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INSPIRING POSSIBILITIES
AGM & CONFERENCE 2022



2022 Conference Program

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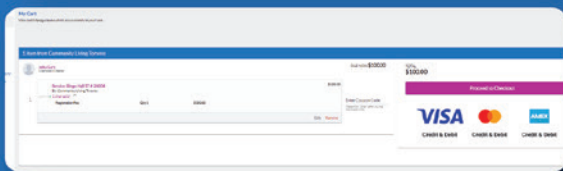
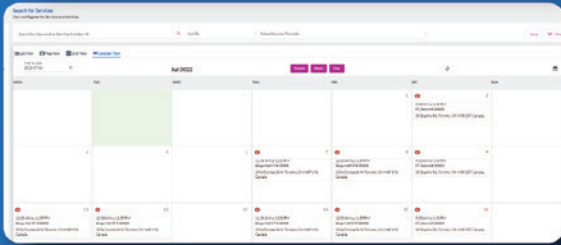

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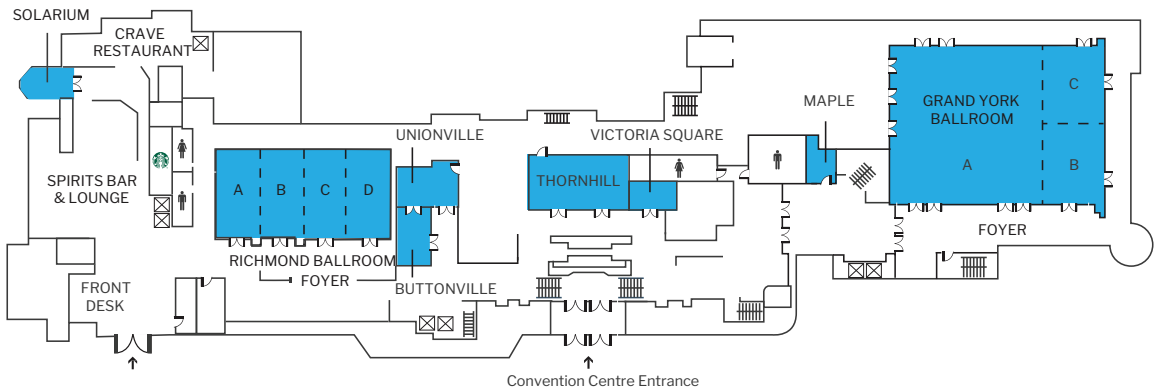
Front Cover Photo, Council Members (left to right) Nicole Flynn, Judy Noonan, and Niko Pupella with Chris Beesley, CLO CEO.



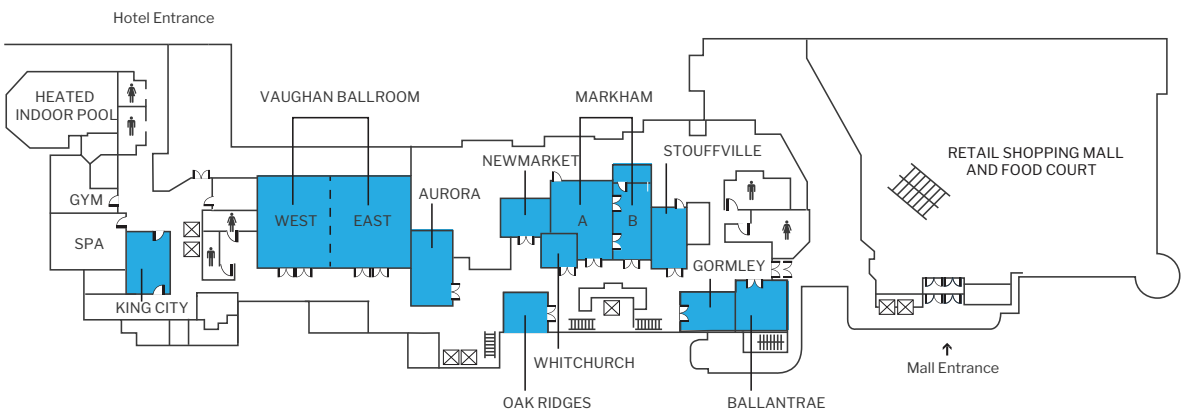
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Message from the President and CEO



For nearly 70 years, Community Living Ontario has been supporting people who have an intellectual disability and their families through mentorship and employment programs, family and youth engagement and advocacy.

Our annual Conference is an integral part of Community Living Ontario's advocacy work. At Conference, we come together as staff, volunteers, self-advocates, families, member organizations, and more to inspire possibilities for people who have an intellectual disability. At this year's Conference, we'll hear from member organizations who are addressing unmet needs in the developmental services sector. We'll find out how people with lived experience are challenging the status quo when it comes to living with an intellectual disability. And together, we'll learn creative, collaborative approaches to improving the communities we serve.

The last two years of the COVID-19 pandemic have shown us just how important community really is. People with intellectual disabilities can be at increased risk for COVID-19, and they and their families often face greater social and emotional—not to mention financial—challenges, as a result of isolation.

Through it all, Community Living Ontario was there. We hosted virtual family and youth engagement sessions, offered practical COVID-19 resources, and were even able to host virtual Conferences. And just because it happened over Zoom, doesn't mean it was any less impactful. In fact, virtual and hybrid delivery models allowed us to reach even more people.

While we're so happy to be back in-person after nearly three years online, we recognize that the pandemic is not over yet. Community Living Ontario is pleased to offer virtual and hybrid options for attendees, and we welcome participants wherever you are. Please know that we are diligently following the most up-to-date health measures, ensuring that everyone can safely enjoy this year's conference. Thank you to our Conference committee organizers, sponsors, and volunteers for their tireless efforts in bringing our Conference to life, both in person and online.

Most importantly, however, we want to thank you for joining us at this year's Conference. Without you, we would not be able to inspire possibilities for people who have an intellectual disability.

