, Author, Advocate and Change Agent and Monica Braat, Ed.D., educator, Inclusion Alberta President*

Sharing this Plenary Session, Al Condeluci and Monica Braat will each speak to how relationships are

the fundamental building blocks upon which inclusion is built and sustained, whether in the classroom or in the community; whether between students, students and teachers or community members with and without disabilities.

# YOUTH FOR INCLUSION

Saturday, April 9  
9 am – 4:30 pm

(ages 16-22)

Youth for Inclusion remains a growing youth led initiative that is committed to amplifying the voice and experience of youth with developmental disabilities, while furthering the broader agenda of inclusion through community-based advocacy and leadership. Following the success of the Fall 2021 Youth Conference, which explored education advocacy and community partnerships, youth participants will explore the power of social capital while scaling individual

and collective advocacy. Youth participants will participate in a session with the conference keynote speaker Al Condeluci, focused on Social Capital and Macro Change. Youth participants will explore the idea of leveraging their own personal networks in advancing the agenda of inclusion and social change. We welcome youth with and without disabilities committed to social justice, action, advocacy, and inclusion to join us virtually for this day!

## Accessibility

If you experience any barriers in attending this year's Virtual Family Conference, please contact us. We will do our best to provide support and assistance in areas such as (but not limited to):

- Access to technology required to experience the virtual conference
- Financial assistance to cover Conference fees
- Assistance in securing childcare, enabling parents to attend worry-free

Please contact  
[tlarose@inclusionalbarta.org](mailto:tlarose@inclusionalbarta.org)  
if you require assistance.

The Closing Plenary will follow the Afternoon Sessions (see page 6).

# CLOSING PLENARY

Saturday, April 9  
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

## 'And now, for something hopeful...'

*Moderator: Trish Bowman, Inclusion Alberta CEO*

We are all too familiar with the pandemic-imposed limits on our lives and in particular, the lives of children and adults with developmental disabilities and

their families. For many, life during the pandemic has been difficult to negotiate, challenging to remain positive and hard to even find moments of inspiration or joy. Given individuals with developmental disabilities are more disadvantaged in general and at greater risk of health complications and worse due to COVID-19, being hopeful and positive can simply feel out of reach or not possible.

In this year's closing plenary, we will share stories of how individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, friends and colleagues found ways to flourish, creating opportunities for connection, inclusion and belonging during the pandemic. Please join us in our shared need to be positively inspired and reminded of what can be achieved even in the most challenging of times.

Saturday, April 9  
10:30 am – 12 pm

# MORNING SESSIONS

## Social Capital and Macro Change: An Overview

*Presenter: Al Condeluci, Ph.D., Consultant, Author, Advocate and Change Agent*

This session will provide an overview of how social capital can be a force for both individual and collective advocacy. While advocating on an individual's behalf

is essential there cannot be the larger societal and community change we all seek without organizing to advocate for macro change. Achieving larger scale social change is a primary objective of Inclusion Alberta, its Member Associations and everyone who is part of the Inclusion Alberta family. In this session, Dr. Condeluci will share the 8 steps to meaningful change: passion, position, people, plan, politics, presence, perseverance, payoff and then celebration.

## First Nations Challenges and Possibilities

*Presenters: Theresa Brown, Director of Student Services, KTC Educational Authority, Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council; Kathleen McHugh, Director, Siksika Nation Disability Services, parent; Arnold Fox, Director, Blood Tribe Social Development, Kainai First Nation. Moderator: Donna Barrett EdD, Inclusive Education Consultant, parent*

The Kee Tas Kee Now (KTC) Educational Authority is responsible for educating students through the KTC Tribal Council which represents 5 First Nations - Loon River First Nation, Lubicon Lake Band, Peerless Trout First Nation, Whitefish Lake First Nation and Woodland Cree First Nation. KTC is an excellent example of

how a group of First Nations have come together to collaborate on enabling children, including children with disabilities, to receive a quality education within their own communities. Siksika First Nation is one of the few First Nations to have their own local family advocacy organization, Inclusion Siksika, as well as Disability Services to support individuals and families. Kainai First Nation, one of the largest in Canada, through its Blood Tribe Social Development (BTSD) has been working on a unique approach, originally in collaboration with Inclusion Alberta, to enable their families of children with disabilities to access FSCD (Family Support for Children with Disabilities). Come learn about their future aspirations for their Nations and its people with developmental disabilities and their families.

