

18TH ANNUAL

AUTISM CONFERENCE

JANUARY 28 - 30, 2026 | FANTASYLAND HOTEL | EDMONTON

BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES

CELEBRATING AUTISTIC VOICES & CANADIAN LEADERSHIP IN AUTISM



At the heart of Building Brighter Futures is the belief that every Autistic voice has the power to shape a more inclusive tomorrow. Over three inspiring days, you'll hear from leading Canadian experts, self-advocates, and changemakers sharing practical tools, fresh perspectives, and stories that spark meaningful action.

This is your opportunity to connect, learn, and celebrate Canadian leadership in autism, as we work together to create brighter futures for every child, family, and community.

Bringing together leading voices from across Canada in autism, neurodiversity, mental health, and emotional regulation.



childrensautism.ca

SCHEDULE

Hosted by
Seanna Collins



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

7:30am - 9:00am Breakfast & Registration

9:00am - 10:30am Opening Remarks & Keynote
Clara Hughes – Opening Minds: Clara Hughes on Mental Health, Stigma, and Strength



10:30am - 10:45am Break

10:45am - 12:15pm Kristin Light – Living Happily Ever Average: Shining a Light on Kristin's Journey Through Mental Health



12:15pm - 1:15pm Lunch

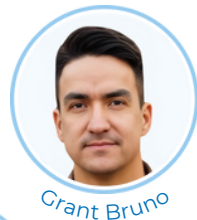
1:15pm - 2:30pm Maddy Dever – Neurodivergent and Thriving: Building Spaces Where All Can Shine



2:30pm - 3:00pm Break

Concurrent Sessions

3:00pm - 4:30pm Grant Bruno – Where Culture Meets Community: Reclaiming Indigenous Understandings of Neurodiversity in the Classroom



Christine Jenkins – Older not Wiser? Insights on Autistic Aging and Flourishing



4:30pm Closing Remarks

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

7:30am - 9:00am Breakfast & Registration

9:00am - 10:30am Opening Remarks & Keynote
Evdokia Anagnostou – Supporting Educators
with Research Based Insights



10:30am - 11:00am Break

11:00am - 12:30pm Whitney Hodgins – Where Real Intervention
Happens: Rethinking Education for Autistic
Students



12:30pm - 1:30pm Lunch

Concurrent Sessions

1:30pm - 3:00pm Deepa Singal – Evidence That Matters:
Research to Support Autistic Voices



Jonathan Weiss – The Overlooked Connection:
Innovative Approaches to Mental Health and Autism



Christine Jenkins – Not Just About
the Boys! Male Gender Bias in Autism



3:00pm - 3:30pm Break

Concurrent Sessions

3:30pm - 4:45pm Carole Anne Hapchyn – The Power of Connection:
Using NRF to Support Regulation and Growth



Gina Payne & Dan Dyck –
Money Toolkit for Autistic
Families: Finding, Keeping, and
Stretching Every Dollar



4:45pm Closing Remarks

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

7:30am - 9:00am Breakfast & Registration

9:00am - 10:30am Opening Remarks & Keynote
Carl Honoré – Stillness Under Pressure:
The Power of Slow in a Fast World



10:30am - 11:00am Break

11:00am - 12:00pm Seiun Thomas Henderson – The He(art) of the
Matter: A Framework for Wellness, Purpose, and
Connection in Inclusive and Neurodiversity-
Affirming Education



12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch Panel
Lonnie Zwaigenbaum, Deepa Singal
& Evdokia Anagnostou



1:00pm - 1:30pm Break

1:30pm - 3:30pm Workshop
Terri Duncan, Kelsey Penney, & Anna Loi -
Regulation Made Real: Classroom Strategies
and SMG Tools That Support Students



3:30pm Closing Remarks



Join Us Your Way - In Person or Virtually

- Full Access Pass – In-Person: January 28 - 30 **\$649**
- Full Access Pass – Virtual: January 28 - 30 **\$295**
- 2 Consecutive Day Experience – In-Person: January 28 - 29 or 29 - 30 **\$549**
- Train Your School/Group – Virtual: January 28 -30 **\$749**

Special Offer for Schools: 3 Days of Access Plus 3 Months of Speaker Videos

For virtual school groups, we're offering a special deal - three days of access, plus three months of post-conference access to all speaker videos. It's a perfect opportunity to share resources with your entire team and access content as needed. (Look for the Train Your School/Group on the registration site).

Questions? Please Reach Out

Lisa Van De Ligt

Communications & Events

E: lisa.vandeligt@childrensautism.ca

P: 780.860.5609

Terri Duncan

Executive Director

E: terri@childrensautism.ca

P: 780.233.7837

JOIN US IN BUILDING BETTER FUTURES WHERE
EVERY AUTISTIC CHILD CAN THRIVE

REGISTER TODAY