Welcome to the 69th Inspiring Possibilities AGM & Conference!

Sincerely,



Michael J

Michael Jacques
President,
Community Living Ontario



Chris Beesley

Chris Beesley
Chief Executive Officer
Community Living Ontario

Message du président et du directeur général



Depuis près de 70 ans, Intégration communautaire Ontario soutient les personnes ayant une déficience intellectuelle et leur famille au moyen de programmes de mentorat et d'emploi, de participation et de défense des droits des familles et des jeunes.

Notre conférence annuelle fait partie intégrante du travail de plaidoyer d'Intégration communautaire Ontario. Lors de la conférence, nous nous réunissons en tant que personnel, bénévoles, défenseurs de soi, familles, organisations membres, et plus encore pour offrir des possibilités inspirantes aux personnes ayant une déficience intellectuelle. À la conférence de cette année, nous entendrons les organisations membres qui répondent aux besoins non satisfaits dans le secteur des services aux personnes ayant une déficience intellectuelle. Nous découvrirons comment les personnes ayant une expérience vécue remettent en question le statu quo lorsqu'il s'agit de vivre avec une déficience intellectuelle. Et ensemble, nous apprendrons des approches créatives et collaboratives pour améliorer la situation des communautés que nous servons.

Les deux dernières années de la pandémie de COVID-19 nous ont montré à quel point la communauté est vraiment importante. Les personnes ayant une déficience intellectuelle peuvent être exposées à un risque accru de contracter la COVID-19, et elles et leur famille sont souvent confrontées à des défis sociaux et émotionnels plus importants, sans parler des problèmes financiers, en raison de l'isolement.

Pendant tout ce temps, Intégration communautaire Ontario était là. Nous avons organisé des séances virtuelles de mobilisation des familles et des jeunes, nous avons offert des ressources pratiques sur la COVID-19 et nous avons même été en mesure d'organiser des conférences virtuelles. Et ce n'est pas parce que ces activités ont eu lieu sur Zoom qu'elles ont moins d'impact! En fait, les modèles de prestation virtuels et hybrides nous ont permis d'atteindre encore plus de gens.

Bien que nous sommes si heureux d'être de retour en personne après près de trois ans en ligne, nous reconnaissons que la pandémie n'est pas encore terminée. Intégration communautaire Ontario est heureuse d'offrir des options virtuelles et hybrides aux participants, et nous les accueillons partout où ils sont. Sachez que nous suivons avec diligence les mesures de santé les plus récentes, en veillant à ce que tout le monde puisse profiter en toute sécurité de la conférence de cette année. Merci aux organisateurs, aux commanditaires et aux bénévoles de notre conférence pour leurs efforts inlassables afin de donner vie à notre conférence, en personne et en ligne.

Mais surtout, nous tenons à vous remercier de vous joindre à nous à l'occasion de la conférence de cette année. Sans vous, nous ne serions pas en mesure d'offrir des possibilités inspirantes aux personnes ayant une déficience intellectuelle.

Bienvenue à la 69e AGA et conférence Possibilités inspirantes!

Cordialement,



Michael J

Michael Jacques
Président,
Community Living Ontario



Chris Beesley

Chris Beesley
Chef de la Direction
Community Living Ontario



LCOworks

Employment planning and job connections for people with developmental disabilities in Ontario

What is LCOworks?

LCOworks is a free online program that supports positive employment outcomes for individuals with developmental disabilities, a traditionally underrepresented and at-risk population in the labour market

Everyone deserves a chance to find meaningful employment and we are proud to be able to provide this program for free to individuals across Ontario.

Who is Eligible?

Any Ontario resident with a developmental disability is eligible to participate in LCOworks.

**Program space is limited*

If you think LCOworks would be of interest to you or to those you serve, we want to hear from you.

✉ support@lifecourseonline.com

Email us to apply or to learn more

Program Components

Person-Centred Employment Planning

Participants will create an employment plan, connect with their network of support, and access program content through the **LifeCourseOnline** platform.

Self-Paced Learning

Self-paced, online learning content will be provided for individuals, families, Developmental Service professionals and employers.

Expert Support

Participants will have access to dedicated Employment Specialists for planning support.

Job Connection

LCOworks-vetted employers can connect with participants through our **LCOworks Employment Portal**, exclusive to the LCOworks program.

www.lifecourseonline.com



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Welcome



This year's conference offers you a variety of exciting sessions connected to diverse issues and interests related to showcasing how we can Inspire Possibilities within our communities. Community Living Ontario wishes to acknowledge and thank our Title Sponsor - **CSBT**, Mobile App Sponsor - **MyCommunityHub** and all other sponsors that enable us to provide a more robust conference program and experience. Be sure to pick up an Exhibitor Passport from the registration desk and visit each exhibit booth to have yours signed. Passports that are filled out in their entirety and returned to the registration desk by Friday at 10:15 AM will be entered into a draw for a \$200 gift card to The Keg at the Closing Ceremonies.

REGISTRATION DESK

WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 14
1:00PM – 6:30PM

THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 15
7:00AM – 7:00PM

FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 16
7:00AM – 11AM

HOTEL PARKING

Daily parking is FREE

LOST AND FOUND

All items found can be brought to the registration desk located outside of the Buttonville Room.

FRAGRANCE WARNING

Please be aware that some people are sensitive to chemicals including those found in scents, perfumes and after shaves. Refraining from using scented products is greatly appreciated.

COMMUNITY LIVING ONTARIO EXHIBIT

Learn about Community Living Ontario's current initiatives, meet staff and members of Council and the Youth Advisory Committee and connect with colleagues at the Community Living Ontario booth.

WELCOME RECEPTION

Enjoy a lovely cocktail, mixing and mingling, while appreciating amazing musical accompaniment after your day. The Welcome Reception is sponsored by NucleusLabs.

