

Advocates for Advocacy

Advocates for Advocacy brings people with disabilities to the table to discuss employment as a person with a disability.

3:00 pm Registration and Reception

3:15 pm Welcome and Introductions

3:30 pm Discussion Begins

4:30 pm Q & A

5:00 pm Closing Remarks

OCTOBER 11, 2018

**Hosted in partnership with the MRU Institute
for Community Prosperity**

#DEAM



Panel Speakers



Kiran Dhaliwal, Marketing Automation Manager & "Efficiency Queen"

Kiran Dhaliwal is a consultant with over 20 years of experience in Information Technology, Service Management, Education & Operations. She is frequently referred to as the "Efficiency Queen" and is known for connecting people to facilitate change in perception and innovation in order to maximize results. In 2011, she created a unique Italian-Indian boutique pizzeria, Pizza Master Fusion that she operated for 5 years. Kiran is an active member in the community and spearheaded the Hockey for Healing: Memorial Ball Hockey Tournament and currently sits on the Board of Directors at Punjabi Community Health Services of Calgary. Currently she is working as a Marketing Automation Manager for IWT.



Crystal Proctor, Control Manager, Southwood Veterinary Hospital

Crystal Proctor was diagnosed with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) in 2010 just 6 months after she got married. She was a full time Assistant Manager at Merle Norman Day Spa for 15 years. After a life altering relapse with SLE she decided to take a different career path that allowed her to manage her disease and work balance. Currently she is on the board of the Lupus Society of Alberta as a Director at large and on the Fund committee. She has 3 part time jobs that are accommodating to the ups and downs of her disease. Her primary job is Inventory Control Manager at the Southwood Veterinary Hospital where she works 3 days a week. Her second job is for Registry Connections where she does all their invoicing and reconciling. And lastly, she does aesthetic services out of her home.



Cheri Cleyn, EA & Agency Project Lead, Calgary Alternative Support Services

Cheri is the EA and Agency Project Lead and member of the Senior Leadership Team of Calgary Alternative Support Services - a large disability service provider in Calgary. She has extensive experience in the non-profit sector as well as an educational background in public policy. Her focus in the sector is on organizational development and operational management to ensure greater capacity to achieve outcomes. Throughout her academic and professional experiences she has been an advocate for improving accommodation processes and recently developed the workplace accommodation policy for her agency.

Panel Speakers



Derek Morgan, Student, Mount Royal University

Derek is 48 years old. In 1994 Derek underwent four invasive brain surgeries to remove a complex benign brain tumor. Complications resulting from the surgeries resulted in a severe frontal lobe acquired brain injury contributing to epilepsy. Derek entered cognitive rehabilitation and worked ceaselessly for fifteen years learning many strategies to stimulate neuro plasticity; while adapting personal approaches to resilience. Upon graduation from rehab Derek enrolled in open studies at Mount Royal University and has been working towards a sociology degree for the past eight years, while writing a book on the lived experiences of resilience in the face of cognitive disability.



Dick Averbs, Calgary Artist

Dick Averbs is a Calgary-based artist, writer and educator, whose art practice probes how mental and physical spaces are valued and exchanged. Diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome in adulthood, community collaborations feature regularly in his art practice through socio-political themes including conflict and mental health. Currently, Dick is leading a social practice public art research initiative, *Recognition... Validation... Reassurance...* exploring the question “How do *You* create a framework for mental wellness?” Outcomes include artwork made by more than one-hundred participants, with selected works appearing on billboards, buses and trains. Dick has long been an advocate for mental wellness and notes that self-disclosure does not necessarily equate to (self)advocacy. His artwork, research and writing has been disseminated internationally, supported by organizations including the Canada Council, Alberta Foundation for the Arts, and City of Calgary, and in 2018 he received a teaching excellence award at the University of Calgary.



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