

Cannexus26

Monday, Jan 26: Canada Hall 1-2

08:30 AM - 09:35 AM

Opening Ceremony

Canada Hall 1-2 English French Hybrid

Meet your Cannexus26 emcees Shereen Ashman (Afua) builds cultural capacity across learning and leadership ecosystems. The 2025 recipient of the King Charles Award for Service and Leadership, she is a multi-award-winning innovator, creating programs and training that impact career development, community building and post-secondary education. Patrick Hebert, Project Manager at the Canadian Career Development Foundation (CCDF), took an unconventional path into career development and never looked back. As a Building a New Era (BNE) facilitator with the Career Development Professional Centre (CDPC), he shares curiosity, energy and humour to help others find their way. This year, we are honoured to welcome Elder Claudette ...

Monday, Jan 26: Canada Hall 1-2

10:00 AM - 11:05 AM

Main Stage: Moving Beyond Trauma-informed Approaches: Expanding Engagement for Possibilities

Canada Hall 1-2 English French Hybrid Innovations and Trends in Career Development

Catherine Hajnal

Grief and Trauma Educator, Life Fundamentals

Seanna Quressette

Coordinator, Continuing Education, Douglas College

A risk of trauma-informed approaches is that we become anchored in events and deficit-based perspectives. Using grief models, metaphor, the notion of duality and the concept of assumptive world, we will explore the undercurrents of potential and possibility in the people we serve. Recognize the trauma-informed ways we are super connectors and seers of potential.

Monday, Jan 26

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Guiding Youth Changemaking Careers Through Inner Well-being and Systems Thinking

English

Simulive

Virtual

Specialized Career Supports and Programs

Tam Nguyen

Co-Founder, WeV

Although changemaking careers attract purpose-driven youth, many face a gap between aspiration and action. Based on research with educators in social innovation and career workshops with youth cohorts, this session explores how inner well-being and systems thinking can guide meaningful career exploration. We'll discuss key challenges and share practical strategies to support youth pursuing careers in social innovation.

Monday, Jan 26

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Then, Now, Next: Applying Storyboards to Career Counselling in Higher Education

English

Simulive

Virtual

Career Development Practices and Theories

Abby Razink

Graduate Instructor, University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

This session introduces storyboards as a narrative tool for career counselling in higher education. Adapted from narrative career counselling approaches (e.g. Savickas's career construction) and arts-based research methods, storyboards can help college students explore their past, present and future work experiences. Learn how this structured, visual technique can foster reflection, reveal hidden sources of purpose and support the college-to-work transition.

Monday, Jan 26

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Bright Lights, Beautiful Futures: Group Career Development for Vulnerable Youth

English

Simulive

Virtual

Specialized Career Supports and Programs

Trina Stanford

Project Manager, Canadian Career Development Foundation

Victoria Edwards

Project Associate, Canadian Career Development Foundation

Youth today face significant challenges affecting their career prospects and outlook on the future. For the past year, CCDF has had the opportunity to implement its In Motion & Momentum+ with youth-only groups. Through this work, we have seen vulnerable youth show incredible generosity, resilience and positivity. In this fun, interactive session, we'll share their inspiring stories and explore how group-based programming helps youth discover hope, purpose, belonging and a new path forward.

Monday, Jan 26

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Expériences d'intégration professionnelle de la relève agricole

French

Simulive

Virtual

Career Education and Learning for K-12 and Young ...

Emilie Giguère

Professeure, Université Laval

Ces dernières années, l'agriculture canadienne a connu des bouleversements. Cette conférence explore comment les expériences scolaires et professionnelles des jeunes façonnent leur parcours, influencent leur entrée dans le domaine agricole et favorisent une intégration durable au travail.

Monday, Jan 26

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Structuring Experiential Learning Programs for Immigrants in Canada

English

Simulive

Virtual

Workplace, Employers and Employee Careers

Rotimi Ojo

Founder, Unleash Awareness

Too often there exists a disconnect between workplace skills required for success in the Canadian labour market and immigrant skills development. This is caused by a lack of access to information on company skills architectures, which leaves immigrant talent unaware of how to develop according to labour market trends. This presentation explores why career development practitioners must leverage workforce insights to inform the skills development and workforce integration of immigrants in Canada.

Monday, Jan 26: Canada Hall 1-2

11:10 AM - 12:15 PM

Main Stage: Canadian Students' Perspectives on Careers and Career Development: 2026

Canada Hall 1-2

English

French

Hybrid

Career Education and Learning for K-12 and Young ...

Graham Donald

Founder and President, Brainstorm Strategy Group

Julie Rahmer

Learning, Research and Engagement Lead, Brainstorm Strategy Group

Featuring insights from the 2025 Student Career Interests Report (a study of more than 20,000 post-secondary students), this presentation will provide the most recent look at students' career interests, employer preferences and career development experiences. Improve your understanding of students' motivations, how to engage them, and how to better support their job search and career transition.

Monday, Jan 26

11:10 AM - 12:10 PM

The Playbook of Change: Gamification Strategies to Future-proof Careers

English

Simulive

Virtual

Innovations and Trends in Career Development

Anna Boltenko

Founder, RE.SET Coaching and Mentoring

In a world where disruption is constant – driven by AI, hybrid work and evolving definitions of success – career professionals must move beyond traditional models. This dynamic session introduces “career agility” as a coachable skill and demonstrates how gamification can activate it. Dr. Anna Boltenko, PhD, PCC, CCS, creator of the RE.SET Coaching Game™, will share how her game-based method empowers clients to reframe uncertainty, clarify direction and take meaningful action.

Monday, Jan 26

11:10 AM - 12:10 PM

Own Your Story: Authenticity as a Career Strategy

English

Simulive

Virtual

Career Development Practices and Theories

Steph Gillies

Speaker and Career Coach, Destination Dream Job

We've all felt it – the pressure to fit in, to edit our past, to become who we think the world wants us to be. But what if the key to your next big opportunity isn't polishing the perfect version of yourself, but instead, owning every part of your journey? This workshop challenges conventional career advice and shows why authenticity is your most powerful asset. Through real-world stories and interactive conversations, you'll learn how to use storytelling to build your personal brand and career.

Monday, Jan 26

11:10 AM - 12:10 PM

Using News Analogy and the Inverted Pyramid Model to Create Compelling Self-marketing Tools

English

Simulive

Virtual

Career Development Practices and Theories

Md Asiuzzaman

Professor (Part-time), Conestoga College

The presentation highlights an innovative method for crafting compelling self-marketing tools, such as resumes and cover letters, that can effectively capture employers' attention. The technique will also help international students and job seekers present themselves professionally (elevator pitch), highlighting their signature skills, relevant experience, personality, and work values through accomplishment statements. Analyzing the job posting and self-contextualization is the precursor of the process.

