

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

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: Weaving Lived Experience and Acceptance into Practice
- 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



Clara Hughes



Kristin Light



Maddy Dever



Grant Bruno



Christine Jenkins



Evdokia Anagnostou



Whitney Hodgins



Deepa Singal

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

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 & Matt Pearcey – 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



Jonathan Weiss



Carole Anne Hapchyn



Gina Payne



Sejun Thomas Henderson



Dan Dyck



Carl Honoré



Matt Pearcey



Lonnie Zwaigenbaum

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

- 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.

Questions? Please Reach Out

Lisa Van De Ligt

Communications & Events

E: lisa.vandeligt@childrensautism.ca

P: 780.860.5609

Terri Duncan

Executive Director

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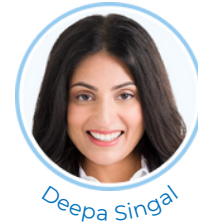
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SCHEDULE

Hosted by
Seanna Collins



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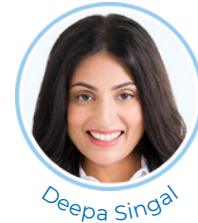
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REGISTER TODAY