CONFERENCE APP

Create your own schedule, check out our sponsors and exhibitors, and network with other participants using our conference app. Visit <https://bit.ly/CLO-Conference2022> from your mobile phone, tablet, or laptop to get started. The Mobile app is sponsored by MyCommunityHub.

CELL PHONE CHARGING STATION

Can your mobile phone use a pick-me-up? Stop by the charging station in the Grand York Foyer and get a free boost courtesy of GoEasyCare, the ultimate workplace management platform.

AGM and Conference Agenda



WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2022

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM Provincial Executive Directors Group (PEDG) AGM • Vaughan Hall

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM CLO Board Meeting • Aurora Room

12:00 PM – 4:00 PM CLO Board joins the PEDG Meeting • Vaughan Hall

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM Council Meeting • Markham Room A & B

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM PEDG, CLO Board and Council Reception & Dinner • Vaughan Hall

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM AGM Registration Opens • Grand York Foyer

6:30 PM – 9:30 PM AGM • Grand York Ballroom

9:30 PM – 11:00 PM Welcome Reception • Grand York Foyer

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

7:00 AM – 8:30 AM Conference Breakfast & Exhibitors

8:45 AM – 10:00 AM Opening Remarks & Keynote Speaker Sarah Westbrook
“Emotions Change Choices” • Grand York Ballroom

10:00 AM – 10:30 AM Coffee Break & Exhibitors

10:30 AM – 11:45 AM Breakout Sessions

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM Lunch & Exhibitors

1:30 PM – 2:45 PM Breakout Sessions

2:45 PM – 3:15 PM Coffee Break & Exhibitors

3:15 PM – 4:30 PM Breakout Sessions

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM Reception (Cash Bar) • Grand York Foyer

6:00 PM – 8:30 PM Dinner • Grand York Ballroom

8:30 PM – 11:00 PM Dance with DJ Raptor Marc • Grand York Ballroom

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2022

7:00 AM – 8:30 AM Conference Breakfast & Exhibitors

8:30 AM – 9:45 AM Panel Session: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion must be a Core Value within
our sector • Grand York Ballroom

9:45 AM – 10:15 AM Coffee Break & Exhibitors

10:15 AM – 11:30 AM Breakout Sessions

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Journey to Belonging: Choice and Inclusion • Grand York Ballroom

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM Closing Remarks & Lunch

Conference Committee

Special thank you to all the members of the Inspiring Possibilities AGM & Conference Committee this year. We appreciate your ideas, energy and enthusiasm for bringing this year's plans to life.

- **Chris Beesley**
- **Jennie Chanda**
- **Doug Cooper**
- **Aislinn DeRoches**
- **Heather Evans**
- **Michael Gillies**
- **Payal Khazanchi**
- **Terri Meshwork**
- **Jackie Moore**
- **Shawn Pegg**
- **Duncan Phelps**
- **Niko Pupella**
- **Eon Sinclair**
- **Theresa Somerton**
- **Yvonne Spicer**
- **Marcel St. Jean**
- **Keenan Wellar**

Board of Directors

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Vice President/Director at Large
- **Doug Cooper**
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- **David Hill**
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- **Brittany Manu**
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- **Donna Marcaccio**
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- **Joseph Ralph Savage**
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- **Theresa Somerton**
Council Appointed Board Member
- **Marcel St-Jean**
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- **Jill Teeple**
Past President
- **Maurice Voisin**
PEDG-appointed Director at Large
- **Leanne Wheatstone**
Director at Large

Council

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- **Stella Curtis**
- **Nicole Flynn**
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- **Jessica Forsyth**
Secretary
- **Dzidra Halar**
- **Jem Moeller**
- **Judy Noonan**
- **Niko Pupella**
President
- **Scott Schihl**
Treasurer
- **Robert Smith**
- **Theresa Somerton**
Council Appointed Board Member
- **James Taylor**
- **Megan Wheatstone**

Anne Stafford Award Recipients 2022



Anne worked for Community Living Ontario for almost 30 years, helping our movement in many ways, including the pursuit of alternatives to institutionalization. The Light up the Future Bursary launched in 1993 in honour of Anne's retirement, in hopes of leaving a legacy that would support people who have an intellectual disability to pursue personal development opportunities. The fundraising efforts at Community Living Ontario and the generous donations of many member organizations have supported the bursary.

The Anne Stafford Light Up the Future Bursary offers up to \$1,000 to those who have an intellectual disability so they can pursue an educational program or personal interest course. This provides them with the opportunity to have an enhanced social role and share in all elements of living in the community.

- **Jonathan Christopher** → Belleville
- **Tanner Dang** → Mississauga
- **Caitlynn Elliot-McGrail** → Milton
- **Adam Fitzpatrick** → Pickering
- **Thomas Fraboni** → Hamilton
- **Breanna Fraser** → Ajax
- **Evan Goertz** → Waterloo
- **Brittany Hearn** → Brighton
- **Bryan Kaenchanh** → Waterloo
- **Emily Kelly** → Kitchener
- **Zainab Khan** → Pickering
- **Catherine Lacoursiere** → Barrie
- **Erica Machtinger** → Toronto
- **Ryan MacMillan** → Toronto
- **Joshua Marcoux** → Orleans