Monday, Jan 26

11:10 AM - 12:10 PM

De l'expérience à l'engagement : accompagner autrement les parcours en STIM

French

Simulive

Virtual

Career Development Practices and Theories

Elise Martinez

Étudiante à la maîtrise, Université du Québec à Montréal

Louis Cournoyer

Professeur titulaire, Université du Québec à Montréal

Comment les événements marquants du parcours de vie de jeunes femmes et les ressources développées peuvent façonner leur choix de poursuivre des études en sciences, technologies, ingénierie et mathématiques (STIM)? Comment ajuster ses interventions en counseling de carrière pour soutenir l'engagement et la persévérance de ces femmes? Cet atelier repose sur des résultats de recherche conduite auprès de 21 étudiantes inscrites dans un programme en STIM.

Monday, Jan 26

11:10 AM - 12:10 PM

Bridging Talent Gaps with Employer Navigator

English

Simulive

Virtual

Workplace, Employers and Employee Careers

Daniel Cervan Gil

Associate Director, Employer Initiatives, World Education Services

Rania Younes

Director, Strategy & Impact, Immigrant Employment Council of BC

Discover how the Employer Navigator pilot supported Canadian SMEs in recruiting and retaining global talent through a hybrid model pairing a custom-built digital platform with personalized, concierge-style support. This session shares key outcomes, employer feedback and lessons learned from four communities across Canada, offering insights into scalable, community-driven workforce solutions.

Monday, Jan 26

12:20 PM - 01:20 PM

CACEE Meetup: Reflections on Career Education and Campus Recruitment – Trends, Opportunities and What's Next?

Canadian Association of Career Educators & Employers (CACEE)

English

Virtual

Specialized Career Supports and Programs

Trevor Buttrum

Executive Director, Canadian Association of Career Educators & Employers (CACEE)

This year has been marked by uncertainty and pressure, but also innovating and impact-finding in career services and campus recruitment. This candid and informal exchange will unpack some of what has shaped our work and look ahead to 2026 through the lens of student needs (as well as our own), evolving technology, labour market and economic realities, and the imperative for collaboration between career educators and employers.

Monday, Jan 26

12:20 PM - 01:20 PM

CJDN Meetup: 12 Lessons from the National Canadian Job Development Survey

English

Virtual

Workplace, Employers and Employee Careers

Christian Saint Cyr

Executive Director, Labour Market Solutions

The 2025 National Job Development Survey raises a number of strengths Canada's job development sector presents but also challenges that need to be overcome. In this session, Christian Saint Cyr, National Director of the Canadian Job Development Network, will provide a summary of the survey results and a detailed analysis of what employer engagement professionals can do to better engage employers, build their employment outcomes and establish themselves as recruitment subject matter experts.

Monday, Jan 26

12:20 PM - 01:20 PM

IAEVG Meetup: AI and the Future of Career Development / Rencontre avec l'AIOSP : L'IA et l'avenir du développement de carrière

English

French

Virtual

Innovations and Trends in Career Development

Jaana Kettunen

President, Professor, IAEVG - International Association for Educational and Vocational Guidance

Michel Turcotte

Secretary General, International Association for Educational and Vocational Guidance

Hosted by the International Association for Educational and Vocational Guidance (IAEVG), this interactive meetup explores the expanding role of artificial intelligence in career development. The session introduces IAEVG and its updated ethical guidelines, inviting participants to reflect on opportunities, challenges and responsible use of AI, while fostering professional connections across borders.

Monday, Jan 26

12:20 PM - 01:20 PM

CCPA Meetup: Identities Within Career Counselling: Dialogue and Discovery

English

Virtual

Career Development Sector Leadership and Advocacy

Anansia Leslie-Bailey

Owner & Clinical Director, I Do Therapy

Christine Frigault

Career Counsellor, Student Affairs, Dalhousie University

Dawn Schell

Manager Mental Health Outreach & Training, Student Wellness Centre, University of Victoria

Jen Davies

Career Counsellors Chapter, CCPA

Judith MacKinnon

Counsellor-Educator, Red Sands Therapy and Private Practitioner

Join the CCPA Career Counselling Chapter for a session exploring career counselling in diverse contexts. Through panel discussions on chapter identity and employment, mental health interventions, leadership, and managing 'isms,' participants will connect, and share insights.

Monday, Jan 26: Canada Hall 1-2

12:20 PM - 12:45 PM

Presentation of Wileman Award for Outstanding Achievement in Career Development

Canada Hall 1-2

English

French

Hybrid

Monday, Jan 26: Canada Hall 1-2

01:40 PM - 02:45 PM

Main Stage: What Indigenous Learners Need for Career Education

Canada Hall 1-2

English

French

Hybrid

Indigeneity, Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclu...

Anca McHollister

Darian Kovacs

Partner, Jelly Academy

John DeGiacomo

Executive Director, Anishinabek Employment and Training Services

Katherine Kurugaq Ciboci

Capacity Manager, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation

Lynn White

In this session, hear from various perspectives (including Métis, First Nations and Inuit) about what is needed for their learners. Presenters will share ideas and best practices for recruiting, supporting and placing Indigenous learners, drawing on the report *Enhancing Educational Outcomes: A National Report on Supporting Indigenous Learners in Canadian Post-Secondary Institutions*. Participants will receive feedback on how they can raise support levels for Indigenous learners.

Monday, Jan 26

01:40 PM - 02:40 PM

How Stronger Literacy Skills Affect Employment Outcomes in Uncertain Economic Times

English

Simulive

Virtual

Specialized Career Supports and Programs

Vanessa Wong

Regional Manager, Toronto, United for Literacy

Over 40% of adult Canadians do not have the literacy skills to adapt to changing job demands (ABC Life Literacy, 2022). Stronger literacy skills are critical to employment success, higher wages and resilience during economic downturns (Baldwin, 2025). With a looming recession and the impact of tariffs on employment, identifying and supporting jobseekers with low literacy is more critical than ever.

Monday, Jan 26

01:40 PM - 02:40 PM

Micro-learning, Maximum Impact: Using Bite-sized Learning in Career Development

English

Simulive

Virtual

Career Development Practices and Theories

Kim Oppelt

Vice President, Career Development, Institute for Career Advising and Development

Paige McDonough

Senior Director, Career Development, Institute for Career Advising and Development

In an era where learners crave flexibility and relevance, micro-credentialing has emerged as a transformative tool in career development. This session explores how micro-credentials can be strategically leveraged by career advisors in their own learning and to empower students and professionals in achieving their career goals. This session examines how micro-learning fosters continuous skill development, aligns with employer needs and provides accessible pathways to career advancement.