## The Early Years – A Path to a Promising Future

*Presenters: Tina Trigg, Inclusion Alberta Vice President and parent; Chantel Purves, parent. Moderator: Wendy McDonald, Inclusion Alberta Chief Operating Officer, parent*

The first years of a child's life can set the stage for whether that child will enjoy an inclusive life in the future. Parents face many challenges in the first years often without fully understanding how the choices they make now may forever determine the pathway their child

will follow in the future. Understanding what constitutes quality inclusion and how to access it are essential to the promise of a meaningful, inclusive life.

In this session families of both younger and older children will share their experiences, including their vision of an inclusive future. We will explore accessing quality inclusive childcare, education and recreation and how supports available through programs such as Program Unit Funding (PUF) and Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD) can be used to support an inclusive life.

## FSCD/FMS: Current State to Future Aspirations

*Presenters: Trish Bowman, Inclusion Alberta CEO and Bruce Uditsky, Inclusion Alberta CEO Emeritus*

This session will focus on current family experiences with FSCD (Family Support for Children with Disabilities) and FMS (Family Managed Supports) and what families

want to see with respect to improvements in the delivery of these programs. We will also share and discuss the results of the FSCD and FMS Surveys Inclusion Alberta conducted in January. With the next provincial election about 18 months away it is essential that the aspirations of families be taken into account to ensure both FSCD and FMS are improved to better enable children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families to live fully inclusive lives.

# AFTERNOON SESSIONS

Saturday, April 9 | 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

## Creating Meaningful Inclusive Education

*Presenter: Lissa Horyn and Aqeela Khalid, Inclusion Alberta Inclusive Education Consultants and families*

Although many schools provide access to the general education classroom, high-quality inclusive educational

experiences for students with developmental disabilities continue to be a challenge. In this session, we will illustrate what inclusive education looks like through real-life examples, discuss the concept of one curriculum for all, address potential barriers in academic settings and give practical tips for parents as their children transition into middle and high school general education classrooms.

## Safeguarding the Lives and Health of People in the Healthcare System

*Presenters: Robin Acton, parent, Inclusion Canada President; Trish Bowman, Inclusion Alberta CEO; Catherine Oakleaf, Inclusion Alberta Regional Director of Advocacy & Community Engagement; Monique Carley, parent; and others*

While the public health crisis of the past two years heightened the vulnerability of children and adults with developmental disabilities accessing healthcare, the

risks pre-date the current COVID-19 pandemic and are deeply rooted in the medical model of disability. This session will explore how new threats have emerged during the past two years, such as triage protocols and access to supporters in hospital and contextualize them alongside broader systemic threats to people with developmental disabilities, including the expansion of access to Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD). The discussion will focus on the importance of safeguarding our loved ones when they access healthcare and introduce strategies to achieve safe, equitable, and supported interaction with health systems.

## Ageing Inclusively: A Roadmap for Seniors with Developmental Disabilities

*Presenters: Families. Moderators: Pat Winter, Family Resource Centre Provincial Coordinator, Inclusion Alberta; Caitlin Wray, Supportive Communities Strengthening Families Coordinator, Inclusion Alberta*

In this session speakers with real life experience will share insights and ideas for sustaining - and renewing

- an inclusive vision for older adults. Hear stories about what's worked for other families and individuals, how to avoid the roadblocks and pitfalls that can pop up during a person's senior years, how to preserve the most important aspects of their inclusive vision: a real home, meaningful relationships, and valued roles in their community. Learn how to anticipate and navigate the common challenges faced by people with developmental disabilities in their golden years, while still thriving in their community.

## A Grass Roots Employment Approach: Families Generating Employment

*Presenters: Families who have created employment. Moderators: Shawna Francis & Jaime Skidmore – Inclusion Alberta Regional Coordinators – Inclusive Post-Secondary Education*

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted many of the rhythms of life with much of the world shutting down as a mechanism of keeping each other safe. In many instances, this included employment opportunities and

jobs held by people with developmental disabilities. Many of the methods of obtaining employment that have been successful in the past became severely limited. The answer to continuing to advance meaningful employment for many families was found by capitalizing on their networks and community. Over 25 families connected to Inclusion Alberta leveraged their personal networks and community to generate meaningful employment for their family members with developmental disabilities during the past year. This interactive session will explore tried and true strategies of increasing employment outcomes as experienced by families during the pandemic.