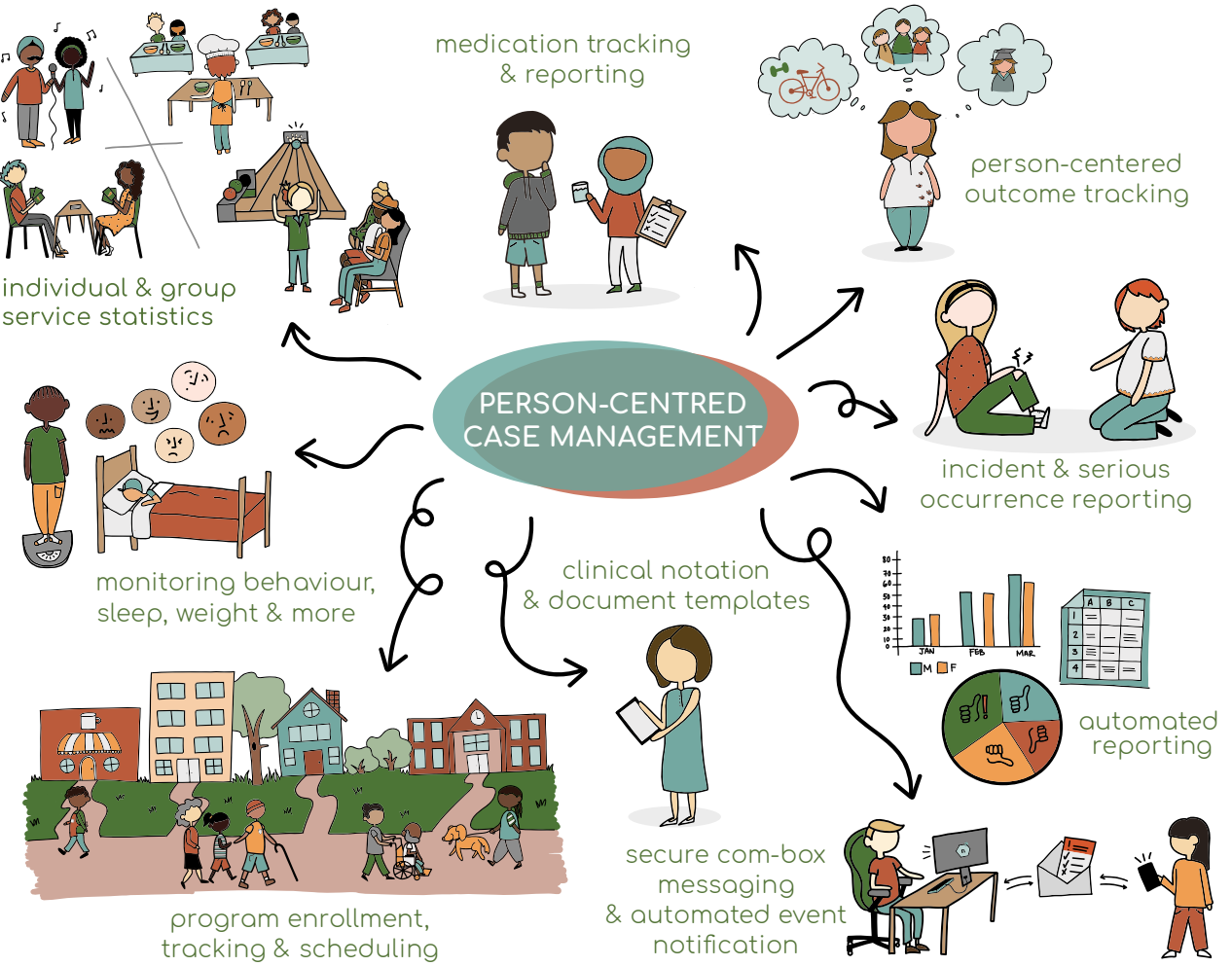
- **Noah McGill** → Picton
- **Kate McGuire** → Scarborough
- **Jayden Naz** → Markham
- **Bradley O'Neil** → Picton
- **Liam Panziera** → London
- **Tammy-Lynn Parker** → Guelph
- **Brian Platt** → Fergus
- **Dimitri Popovic** → Windsor
- **Catherine Quigley** → Ottawa
- **Shane Ruston** → Amherstburg
- **Octavia Strickland** → Kingston
- **Rebecca Strickland** → Kingston
- **Bryan Tersigni** → Woodbridge
- **Alexis Wrightson** → Guelph

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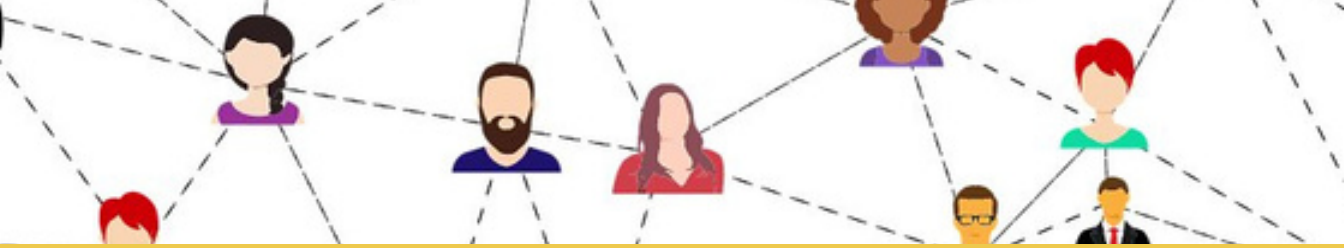
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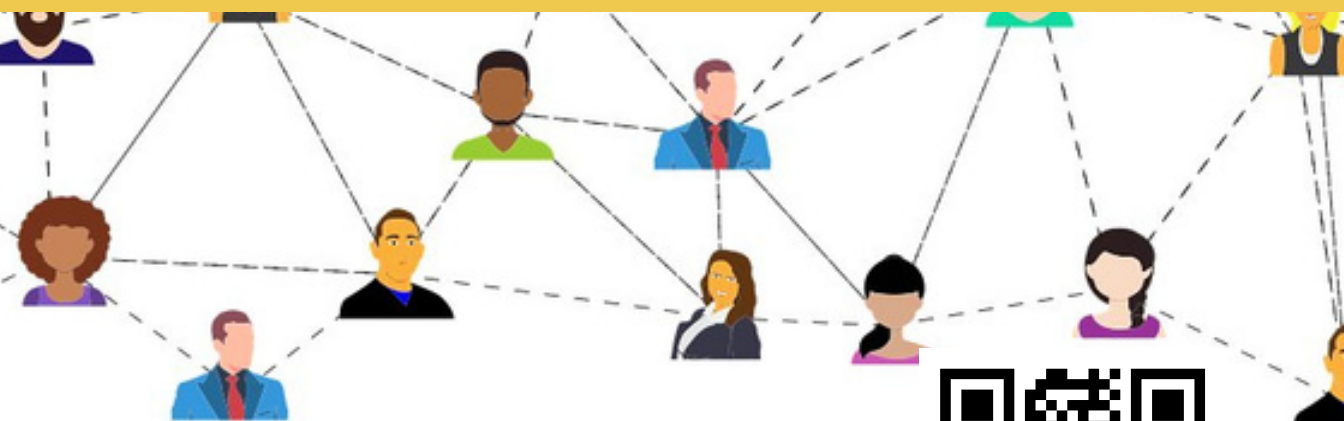
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Opening remarks & Keynote Speaker Sarah Westbrook, “Emotions Change Choices”