Monday, Jan 26

01:40 PM - 02:40 PM

More Than Just Numbers, Revisited: Progress on Women in Engineering

English

Simulive

Virtual

Workplace, Employers and Employee Careers

Wendy Cukier

Academic Director, Diversity Institute

This session discusses and reviews the progress made in advancing women's participation in engineering over the past 30 years. Based on a report written in collaboration with the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers with the support of the Future Skills Centre, it builds on the foundation of the 1992 Canadian Committee on Women in Engineering (CCWE) report.

Monday, Jan 26

01:40 PM - 02:40 PM

Helpers Need Help, Too

English

Virtual

Specialized Career Supports and Programs

Lindsay Faul

CEO, Molinny Mental Health Training and Consulting

Malorie Moore

CEO, Molinny Mental Health Training and Consulting

The desire to help is a wonderful, motivating force for good in the world, but it can also be heavy and overwhelming. How do we let go of the need to fix, save and rescue while still making a difference? This will help career development practitioners learn how to effectively support others, while also finding balance and joy within themselves.

Monday, Jan 26

01:40 PM - 02:40 PM

Supporting our Clients with an Intersectional Approach for Employment Services

English

Simulive

Virtual

Indigeneity, Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclu...

David Lee

Director, Employment, MOSAIC

Olga Zamudio Prieto

Co-ordinator, MOSAIC BC

We will share how we can collect and analyze client data and how the experience of our teams and individual career development practitioners recognizes and supports the intersecting identities of our clients. This informs the design and delivery of our employment services.

Monday, Jan 26

01:40 PM - 02:40 PM

SCCT Career Coaching: Deepening Impact in an Evolving Professional Landscape

English

Virtual

Career Development Practices and Theories

Rachel Sisson

Team Lead, Career Coaching, University of Alberta

This presentation illustrates how integrating Social Cognitive Career Theory (SCCT) into career coaching can empower individuals to navigate the evolving world of work and expand their professional impact. Enhancing self-efficacy, exploration and strategic goal-setting, SCCT-rooted coaching encourages informed, confident decisions when navigating next career steps. This approach helps individuals adapt, thrive and make a greater contribution within the dynamic professional landscape.

Monday, Jan 26

01:40 PM - 02:40 PM

Beyond the Resume: Giving Soft Skills the Credit They Deserve

English

Virtual

Innovations and Trends in Career Development

Joy Samuel

Manager, Programming, The King's Trust Canada

Sarah Vickery

Director, Programming, The King's Trust Canada

In a world where resumes no longer speak for themselves, how can young people demonstrate the human skills that matter most? As skills-based hiring grows, The King's Trust Canada is spotlighting adaptability, collaboration and communication. This session explores how we're using micro-credentials to verify these overlooked strengths, giving young people the credit they deserve and employers the confidence they need.

Monday, Jan 26

01:40 PM - 02:40 PM

Favoriser la réussite des diplômés internationaux : constats et solutions

French

Simulive

Virtual

Career Development Practices and Theories

Adjmal Younoussa

Président, Association des étudiants internationaux de l'Université d'Ottawa

Christian Tremblay

Directeur associé, Services de carrière et engagement communautaire, Université of Ottawa

Cet atelier interactif se déroulera en deux temps. D'abord, les coprésentateurs présenteront les constats d'un symposium national tenu en juin sur l'insertion professionnelle des diplômés internationaux avec des résultats, des pratiques prometteuses et des collaborations pour le futur. Ensuite, des échanges structurés porteront sur les pistes identifiées pour améliorer leur transition professionnelle, faire évoluer les pratiques et explorer de nouvelles avenues de recherche et de développement.

Monday, Jan 26

01:40 PM - 02:40 PM

Using Community Insights to Build Inclusive Employment Support Systems

English

Simulive

Virtual

Career Development Sector Leadership and Advocacy

Nicholas Salter

Executive Director, PERT

Sta Kuzviwanza

Director of Policy & Research, Provincial Employment Roundtable

To assess whether an employment and career development system can support an underrepresented group, we must first understand that group's reality – and their vision for thriving in the labour market. This session uses Quebec's English-speaking minority – who face distinct barriers to economic inclusion – as a case study to explore how context-aware analysis can lead to inclusive, actionable system-level change.

Monday, Jan 26

03:00 PM - 03:15 PM

Student Poster - La Gendraphie: Repenser la Carrière comme Espace Social Genré

French

Simulive

Virtual

Souad KhamKham

Doctorante en sociologie, UQAM

Monday, Jan 26

03:00 PM - 03:15 PM

Student Poster - Reimagining Skill-Focused Course Selection in Art & Design Education

English

Simulive

Virtual

Ruohan (Alicia) Tian

MFA Candidate, Interdisciplinary Art, Media, and Design, OCAD University

Monday, Jan 26

03:00 PM - 03:15 PM

Student Poster - Education, Disrupted: Embedding Career Education in Shifting Learning Pathways

English

Simulive

Virtual

Tanya Bilsbury

PhD Candidate, Applied Science, Saint Mary's University

Monday, Jan 26

03:00 PM - 03:15 PM

Student Poster - Ethical Decision-Making for CDPs: Polarization of Clients

English

Simulive

Virtual

Noah Arney

PhD student, Okanagan School of Education, University of British Columbia

Monday, Jan 26: Canada Hall 1-2

03:15 PM - 04:50 PM

Keynote 1: Making the Invisible Visible: Celebrating Career Practitioners in the Age of AI

Canada Hall 1-2

English

French

Hybrid

Sonny Wong

Career-focused Counsellor, Toronto Metropolitan University

Our service delivery model has continuously evolved to meet our clients' complex needs. During each evolution era, career development practitioners (CDPs) have upskilled to maintain client service excellence. We have strived to help our clients flourish during their most challenging life stages. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is in the spotlight! It affects us and our clients in unknown ways. Our challenge is to learn how to ethically integrate AI into our client service delivery without dehumanizing our clients and delegitimizing our profession. This keynote brings to light CDPs' invisible work by taking you on a thought-provoking journey. How can we maintain our career identity ...

Tuesday, Jan 27: Canada Hall 1-2

08:30 AM - 09:15 AM

Opening Day 2

Canada Hall 1-2

English

French

Hybrid

Leslie Church

Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretaries of State for Labour, for Seniors, and for Children and Youth, and to the Minister of Jobs and Families (Persons with Disabilities)
Leslie Church, Member of Parliament for Toronto-St. Paul's, will appear on the Cannexus Main Stage on Tuesday, January 27 at 8:30 am. She will speak to the future of work and the essential role of career development in supporting Canadians through uncertainty.