SPEAKER:

Sarah Westbrook

DATE:

Thursday, September 15th @ 8:45 AM – 10:00 AM

LOCATION:

Grand York Ballroom

ABOUT SARAH:

Sara Westbrook is a professional speaker, author, and singer. She has spent the last 16 years researching and presenting on the topic of emotions and the impact they have on choices, well-being and resilience in both adults and youth.

Over half a million people have been inspired by Sara’s enthusiasm, life experiences and the transformational power of her message. She has appeared on many media outlets including Global, CTV, CBC, Sirius XM & Roku.

When she is not presenting, writing, or singing, she can be found in her kitchen whipping up yummy, healthy treats for her husband George and son Kai or at the arena, with coffee in hand, watching her son play hockey.

For more information please visit:

www.sarawestbrook.com

Emotion Change Choices

Challenges are Chapters of your life - not your whole story.

Those challenging chapters can trigger big, uncomfortable and even painful emotions. Acknowledging and validating those emotions is an essential part of understanding how they impact your choices.

It is my passion and mission to share strategies to strengthen emotional awareness, emotional management and emotional resilience. These strategies will provide the framework to make choices with clarity and confidence, plus strengthen your mental and emotional well-being.



Person Directed – Outcome Based Transition Planning – Life After School

SPEAKERS:

Cora Nolan, Robyn Rivington, Joyce Rivington

DATE:

Thursday, September 15th @ 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM

LOCATION:

Vaughan East Meeting Room

Our session is based on the “Person Directed Process” that we followed to ensure our sons had a meaningful, every day, inclusive lifestyle in their own communities after completing high school. Along with our presentation, we will provide copies of our HANDBOOK to participants. Presentation will identify: Preliminary Information (Ministry of Education Transition Requirements; DSO Requirements; Role of Person-Directed Planning)

Planning for the Future; Living the Dream

SPEAKERS:

**Nayana Jayawardena, Sasi Jayawardena, Diana Lopes,
Tracy Curran Smyth**

DATE:

Thursday, September 15th @ 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM

LOCATION:

Aurora Meeting Room

Community Living Mississauga is proud to share one of their newest initiatives: Living the Dream. The Living the Dream initiative is one that embodies Community Living Mississauga’s mission and vision, as it focuses on walking alongside people as they transition out of their family home, and move into their own, independent living arrangement. The Living the Dream initiative is an innovative initiative that provides support to people and their family, with implementing their plans to live independently. The Living the Dream initiative empowers people to build their capacity and gain new skills; focusing on skill building results in decreased vulnerability, and increased independence. The Living the Dream initiative provides support to reduce barriers, and ensure that all people are given the opportunity to create and live a self-managed life. The Living the Dream initiative will be presented during this session, from its early planning days to its current status, and everything in between. After hearing from the Living the Dream initiative’s most recent successful participant, there will be an opportunity for questions fielded by the panel.



A Series of Small Wins: Strategy for Service User Engagement

SPEAKERS:

Our Voices Matter Council, Kaylagh Van Wyck, Jasmine Duckworth

DATE:

Thursday, September 15th @ 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM

LOCATION:

Vaughan West Meeting Room

Over the last two years, Christian Horizons has been developing a comprehensive strategy of engaging service users. Our Voices Matter self-advocacy group members and employees will together share, through video and presentation, stories of how service users have partnered with Christian Horizons. Self-advocates will describe:

- the growth of the Our Voices Matter self-advocacy movement
- the formation of the self-advocates council
- how employees and self-advocates collaborated together on a participatory research project
- how service users help with agency webinars
- how service users participate on committees (e.g. vaccine group and the anti-racism task force)
- and how service users collaborate with agency management.

Along with concrete examples and stories, this workshop will also equip attendees with practical tips and tools (e.g. sample agendas, forms, toolkits, and worksheets) developed throughout our journey. Stories shared will demonstrate how a series of small wins can lead to large and lasting impact.



Connecting Through Inspired Communications

SPEAKERS:

Natalie Kristy, Julie LaSorda

DATE:

Thursday, September 15th @ 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM

LOCATION:

Stouffville Meeting Room

The implementation of the agency's new, creative and accommodating communication strategies has greatly enhanced and strengthened connections with people served and families. What began as a response to the safety restrictions and corresponding isolation experienced due to the COVID-19 Pandemic has transitioned to become an ongoing feature in our communication strategy. Join us for a high-energy session where we will share learnings from both internal and external communication strategies that have successfully promoted engagement, relationships, and provide valuable information and resources. The impact of the evolution of our communications will be shared with examples of the different types of communications that have proven to be fundamental in our engagement efforts. We believe that this presentation will inspire others to explore new forms of communication, bolstering their own communications outlines – further engaging those receiving services and their communities.