Tuesday, Jan 27: Canada Hall 1-2

09:30 AM - 10:35 AM

Main Stage: Reflections, Milestones and the Future of Career Development: A Special Session Celebrating 20 Years of Cannexus

Canada Hall 1-2

English

French

Hybrid

Candy Ho

Past CERIC Board Chair and Chancellor's Chair & Educational Studies Faculty, Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Keka DasGupta

Vice Chair of the CERIC Board and Founder, Principal, Art of Life-ing, Precision Marketing Group Inc

Louis Cournoyer

Professeur titulaire, Université du Québec à Montréal

Rich Feller

Executive Director, CareerDevelopmentNetwork.org

As we commemorate two decades of Cannexus, this special anniversary session brings together influential leaders who have contributed to both the conference and the wider career development field through their research, practice and community engagement. Drawing on their diverse experiences in counselling, education and sector leadership, the panelists will reflect on pivotal ideas and challenges from the past 20 years, noting what has changed, what continues to matter and what new factors are shaping the future. Their insights will explore how career development supports people in navigating change, strengthening purpose and building meaningful futures. This session invites attendees to honour ...

Tuesday, Jan 27

09:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Développer les compétences en développement de carrière par la supervision

French

Virtual

Innovations and Trends in Career Development

Cynthia Bilodeau

Professeure titulaire, Université St-Paul

Pawel Zaniewski

Conseiller d'orientation, Doctorant, Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)

Il est primordial de développer les compétences des professionnels en relation d'aide, notamment en développement de carrière, afin de les rendre efficaces. Les résultats de cette recherche ont permis de déterminer les effets de l'alliance de supervision ainsi que les effets modérateurs de la personnalité du superviseur sur le développement des compétences en relation d'aide. À la lumière de ces résultats, des pistes pratiques pour améliorer l'efficacité de la supervision sont présentés.

Tuesday, Jan 27

09:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Culturally Grounded Career Services for Métis Jobseekers

English

Simulive

Virtual

Indigeneity, Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclu...

Tammy Webb

Labour Market Manager, Metis Nation of Ontario

This session explores how Métis-specific career development strategies are advancing distinctions-based and culturally rooted employment services. Drawing on the Métis Nation of Ontario's program delivery model, the session offers practical tools for embedding Métis-specific employment counselling, youth leadership and skills training. Participants will leave with an understanding of Métis service contexts in Ontario.

Tuesday, Jan 27

09:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Fine is a Four-letter Word: Learning Through the Lens of Emotional Literacy

English

Simulive

Virtual

Specialized Career Supports and Programs

Shahana Alibhai

Medical Director, Foundry Abbotsford

The impact of our mental health on what we choose to pursue cannot be understated. However, what is rarely spoken about is the impact of our emotional health on our behaviours – what I like to call "emotional demographics." If only we understood that our emotions leave us clues and that one of these clues acts as a compass, pointing us in the direction of what we value! Understanding this is little-known fact is fundamental to shaping one's future choices, including educational trajectory.

Tuesday, Jan 27

09:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Cultivating EDI from the Bottom Up: Culturally Responsive Career Development

English

Simulive

Virtual

Indigeneity, Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclu...

Angelo Vaccaro

Career Development Practitioner, Seneca Polytechnic

Hana El Kaissi

Career Development Practitioner, Seneca Polytechnic

Luca Sirianni

Career Development Practitioner, Seneca Polytechnic

Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) must be more than top-down mandates – they must be embedded in the everyday practices of career education. Explore how you can lead transformative change by integrating culturally responsive approaches into your work with students/clients. Through interactive dialogue and reflective practice, participants will examine how to recognize and co-create inclusive career development programming.

Tuesday, Jan 27

09:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Step Up and Succeed: Supporting Employers in Growing Apprenticeship Success

English

Simulive

Virtual

Workplace, Employers and Employee Careers

Ashley Hoath-Murray

ARISE Event Coordinator, Literacy Link South Central

Discover new tools, resources, processes, learning opportunities and system innovations developed through the “Step Up and Succeed” initiative. Through partnerships with provincial apprenticeship-serving organizations and Workforce Planning Boards across Ontario, a cohesive system of resources has been built to support career development professionals and their clients, skilled trades employers, Training Delivery Agents and apprentices across Ontario.

Tuesday, Jan 27

09:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Trauma-informed Career Counselling Practices

English

Simulive

Virtual

Career Development Practices and Theories

Yas Hardaway

Executive Director of Career Services and Adjunct Faculty, Pepperdine University, Graduate School of Education & Psychology

This session will explore the intersection of trauma and career development. Understand trauma's potential impact on career development across the lifespan, from decision-making to workplace relationships, through a social justice lens. Learn trauma-informed frameworks, explore a case study and gain new resources that will enhance your ability to effectively support clients.

Tuesday, Jan 27

09:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Skills for Success: Resources for Workplace Advancement

English

Virtual

Specialized Career Supports and Programs

David Gyarmati

CEO, Social Research Demonstration Corporation

Marina Dyakonova

Instructor, Douglas College

Mike Perry

Acting Director, Skills for Success Program, ESDC

ESDC's Skills for Success (SFS) Program helps create free resources to better prepare learners to develop foundational and transferable skills to meet on-the-job skills demands. This panel will discuss resources developed since the launch of the SFS model in 2021: SFS Program (moderating) will show its revamped website promoting learning resources; Social Research Demonstration Corporation will show its assessment platform; and Douglas College will show its training materials for Indigenous people.

Tuesday, Jan 27

09:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Creating Inclusive Campuses: Neuroinclusivity and Post-secondary Education

English

Virtual

Indigeneity, Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclu...

Jennifer Fane

Lead Research Associate, Signal49 Research

This session presents the most comprehensive national dataset on the neuroinclusivity of Canadian post-secondary education, including data from 400 neurodivergent students and graduates and 78 interviews with students, staff and leaders in accessibility services. The session explores policies and practices that hinder or promote neuroinclusivity, offering data-driven recommendations to enhance the accessibility and inclusivity of post-secondary education for neurodivergent learners.

Tuesday, Jan 27

09:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Building a New Era: Transforming Career Development Through Intentional, Heart-Centred Learning

English

Simulive

Virtual

Career Development Practices and Theories

Annika Laale

Project Director, Canadian Career Development Foundation

Emily Worthen

Project Associate, Canadian Career Development Foundation

Discover how a simple training initiative sparked a three-year journey of national collaboration, joyful learning and transformative change in career development. This session reveals how heart-centred principles and intentional learning are empowering practitioners and strengthening communities across Canada. Join us to explore what's possible when growth is guided by purpose, connection and a passion for meaningful service.

Tuesday, Jan 27: Canada Hall 1-2

10:45 AM - 11:50 AM

Main Stage: Make Learning Work for You

Canada Hall 1-2

English

French

Hybrid

Career Development Sector Leadership and Advocacy

Annika Laale

Project Director, Canadian Career Development Foundation

David Redekopp

President, Life-Role Development Group Ltd.

Many learning opportunities still rely on outdated methods, focusing on content and its delivery rather than actual learning. Do courses or webinars truly change how we serve others – and, if so, for how long? This session invites you to explore what's missing in professional development. Discover how to create meaningful, lasting impact through more effective learning experiences!

Tuesday, Jan 27

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

Reflective Practice for Professionals

English

Simulive

Virtual

Career Development Practices and Theories

Ruth Duggan

Occupational Therapist, Cornerstone Occupational Therapy Consultants

This one-hour workshop equips professionals with practical tools for integrating reflective practice into their daily work. Along with the companion workbook, you will learn how to reflect effectively, improve your practice and meet professional standards. This workshop is ideal for any professional looking to enhance their skills and advance their career.

Tuesday, Jan 27

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

Campus2Career: AI-driven Efficiency for Career Counsellors

English

Simulive

Innovations and Trends in Career Development

Jasmeen Sidhu

Associate Director, CEWIL Canada

In three steps, "Campus2Career" equips career counsellors to work smarter and deliver higher-impact services via AI. 1.) Perplexity accelerates student profiling by identifying transferable skills and matching roles – freeing up advisor time. 2.) Notebook LM (via Google) automates tailored resume creation, ensuring consistency and personalized alignment with employer values. 3.) ChatGPT's GPT Builder enables counsellors to set up "Campus2Career GPT," a mock interviewer using the STAR framework.

Tuesday, Jan 27

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

Bridge to Success: Partnering with Employers to Support Career Readiness

English

Virtual

Workplace, Employers and Employee Careers

Megan Hamilton

Career Education Manager, NorQuest College

Natalie Jachyra

Work-Integrated Learning and Career Education Academic Specialist, NorQuest College

NorQuest College delivers tailored training for all work-integrated learning (WIL) employer-partners to enhance student career development. Emphasizing equitable, inclusive and accessible WIL experiences, the training offers employer-partners actionable strategies to foster student employability skill development and ensure workforce readiness – supporting the shared goal of preparing students for successful careers.

Tuesday, Jan 27

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

Blending Digital Tools with Career Support for Immigrant Success

English

Simulive

Virtual

Innovations and Trends in Career Development

Denis Gravelle

Strategic Partnerships, Devant-Kibbi

Sharvari Jois

Director, Online & Mentoring Services, JVS Toronto

JVS Toronto, a leader in multi-service online programs for newcomers, will share how its pre-arrival program, Canada InfoNet, is helping internationally trained professionals build job readiness and confidence before they arrive. The program's model combines empathetic, culturally responsive career counselling with cutting-edge digital tools like Devant, which offers interactive pre-employment tools. This high-impact virtual model involving human + digital has impacted hundreds of new immigrants.

Tuesday, Jan 27

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

Empowering Undergraduate Engagement Through Strengths-based Design

English

Simulive

Virtual

Specialized Career Supports and Programs

Ann Ayinde

Acting Manager, Career Education, Western University

David Feeney

Career Coach, Western University

In a time of reduced public funding, increased student mental health concerns and uncertain graduate outcomes, many undergraduates struggle to find direction and motivation. This session proposes a strengths-based model for student engagement that supports person agency, resilience and purpose across disciplines. Drawing on CliftonStrengths and Life Design methodologies, we explore how to foster student confidence and clarity in resource-limited environments.

Tuesday, Jan 27

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

A Place-based Approach to Economic Development by Multi-sectoral Collaboration

English

Simulive

Virtual

Innovations and Trends in Career Development

Fabio Crespini

Senior Manager of Inclusive Employment, United Way Greater Toronto

Preet Sandhu

Manager, Inclusive Employment, United Way Greater Toronto

Explore how the Inclusive Local Economic Opportunity (ILEO) initiative is transforming communities through a place-based model that brings together business, government, non-profits and residents. This session highlights how cross-sector collaboration can drive inclusive economic growth, improve outcomes for jobseekers and employers, and offer practical insights for adapting this model in other communities.

Tuesday, Jan 27

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

Back to the Future: Connecting Guided Self-assessment and Mental Health

English

Virtual

Career Development Practices and Theories

Michael Huston

Registered Psychologist and Counsellor, Mount Royal University

Let's explore guided self-assessment, a useful tool that supports individuals to strengthen their career decision-making through organizing and understanding key information about themselves. Along with some history, we'll cover the principles common to all effective guided self-assessment, share some popular examples, discuss mental health outcomes and provide an in-session demonstration of the approach.

Tuesday, Jan 27

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

Intervention inclusive auprès des personnes Queer, trans ou non-binaires

French

Virtual

Indigeneity, Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclu...

Isabelle Langlois

Conseillère d'orientation, Travailleuse autonome

Vous aimeriez connaître les termes appropriés pour vous adresser avec respect aux personnes Queer, trans, ou non-binaires? Vous souhaitez comprendre les obstacles qu'elles rencontrent dans les services de relation d'aide et réfléchir aux comportements non discriminatoires à adopter? Participez à cet atelier interactif où vous apprendrez concrètement à intervenir de façon le moins discriminatoire possible avec les personnes 2SLGBTQIA+.

Tuesday, Jan 27: Canada Hall 1-2

12:00 PM - 01:05 PM

(French) Keynote 2: Redefine Possible: Lessons for Tackling Mountains in Your Personal and Professional World

Canada Hall 1-2

English

French

Hybrid

Spencer West

Motivational Speaker, Content creator & Human Rights Activist

Spencer West invites audiences to experience the transformation that can occur when we "redefine possible". With his trademark humour and humility, West spins a spellbinding story of the challenges he faced after losing his legs from the pelvis down at age five, and the journey of discovery that ultimately enabled him to summit Mount Kilimanjaro using his hands and wheelchair. West applies the insights gleaned from a lifetime of overcoming obstacles to help leaders and employees identify their own roadblocks and push past them. His inspiring message and tangible life lessons motivate business audiences to believe they can tackle any ...

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Tuesday, Jan 27: Canada Hall 1-2

01:30 PM - 02:35 PM

Plenary Session: Scaling Skills – Insights from the Frontlines of Labour Market Innovation

Canada Hall 1-2

English

French

Hybrid

Innovations and Trends in Career Development

Dr. Tricia Williams

Director of Research, Evaluation and Knowledge Mobilization, Future Skills Centre

Karen Myers

President and CEO, Blueprint

Sasha Tregebov

Managing Director, BIT Canada

Suhayl Patel

Associate Dean, Bow Valley College

Drawing on an analysis of 1,000+ project proposals, this session reveals how innovators across Canada are tackling skills gaps from health care to green and AI transitions. Based on Future Skills Centre’s partnerships and research, panellists will unpack what’s working, where barriers persist and what patterns show promise. Expect insights on inclusion, system change and the future of workforce resilience.