The SHIFT – Holistic & Intersectional Harm Reduction Services- Next Steps- Training and Community of Practice

SPEAKERS:

Tony Rachwalski, Suzanne Willet, Jill Faber, Tina Thomason

DATE:

Thursday, September 15th @ 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM

LOCATION:

Markham Meeting Room

In 2020, a group of like-minded people came together in Northeastern Ontario to try and find solutions to the complexity and lack of services for people in our community with intellectual disabilities who are already significantly marginalized and at risk due to addictions, poverty, intergenerational trauma, gender and race. What resulted was The SHIFT -a resource with a harm reduction lens. It is built around the person-centred, “Nothing About Us, Without Us,” philosophy and is focused on non-judgement and inclusive care that is culturally sensitive, evidence-based, accessible, and more than anything, person-led and based on incremental gains. After sharing The SHIFT resource provincially through 2021 we heard overwhelmingly that our colleagues wanted more – as did we. And so, through the help and support of MCCSS funding The SHIFT has grown into a ground-breaking training. The SHIFT training has been developed into 4 parts:

- 1.** The Foundational Module will take you a step further in reflection about myths that can be a barrier to us using a harm reduction approach. From there the training takes you through 3 streams
- 2.** For direct support professionals
- 3.** For collaborative partners (police, hospital, community mental health)
- 4.** For leadership in all sectors. Learners will complete the training having been transformed in some way-assumptions, values, myths, etc. and prepared to try something new.

The SHIFT Training is:

- tailored to adult learners-independently paced, and guided, and accessible
- brings together a wide variety of perceptions to create a common lens and common language
- does not re-create the wheel-where existing content was available and applicable, we encouraged the use of those resources. Our group would like to share with everyone the launch of the SHIFT training and lead an interactive discussion about the development of a community of practice to further inspire the possibilities.



An Introduction to Microboards

SPEAKERS:

Brendon Pooran, Xavier Noordermeer, Kathleen Glifford, Karen Bell

DATE:

Thursday, September 15th @ 1:30 PM – 2:45 PM

LOCATION:

Markham Meeting Room

People and families that choose to invite others together to form a Microboard fundamentally believe that building strong and abiding relationships is central to a person's security and well-being. They trust that close, reciprocal relationships help to strengthen a person's voice and enhance their willingness to be heard. Most importantly, they believe that everyone deserves and wants to have a sense of purpose in their lives. This session will introduce to the audience the fundamental principles of microboards, the benefits, the role of its members, and how to begin to set one up. The audience will also hear first-hand experience of one family's journey to microboard creation.

Aging in Place for people and ensuring people stay out of Long-Term Care

SPEAKERS:

**Donna Marcaccio, Dr. Judith Sandys, Judy Noonan,
Nicole Flynn, Niko Pupella**

DATE:

Thursday, September 15th @ 1:30 PM – 2:45 PM

LOCATION:

Vaughan West Meeting Room

Every person has the right to live in a home of their choosing, with others they choose to live with, in the broader community - a right that is guaranteed by Article 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Yet, increasingly, people who have disabilities are ending up in Long Term Care facilities. We do not think institutions are good places for anyone. Why is this happening, why is it so harmful and what do we need to do to prevent this? What does Aging in Place mean? This session will explore these questions. Presenters for this session, some who are people with disabilities, all believe that institutions are not good places and all are advocating for changes that will ensure that people with disabilities (and everyone else) can continue to live in the community as they age.

Session Description



Designed for YOU!! Come hear the journey of CVNQuinte!

SPEAKERS:

Julie Allen, Pat Conner, Jennifer Parker, Terri Korkush

DATE:

Thursday, September 15th @ 1:30 PM – 2:45 PM

LOCATION:

Stouffville Meeting Room

Nestled into the heart of a growing south-eastern community of Quinte Region, Community Visions & Networking (Quinte) quietly since 1978, has been supporting adults with a developmental disability who are Deaf, hard of hearing or may have difficulty with communication. The original home that housed eight people is now the hub of resources for over 80 people living in Belleville, Trenton, and Prince Edward County. As a member of the OASIS Sensory Partners, we proudly share our unique support model with others. Our model of support promotes social inclusion, individualized services, and interdependence. Five coordinators ensure people receive high quality planning, choice of support/workers, construct and monitor an individual service plan for each person that is exactly what people desire and need to succeed. A team of over 30 part time support workers connect when, where and how people we support expect them to and synergy happens. People we support direct their lives and support while our employees design their unique schedule of supports. A winning combination from both perspectives.

We have been especially proud of our team that didn't miss a beat during a very difficult two years and continue to support people specific to their needs and desires. We embrace the true meaning of "a journey to belong" in a community and look forward to expanding what we offer to others. Allow us to share our recipe for success.

Session Description



Meaningfully Engaging Youth to be Champions of Change

SPEAKERS:

Alexandra Jessica Snider, Megan Sharon den Dekker, Sarah Julius, Nicole Canzoneri

DATE:

Thursday, September 15th @ 1:30 PM – 2:45 PM

LOCATION:

Vaughan East Meeting Room

This session, presented by Re:Action4Inclusion's Youth Advisory Committee will explore the pillars to meaningful youth engagement, their framework for doing so, their experiences with implementing this framework and will offer time for constructive discussion about how audience members can actively engage and empower the youth they interact with.



Real Work for Real Pay – Increasing the Market Share of Employment Opportunities for People with Developmental Disabilities

SPEAKERS:

Lina Arango Jakusi, Machenzie Ketchell, Ines Elvira de Escallon, Angela Hoyt

DATE:

Thursday, September 15th @ 1:30 PM – 2:45 PM

LOCATION:

Aurora Meeting Room

This session will provide an overview of recent research and advocacy work conducted by the Family Support Network for Employment (FSNE). Established in 2018, FSNE is a family-led coalition with a fast-growing base of over 300 Ontario families. We advocate for employment opportunities and jobs in the open labour market for individuals with developmental disabilities who face higher employment barriers. Our vision is to transform employment support practices in Ontario with a commitment to Employment First principles, policy, and best practices. In 2021, FSNE consulted with diverse employment stakeholders in Ontario to identify the obstacles that individuals with intellectual disabilities face that leave them out of the labour market. This led us to identify gaps in developmental and employment support services in the province. Our research indicates that current approaches focused on building employable skills and supported employment have been largely unsuccessful. Informed by this research and recent advocacy work, our session will: (1) discuss the role of employment stakeholders with emphasis on the individual with an intellectual disability, the family members, and the service providers; (2) explain the possibilities of applying the “Consultive-Selling Model” with third party support representation in securing employment for people with intellectual disability; and (3) propose transformations on the employment services sector needed to improve outcomes for individuals with intellectual disability. We will conclude by underscoring the need for leadership and adequately trained professionals who can implement inclusive values and apply marketing skills in securing real jobs for job seekers with intellectual disabilities.