Tuesday, Jan 27: Canada Hall 1-2

01:30 PM - 02:35 PM

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French

Hybrid

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Tuesday, Jan 27: Canada Hall 1-2

02:45 PM - 03:50 PM

Main Stage: AI and Innovation Trends You Need to Know: Reimagining Career Development in Canada

Canada Hall 1-2

English

French

Hybrid

Innovations and Trends in Career Development

Denis Gravelle

Strategic Partnerships, Devant-Kibbi

Canada's labour market is evolving due to economic forces, immigration and AI. You will discover insights into the latest LMI trends and AI strategies. We will discuss the concept of AI+HI (artificial intelligence + human intellect), a powerful framework for delivering a personalized, scalable and human-centred approach. We will showcase how AI is transforming service delivery, providing examples of how technology can enhance client outcomes through smarter and more efficient support.

Tuesday, Jan 27

02:45 PM - 03:45 PM

Exploring Flexible Work: Case-based Learning from Branch Out Pilots

English

Simulive

Virtual

Specialized Career Supports and Programs

Gail Kastning

Owner/CEO, Purposeful Careers

Myriam Nickel

Project Manager, Purposeful Careers

Non-traditional work, such as casual, part-time, freelance, contract and portfolio careers, can expand options for clients facing barriers to traditional employment. This interactive session shares findings from Alberta's Branch Out pilot, introducing key terminology, participant profiles and pilot data. Participants were engaged in or exploring flexible options, offering insights into emerging needs and inclusive, client-centred career and job search strategies.

Tuesday, Jan 27

02:45 PM - 03:45 PM

CanWork BC: Evaluating the Impact of Inclusive Youth Programming

English

Simulive

Virtual

Indigeneity, Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclu...

Claire Forrest

Program Manager, Employment Strategy for Youth with Disabilities, CanAssist at the University of Victoria

Emily Flegel

Evaluation and Impact Specialist, CanAssist at the University of Victoria

Youth with disabilities often lack access to tailored career resources. Participants are invited to explore the CanWork BC employment curriculum, which includes an online platform for youth and corresponding resources for educators, service providers and employers. We will share the results of our longitudinal evaluation so participants can determine effective strategies for supporting youth with disabilities on their career journey.

Tuesday, Jan 27

02:45 PM - 03:45 PM

Voix du Nord, choix d'or : bâtir une main-d'œuvre diversifiée et accessible

French

Simulive

Virtual

Indigeneity, Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclu...

Basile Bakumbane

Agent de soutien à l'inclusion, Collège Boréal

Daphnée Traoré King

Agente de soutien à l'inclusion, Collège Boréal

Comprenez mieux les obstacles uniques à l'inclusion au travail pour les personnes en situation de handicap dans le Nord de l'Ontario. Cette séance explore, avec une approche intersectionnelle, l'impact de la géographie, de l'économie et des inégalités systémiques, en particulier pour les communautés autochtones et racisées. Un appel à repenser l'inclusion au-delà des centres urbains.

Tuesday, Jan 27

02:45 PM - 03:45 PM

Careers in Responsible Tech: Lessons from the Tech Stewardship Movement

English

Simulive

Virtual

Career Development Practices and Theories

Mark Abbott

Director, Tech Stewardship, MaRS Discovery District

Mark Franklin

instructor | co-founder, University of Toronto | OneLifeTools

What do ethical innovation and civic-mindedness have to do with career development? Everything – if you're guiding people into tech. This session explores how the tech stewardship movement is shaping purpose-driven tech careers rooted in responsibility and impact. Learn how to coach students and clients toward these paths – and what "career stewardship" can teach all career practitioners.

Tuesday, Jan 27

02:45 PM - 03:45 PM

Neurodiversity-affirming Career Development: Beyond Interest Matching

English

Simulive

Virtual

Indigeneity, Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclu...

Lucy Sattler

Career Counsellor, Study Work Grow

This session explores neurodiversity-affirming approaches to career development that move beyond traditional interest-matching models. Using the Cluster Approach to the Development of Identity(CADI) framework as a case study example, participants examine how focusing on work preferences, environments, and values can better support neurodivergent clients in developing sustainable career narratives and challenging limiting occupational stereotypes.

Tuesday, Jan 27

02:45 PM - 03:45 PM

Career Connections that Foster Agency and Well-being

English

Virtual

Career Education and Learning for K-12 and Young ...

Michael Huston

Registered Psychologist and Counsellor, Mount Royal University

Steve Regur

CEO, Educators Cooperative

How can schools strengthen student well-being and agency through career development? This session highlights scalable strategies, dialogic tools for career conversations, and research showing the link between career education and life satisfaction. Join us to explore practical approaches and evidence-based insights for building career-connected learning ecosystems that support the whole student.

Tuesday, Jan 27

02:45 PM - 03:45 PM

Build Your Career Ecosystem: Collaborate Across Campus and Beyond

English

Virtual

Innovations and Trends in Career Development

JP Michel

Founder, SparkPath Inc

Nancy Mak

Career Development Specialist, Ontario Tech University

How do you build a truly inclusive, cross-campus career ecosystem? With partners. Learn how Ontario Tech blends creative and arts-based exploration, equity-driven programming, and employer-student innovation to equip students with career agility and purpose. Discover how the Challenge Mindset supports these efforts — and how you can apply similar ideas on your own campus.

Tuesday, Jan 27

02:45 PM - 03:45 PM

Underemployment Among Post-secondary Graduates: Examining a Critical Issue in Career Education

English

Simulive

Virtual

Indigeneity, Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclu...

Lisa Higashi

Associate Director, Learner Financial Support and Literacy, Simon Fraser University School of Medicine

Michael Stebleton

Professor of Higher Education, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

Underemployment of college graduates continues to be a serious problem. Underemployment is defined as new graduates (i.e. bachelor's degree holders) taking a job that does not require a degree. This issue exists in both Canada and the U.S. In the Canadian National Graduates Survey, 41.2% of bachelor's degree graduates were underemployed. In the U.S., over 50% were underemployed. Using an international equity lens, the session explores the role of career educators to challenge and support students.

Tuesday, Jan 27

02:45 PM - 03:45 PM

Designing Belonging by Default: A Holistic Approach to Future Talent Development

English

Virtual

Indigeneity, Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclu...

Krista Pawley

Co-Founder, Wavemakers

Drawing on Wavemakers' use of holistic universal design, this session offers a framework for building inclusive, learner-centric career development experiences that go beyond accommodations. We'll unpack how designing for full participation at the start helps students from equity-deserving communities gain access, build confidence and see themselves in the future of work.