Increasing Resiliency Skills to Life's Challenges Through Acceptance Therapy

SPEAKERS:

Leah Jeffery

DATE:

Thursday, September 15th @ 1:30 PM – 2:45 PM

LOCATION:

King City Meeting Room

After two years of uncertainty and upheaval to our every day experiences, resiliency is needed more than ever. Acceptance Commitment Therapy is an evidenced-based modality used for a variety of purposes but at the heart it teaches how to “maximize human potential for a rich and meaningful life, while effectively handling the pain that inevitably goes with it.” (Dr. Russ Harris, 2019).

Through interactive and experiential learning, we will explore practical ways to effectively manage the challenges life brings while still living the life we desire and being the person we want to be. When we begin to identify and understand what matters most, who we want to be and the life we want to have (i.e. our values), we can create a compass that helps us to move in the direction that is aligned with our values. Participants will be taught skills to identify and reduce the negative impact and control of difficult thoughts and emotions through acceptance, mindfulness and self-compassion techniques, thereby developing and/or increasing our psychological flexibility. Learn strategies to hold what life brings you in both times of joy and suffering through this fun and engaging workshop!



CLTO Influencers

SPEAKERS:

Tracey O'Regan, Farrah Sattaur, Anne-Marie Binetti

DATE:

Thursday, September 15th @ 3:15 PM – 4:30 PM

LOCATION:

Markham Meeting Room

This person-directed project involves people with lived experience and CL Toronto employees, who together explored and then co- designed the Influencer Pilot Project. With the assistance of People Minded Business' consultants who facilitated the inclusive WITHology process the CLTO Influencers identified two areas of approaching advocacy:

- 1.** Insider Influencers (i.e. people with lived experience) will be present, literally and figuratively, at CLTO placing them front and centre in all the agency does.
- 2.** Community Influencers will raise awareness, educate, and advocate for positive change in a variety of areas important to them and other people who have a developmental disability.

The group concluded that they all want to make positive changes in their society, but individually have different passions and interests based on their lived experiences. They decided to combine their forces to be more powerful and shift from disabilities to possibilities! The following is the vision of the CLTO Influencers

“We are the Community Living Toronto Influencers. We are a group of people who have a developmental disability and lots of abilities. Together, we want to raise awareness and create positive change in our communities and beyond.”

Session Description



Inclusion is Intersectional – Going beyond buzz words to ACTION

SPEAKERS:

Alison McLean

DATE:

Thursday, September 15th @ 3:15 PM – 4:30 PM

LOCATION:

Aurora Meeting Room

In this session, I will be discussing how inclusion is intersectional. Race, ability, gender, class, etc. are interconnected and they create overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage. We cannot truly be inclusive without accounting for all of the ways in which those we serve, support, work with, manage and collaborate with identify. We have to see people as their full selves and operationalize and practice inclusion in ways that don't leave anyone behind.



Let's talk about sex: A holistic approach to addressing sexuality, sexual education, and sexual advocacy in the intellectual and developmental population

SPEAKERS:

Mitch Lubbe, Dr. Julija Kelecevic, Jane Savage, Stacie Dertinger

DATE:

Thursday, September 15th @ 3:15 PM – 4:30 PM

LOCATION:

Vaughan East Meeting Room

People with intellectual and developmental disability have the same sexual needs, desires, and expressions as those without a disability, yet when sexuality is linked to a disability, it often has more taboos, stereotypes, and associated fears. Addressing sexuality in individuals with intellectual and developmental disability is hindered by inaccuracies such as the belief that persons with disability should initiate the conversation if it's to be addressed, that people with profound disability are more childlike and asexual, or myths like talking about it can cause harm and increase inappropriate behaviours, or all individuals with disability prefer heterosexual monogamous relationships.

Human service workers have an ethical obligation to address all areas of an individual's autonomy, life and happiness including their sexuality. If severely disabled adults do not lose their right to refuse or accept medical care due to cognitive impairments, it seems logical that they also do not lose the right to refuse or accept the opportunity to engage in intimate contact with a spouse or partner. Therefore, people supported need family, friends and teams that are comfortable and confident in their ability to holistically address and advocate for healthy sexuality and sexual expressions in a proactive and positive manner.

Through example case studies and best practice review, this presentation will address sexuality and sexual expression in the intellectual and developmental disability community along several areas (1) understanding the biological nature to sexuality and sexuality education (2) understanding the psychological factors supporting positive sexual expression and empowerment (3) address sexuality and ablist (4) discuss consent and emotional boundaries for healthy sexuality (5) identifying the behavioural challenges and myths to sexuality education and advocacy and (6) addressing ethical dilemmas that arise from conflicting values or beliefs over sexuality and sexual expression in individuals with intellectual and developmental disability.



Home Ownership: Stability, security and inclusion for People who have a disability and their families

SPEAKERS:

Saquiha Rahman, Brendon Pooran

DATE:

Thursday, September 15th @ 3:15 PM – 4:30 PM

LOCATION:

Vaughan West Meeting Room

Home plays an important role when it comes to support and stability in your life. One of the challenges for adults who have an intellectual disability and their families is the identification, acquisition and maintenance of a stable, secure home while respecting the person's aspirations for independence and inclusive community living.

In this session, people and families will learn about the different home ownership models and the key considerations, including the impact on ODSP, tax compliance, tenancy law, financial and personal supports and owning a home in trust.