Tuesday, Jan 27: Canada Hall 1-2

04:00 PM - 05:05 PM

Keynote 3: Authentic Leadership: Building Cultures that Thrive on Trust and Vulnerability

Canada Hall 1-2

English

French

Hybrid

Farah Nasser

Award-winning Journalist & Former Canadian National News Anchor

Why would a prime-time network news anchor leave her industry at the height of her career? For the first time publicly, Farah Nasser shares her journey from the anchor desk to life unscripted. With raw vulnerability, she reveals the hidden cost of inauthenticity in today's society and workforce. With 67% of employees globally feeling disengaged, Nasser's journey serves as a wake-up call for teams who want to foster cultures of trust, enhanced collaboration and innovation. Having conducted thousands of interviews in her 25-year career, from world and industry leaders to A-listers and trailblazers, Nasser exposes how dream careers can crumble ...

Wednesday, Jan 28: Canada Hall 1-2

08:00 AM - 08:20 AM

Opening Day 3

Canada Hall 1-2

English

French

Hybrid

Wednesday, Jan 28: Canada Hall 1-2

08:30 AM - 09:35 AM

Main Stage: Expanding Impact: Becoming the Bridge to Industry that Clients Need

Canada Hall 1-2

English

French

Hybrid

Innovations and Trends in Career Development

Ann Nakaska

Consultant, Constructive Careers and Life Designs

Having industry knowledge greatly affects client career planning and decision-making. It is essential that practitioners understand current industry trends to help all clients – including high school and post-secondary students, career changers, 50+ workers and marginalized individuals – transition to the changing workplace. This session explores coming industry trends such as aerospace, 4IR technologies, specific industry technologies and some non-technological work trends.

Wednesday, Jan 28

08:30 AM - 09:30 AM

Entrepreneuriat, inclusion, pluridisciplinarité : moteurs d'innovation en carrière

Virtual

Specialized Career Supports and Programs

Lamiaie Arafan

CEO - Career & Leadership Coach, LA Coaching & Consulting Inc.

Cette séance explore les défis et opportunités des immigrants et expatriés francophones, femmes et hommes, dans le développement de carrière et l'entrepreneuriat. Basée sur mon expérience en banque, coaching et mentorat, elle vise à inspirer, à valoriser la pluridisciplinarité et à proposer des pistes pour renouveler les partenariats public/privé.

Wednesday, Jan 28

08:30 AM - 09:30 AM

Introduction to Career Pathways for Neurodivergent Learners

English

Virtual

Indigeneity, Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclu...

Annicka Stabenow

Experiential Learning Accommodations Co-ordinator, University of Toronto, Accessibility Services

Steven Lappano

Career Educator, Accessibility, University of Toronto, Career Exploration and Education

Taite Lehov

ASD Support Coordinator, UofT

This session will explore the design, delivery and impact of Career Pathways for Neurodivergent Students, a program at the University of Toronto. Facilitated by neurodivergent staff from both the Careers and Accessibility Services offices, the program supports students and recent grads in building career goals, navigating job search and fostering peer connection. Attendees will gain insights into accessible and inclusive career programming in post-secondary settings.

Wednesday, Jan 28

08:30 AM - 09:30 AM

Guiding Learners Forward: Skill-based Career Pathways via Colleges and Institutes

Simulive

Innovations and Trends in Career Development

Ashley Van't Foort

Manager, Programs and Partnerships, Colleges and Institutes Canada

Mireille Watts

Senior Program Officer, Colleges and Institutes Canada

Navigating career and training options can feel overwhelming. This session introduces the official skill-matching tool for Canada's public colleges and institutes that helps users identify their strengths, explore gaps and connect with practical, personalized learning opportunities. The tool simplifies decision-making and supports informed, confident next steps – whether learners are exploring new directions or building on what they already have.

Wednesday, Jan 28

08:30 AM - 09:30 AM

From Startup to Standout: How Mission-driven Careers Firms Go Global

English

Virtual

Career Development Sector Leadership and Advocacy

Lisa Taylor

Founder and CEO, Challenge Factory

Ulrich Scharf

Co-founder and Managing Director, SkillLab

Discover how three internationally recognized, social purpose firms turned career development missions into scalable business models that shape policy and workforce systems worldwide. Building on insights from Challenge Factory's 2024 CERIC-funded report Hidden Sector, Hidden Talent, this session reveals real-world lessons, global market challenges and the untapped power of private-sector career innovation. Hear directly from the CEOs leading this transformation.

Wednesday, Jan 28

08:30 AM - 09:30 AM

Pathways with Purpose: Exploring the Role of Career Purpose in Student Wellness

English

Simulive

Virtual

Specialized Career Supports and Programs

Kate Kennedy

Career Advisor, University of Waterloo

This presentation explores how leading Canadian institutions can embed purpose, wellness and experiential learning into their support models, especially in ways that foster career development and whole-person well-being. In this session, we discuss best practices, tools and advising models that support learners in cultivating a sense of meaning and direction in their careers, thereby contributing to overall mental wellness and a thriving campus environment.

Wednesday, Jan 28

08:30 AM - 09:30 AM

Pilot Project: Micro-credentials, Student Engagement and Workforce Readiness

English

Simulive

Virtual

Career Education and Learning for K-12 and Young ...

Jamie Duffield

Academic Advisor and Career Strategist, Trent University Durham GTA

Tim Claydon

Careerspace Coordinator, Trent University Durham GTA

This session examines the Career Skills Development Micro-Credential, a workshop series aimed at boosting university student engagement in career planning, resume building, interviewing and networking. Despite digital badges, practical activities and incentives, participation was low. Learn about the pilot's design, delivery using Blackboard LMS and Orbis, challenges encountered, and strategies to enhance student attendance and engagement in future offerings.

Wednesday, Jan 28

08:30 AM - 09:30 AM

Beyond the Poster: Cultivating Real Growth Mindsets at Work

English

Simulive

Virtual

Workplace, Employers and Employee Careers

Breanna Harvey

Talent Development Manager, Wave

In many organizations, "growth mindset" is more of a buzzword than a behaviour; simply naming it as a company value doesn't make it real. This interactive session will explore how professionals can lead with optimism and authenticity to transform workplace culture and increase employee engagement in learning. You'll discover practical, real-world strategies to build training programs that inspire and energize teams, in order to turn training into a cultural catalyst for growth.

Wednesday, Jan 28

08:30 AM - 09:30 AM

Re-imagining Work to Craft the Career of Your Dreams

English

Simulive

Virtual

Workplace, Employers and Employee Careers

Chantaie Allick

Co-Founder, Re-Work

This workshop is about work and life beyond burnout and what it can look like when we choose to unlearn grind culture and step off the path of toxic productivity. We share insights, resources and the process we used to heal burnout, lean into rest and play, and create new things in the space that opened up as we re-defined our relationship to work. We hope to help you challenge traditional thinking about work can be and inspire you to develop a more sustainable relationship to work.

Wednesday, Jan 28: Canada Hall 1-2

09:45 AM - 10:50 AM

Main Stage: Thriving Workplaces: Integrating Employer Services in Public Employment Systems

Canada Hall 1-2

English

French

Hybrid

Workplace, Employers and Employee Careers

Sareena Hopkins

CEO, Canadian Career Development Foundation

Tannis Goddard

CEO, MixtMode

What potential could we unlock if employers and workers were supported by the public employment system to thrive at work? Working with Nova Scotia Departments of Labour, Skills and Immigration (LSI) and Economic Development (DED), the Thriving Workplaces project is testing a novel dual-client approach that supports employers and workers/work seekers to find labour market alignment through Magnetic Factors.

Wednesday, Jan 28

09:45 AM - 10:45 AM

Bridging the Diversity Disconnect in Rural Canada: Stimulating Workforce Success

English

Simulive

Virtual

Indigeneity, Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclu...

Cassie Taylor

Managing Director, Life Strategies Ltd.

Janet Morris-Reade

CEO, ASPECT BC

Megan te Boekhorst

Project Manager, Diversity Disconnect

Learn about work realities for diverse populations in rural/remote communities as Free Rein Associates and Life Strategies share highlights from Bridging the Diversity Disconnect, a pan-Canadian project inviting employers, CDPs and community leaders to reflect on research recommendations, discuss local contexts and grow. Explore case examples, lessons learned and next steps to help you implement practical, sustainable and culturally responsive, community-driven solutions.

Wednesday, Jan 28

09:45 AM - 10:45 AM

Considering What's Next: A Framework for Future-ready Youth Career Development

English

Virtual

Innovations and Trends in Career Development

Joel Murphy

PhD Student, Mount Saint Vincent University

This presentation introduces the Futures-Oriented Theoretical Framework for Youth Career Development. Developed through original research and informed by emerging trends and practitioner insights, the framework integrates five key theories to support career development professionals in anticipating future contextual dynamics and designing responsive, evidence-informed programs for youth in 2030. It offers a transferable tool for advancing relevant and resilient practice in a time of accelerating

Wednesday, Jan 28

09:45 AM - 10:45 AM

Unlocking Untapped Talent: Potential-focused Recruitment, Enrolment and Delivery

English

Simulive

Virtual

Workplace, Employers and Employee Careers

Christine Stenton

Senior Manager, Programs, Palette Skills

Lauren Murray

Senior Manager, Participant Experience, Palette Skills

This workshop explores potential-focused recruitment, enrolment and delivery strategies for upskilling initiatives that enable career advancement for mid-career Canadians. Attendees will explore the different stages of the participant journey – distilling industry insights into application design and evaluation criteria, and developing personas that help identify untapped talent. By focusing on people's potential, we can build a more inclusive culture of learning.

Wednesday, Jan 28

09:45 AM - 10:45 AM

Insight to Impact: How VR is Transforming Career Development for PWD

English

Virtual

Innovations and Trends in Career Development

Brianne Dallas

Digital Adoption Support, CCRW

Elmira Izadi

Researcher, CCRW

Discover how innovation is reshaping career development for people with disabilities. This session explores how immersive VR experiences break barriers by building essential skills like interview prep, workplace communication and disclosing a disability. Using internal data, we'll show how VR boosts confidence, enhances accessibility and promotes inclusive workplaces.

Wednesday, Jan 28

09:45 AM - 10:45 AM

From Service Provision to Ecosystem Leadership: Supporting Career Readiness

English

Simulive

Virtual

Career Development Sector Leadership and Advocacy

Jennifer Woodside

Director of Centre for Career Development, University of Waterloo

Kait Hazzard

Manager, Career Education, University of Waterloo

How can we transform the nature of our impact in times of uncertainty and fiscal constraint? Join us to hear about our Purposeful Career Readiness framework, designed to redefine how we support students and faculty, leaning into Tomlinson's Graduate Capitals model. Join us to hear about our approach and early learnings!

Wednesday, Jan 28

09:45 AM - 10:45 AM

JobsAbility Canada - Connecting Jobseekers Who Have a Disability

English

Simulive

Virtual

Indigeneity, Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclu...

Liz Gosse

Disability Awareness Trainer, ODEN/Jobs Ability Canada

Learn about Jobs Ability Canada, a platform designed by and for people who have a disability. You will discover how easy it is for jobseekers to create a profile, how Jobs Ability's advanced AI tool matches jobseekers with inclusive employers based on their skills and experiences, and understand the unique benefits Jobs Ability Canada offers.

Wednesday, Jan 28

09:45 AM - 10:45 AM

Lead to Retain: 5 Strategies for CD Leaders to Boost Team Engagement

English

Virtual

Career Development Sector Leadership and Advocacy

Michelle Schafer

Founder and Career Coach, Michelle Schafer Coaching

In today's competitive talent landscape, retaining skilled professionals can be a challenge. This interactive workshop delves into five actionable strategies designed specifically for career development leaders aiming to enhance team retention. Participants will learn how to foster a positive work environment, support continuous growth, and build a culture where employees feel valued and motivated to stay.

Wednesday, Jan 28

09:45 AM - 10:45 AM

Thrive While You Search: Self-care Strategies for Jobseekers

English

Simulive

Virtual

Specialized Career Supports and Programs

Michelle Zuber

Career Coach, Western University

Pranay Reddy

Career Coach, Western University

In an uncertain job market, enhance your practice by integrating mindfulness, grounding techniques and principles from the Hope-Centred Career Approach to better support jobseekers. Learn about empirically validated strategies to build clients' hope and resilience through realistic goal setting, celebrating small wins and nurturing supportive networks. Explore how addressing internal factors like self-efficacy, along with environmental support, strengthens emotional wellness and overall employability.

Wednesday, Jan 28

09:45 AM - 10:45 AM

Empowering Language to Empower Leaders: How to Address Microaggressions

English

Simulive

Virtual

Indigeneity, Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclu...

Pooja Kothari

Founder & Principal Facilitator, Boundless Awareness, LLC

Transform words into action! In this dynamic workshop, you'll master the Boundless Awareness Framework – a powerful tool that revolutionizes how we recognize and respond to microaggressions in our daily lives. This isn't just another theoretical discussion; it's a hands-on experience that equips you with practical skills to create positive change in your professional and personal interactions.

Wednesday, Jan 28: Canada Hall 1-2

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Keynote 4: NOMAD: Correcting the Narrative & Closing Comments

Canada Hall 1-2

English

French

Hybrid

Susan Aglukark

Performing Artist | Inuit Expert & Indigenous Advocate

Through songs, stories, film, photos and music video tracks, this keynote from Susan Aglukark will take you on the journey of the Canadian Inuit over the last generation, shedding light on some of the psychological and cultural impacts of rapid change in the North. NOMAD also gives a glimpse of the resilience and determination of a people who have maintained a quiet dignity despite near annihilation by disease, impacts of colonization and rapid change – a glimpse of the strengths of the traditional Inuit culture. While NOMAD helps us better understand the effects of colonization and generational trauma caused by the ...



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