Panel Presentation: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion must be a Core Value within our sector

SPEAKERS:

Joe Persaud, Sharri-Ann Edmunds, Dr. Claudine Cousins, Alison McLean

DATE:

Friday, September 16th @ 8:30 AM – 9:45 AM

LOCATION:

Grand York Ballroom

Our session will address why and how Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion must be a Core Value within our organizations and a Core Competency for all of us as employees. We will be presenting through a panel discussion with 4 members of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Community of Practice; we will have prepared questions that each panelist will answer.



Building a life in Community – Your Gifts, Your Connections, Your Way

SPEAKERS:

Bethany Van Arnhem, Brian Ysebaert, John Brown

DATE:

Friday, September 16th @ 10:15 AM – 11:30 AM

LOCATION:

Aurora Meeting Room

This session will focus on the importance of building a life in the community. What does that look like for a person with a disability? Brian and John will both share their experiences and what makes for a welcoming community. Why is it important to contribute? Why is it important to have connections? Bethany will share the importance of creating places and spaces that are welcoming and inclusive. We will have a Q&A discussion during the presentation.

Disability IS Ability: Re-Imaging the Possibilities of Living with Disabilities

SPEAKER:

Dr. James Sikkema

DATE:

Friday, September 16th @ 10:15 AM – 11:30 AM

LOCATION:

Vaughan West Meeting Room

This session invites participants to make foundational inquiries into the concepts of possibility and ability in the first place, and then, on the basis of these investigations, critically evaluate how we think of disability and the possibilities of action it involves. The session concludes with an ideation session where participants are invited to identify the structural and institutional impediments that yet exist for persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities, and to creatively imagine a future where greater possibilities for a variety of abilities is recognized and promoted.



Enhancing services with technology

SPEAKERS:

Paul Fijal, Angel Vibert

DATE:

Friday, September 16th @ 10:15 AM – 11:30 AM

LOCATION:

Stouffville Meeting Room

Community Living North Bay (CLNB) has been a champion of technology implementation. Our approach prioritizes the rights of the people we support and the involvement of every stakeholder in the organization. Angel Vibert, Director of Community Residential Services at Community Living North Bay shares the approach they've taken during technology implementations and the policies and procedures they have crafted to ensure that people's rights are being respected. This session will highlight examples of successful technology use for people who have an intellectual or developmental disability. We will also discuss our efforts to work together as a sector to advance our use of technology through our technology and innovation networking group. We aim to inspire the audience by demonstrating how partnerships between support organizations, self-advocates, family members, and technology providers have led to improved quality of life, independence, and community participation.



Supporting communication and social participation of adults with developmental disabilities

SPEAKERS:

Dr. Renner Gregor, Dr. Beata Batorowicz, Paulina Finak, Steph Lackey, Lori Johnson

DATE:

Friday, September 16th @ 10:15 AM – 11:30 AM

LOCATION:

Markham Meeting Room

This workshop presents the findings of a collaborative project conducted by Ongwanada, a Kingston, Ontario based developmental service agency, and a team of interdisciplinary researchers and therapists from Queen's University and Freiburg, Germany. The project explored emerging research on effective communication strategies supporting individuals who are not independent communicators in daily situations. The aim was to empower choices so that adults with developmental disabilities could participate in and thrive as contributing members of their communities. Lack of social engagement and interactions can segregate adults with disabilities and cause misunderstandings of their unique abilities and many strengths. Emerging evidence suggests that implementing innovative strategies for communication can lead to meaningful participation of the marginalized groups, including persons with complex developmental and communication disabilities. Therefore, our project focused on augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) systems and strategies to enhance social interactions as well as choices and preferences of adults with developmental disabilities. The results of this partnership help to ensure that Canadians with developmental disabilities have equitable opportunities to meaningfully engage in their communities, as stipulated by the United Nations and World Health Organization and be involved in decision-making about services concerning their life.

In this workshop we will:

- Synthesize research findings and describe effective augmentative and alternative communication strategies for adults with developmental disabilities and their communication partners.
- Describe the preferred means of communication from the perspectives of adults with developmental disabilities.
- Bring together service providers, researchers and adults with developmental disabilities to share their perspectives.

Session Description



Siblings Canada: Supporting and empowering siblings in their changing roles as caregivers

SPEAKERS:

Katie MacDonald, Liv Mendelsohn, Alexandria Gonzales, Helen Ries

DATE:

Friday, September 16th @ 10:15 AM – 11:30 AM

LOCATION:

Vaughan East Meeting Room

Siblings Canada, an initiative of the Canadian Centre for Caregiving Excellence (CCCE), raises awareness of the critical role that siblings play in creating robust and responsive systems of care for people with disabilities. We serve as a repository of relevant knowledge, learning and resources for sibling caregivers and the organizations that support them. We recognize that while the experiences of sibling caregivers are diverse and profound, siblings' perspectives, needs and ideas are often overlooked. We exist to ensure that Canadian siblings of people with disabilities are recognized, valued and supported. This panel discussion will focus on the experiences and needs of sibling caregivers as they support their siblings in accessing a full range of rights and choices to live a fulfilling life. We will explore navigating systems, how agencies and teams can include siblings, and how siblings are advocating for policy change to better support people with disabilities and caregivers.

Journey to Belonging: Choice and Inclusion

SPEAKER:

Laura Summers

DATE:

Friday, September 16th @ 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

LOCATION:

Grand York Ballroom

The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services is working on the commitments in Journey to Belonging: Choice and Inclusion, the government's plan for developmental services reform. Laura will talk about some early successes since the plan was released, including an education and awareness campaign, and share updates about work ahead over the coming months.



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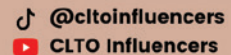


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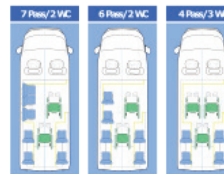


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