

Inspire, Elevate, Create!

NSCDA (Nova Scotia Career Development Association) Regional Events

HRM / Central	February 23, 2023, Doubletree by Hilton, Dartmouth NS
8:30 to 9:00	Registration
9:00 to 9:30	Welcome and Elder Blessing
9:30 to 11:30 Session	<p>Session Title: Evidence-based, community-Informed Decision Making: WHY is this important and HOW can you engage with it?</p> <p>Session Description: In this interactive workshop, we will explore <i>value</i> of career development professionals incorporating evidence-based and community-led information into the creation, review, or enhancement of their services. This workshop will offer space for discussion, sharing of current best practices for applying data and community insights, practical tools, and insights into developing and gathering community insights and offer examples and first-hand stories of how evidence-based, community-informed information can benefit you and your organization</p> <p>Co-Facilitators (alphabetical order):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deborah Kendall • Jess Popp • Joel Murphy • Julie BibbyMacNabb • Kim Aker • Ronda Spears <p>Bios:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jess Popp - Jess Popp (she/her) is a newcomer to Canada, who has a passion for youth leadership development, STEM, and asset-based community development. As the Manager of Engagement and Partnerships and lead for youth-initiatives at the Centre for Employment Innovation (Coady Institute and St. Francis Xavier University), Jess is committed to Moses Coady's vision of "a full and abundant life for all" and strongly believes that collaboration, critical reflection and learning, and collective action are necessary to create vibrant and thriving communities. Over the last 5 years, Jess has had the pleasure of learning more about Mi'kma'ki, hosting social



innovation labs and community-led conversations exploring the future of work, and working to create more equitable, meaningful approaches to community engagement, youth-led research, and community-institution-government partnerships.

- **Joel Murphy** - Joel Murphy (he/him) is currently the Innovation and Impact Coordinator at the Centre for Employment Innovation (Coady Institute and St. Francis Xavier University). In his role Joel strives to work alongside CEI (Centre for Employment Innovation) staff, partners, and community to support their work through creative, evidence-informed, and intentional program design and thinking. Joel is a PhD student at Mount Saint Vincent University focusing on the research areas of career development, youth development, future-research, and experiential education. He is passionate about the connection between 'research' and community and adopts an engaged scholarship approach in his work. He is also the co-facilitator of the Nova Scotia Youth-Focused Community of Practice for Career Development Professionals.
- **Julie BibbyMacNabb** - Julie Bibby- MacNabb is the Operations Manager for PeopleWorx's Nova Scotia Works Centres in Coldbrook, Middleton and Annapolis Royal. A social innovator driven by community voice, she and her team use key quality-of-life indicators to inform and develop services that are tailored to meet their clients' immediate needs. Her passion for Social Innovation started at a very young age and has led her to support some of the most vulnerable populations in various communities across the country over the last 15 years. She values the benefits of staff-led community engagement approaches and empirical data collection to build on organizational capacity and strengthen internal processes; producing results-based outcomes. She remains committed to engaging with people exactly where they are to cultivate and motivate change to meet the growing demands of the workforce and economy.
- **Kim Aker** - Kim Aker is the Executive Director of PeopleWorx. PeopleWorx delivers Nova Scotia Works supports and services from three locations in the Annapolis Valley as well as the Annapolis Valley Work Activity Program and is a Private Career College for training Continuing Care Assistants. Kim believes in and practices, both through her career and volunteerism, the full inclusion of all! Evidence-based practice using reliable data has informed Kim's

	<p>efforts to empower individuals seeking supports and staff alike as well as to contribute to policy and program innovations. Kim has called Nova Scotia home for the past fourteen years after living and working in Ottawa for many years. Kim is the recipient of the Claredon Robicheau Lifetime Community Award for commitment and passion to improving the quality of life for persons with disabilities and the President's Award, National Action Committee on Family Leadership and Grassroots Engagement from Inclusion Canada.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deborah Kendall- Deb Kendall(she/her) is an Employer Engagement Specialist at PeopleWorx-Nova Scotia Works. She has cultivated relationships with employers in the Annapolis Valley Region by assisting them with their human resource needs, such as recruitment issues. Acting as a regional connector for employer support, facilitating local employer networks and participating on regional committees. Born and raised on the south shore of Nova Scotia, Deb got her first job at 10 years-old babysitting and has worked ever since. Having owned three businesses and worked for several employers, her love of business has led her to work with employment services today. • Ronda Spears- Ronda Spears (she/her) Information Resource Specialist – CCDP (Certified Career Development Practitioner) (cm), joined the PeopleWorx team in 2006 as the Finance Clerk. After working 8 years in the finance field, she made the move to employment services as an Information Resource Specialist. She has been involved with employment services ever since. Ronda graduated from NSCC with a Business Administration, Accounting concentration diploma with honors. She loves to learn and has taken a wide range of training in the employment services field. She enjoys spending any spare time she has with her 3 grandchildren and sitting out in the sun enjoying a coffee.
11:30 to 12:30	Lunch
12:30 to 1:30	<p>Session Title: Career Development Across Canada & Around the World</p> <p>Session Description: What is happening right now in the world of career development? Interested in connecting with the new Career Development Professional Centre devoted to supporting our field? Want to hear an update on our new competency framework, code of ethics, or national certification? Keen to learn about the latest research or findings from the International Symposium on Career Development and Public Policy? Come and find out about the latest national and international initiatives, learn</p>



how you can get involved, and share your ideas about what our profession needs next.

Presenters: Sareena Hopkins and Tannis Goddard

Sareena Hopkins: As Executive Director of the [Canadian Career Development Foundation](#) (CCDF), Sareena works to strengthen the reach and impact of the career development sector by moving from ideas to action in areas of public policy, research and development, capacity building, and advocacy.

SM: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/sareenahopkins/>
<https://twitter.com/SareenaHopkins>



Tannis has worked across the career sector delivering services directly to clients, operating a large career agency, facilitating training for practitioners, conducting impactful research, and providing systems and policy consultation with local and international governments. Tannis is an experienced leader and has a keen interest in the professionalization of the career sector and regularly contributes to projects that focus on increasing capacity building and modernizing career services.

1:30 to 2:30

Under and Over support: Autism Nova Scotia

This presentation will include information on what over and under supporting looks like, as well as strategies to promote providing individualized supports (meeting people where they are at).

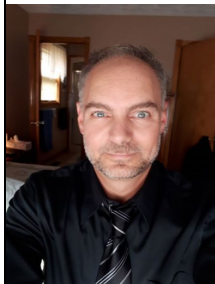
We will also discuss the importance of building independence, self-managing strategies, and ways to help foster independence and self-advocacy.

With the implementation of these strategies, our intention is to provide many different employment opportunities for clients and supporting them in gaining the knowledge to navigate the employment process independently.



Stacie Johnston

Employment Coaching and Supports Coordinator



Stacie joined Autism Nova Scotia (ANS) in 2016 and has had the pleasure of working in various positions within the Employment Department. She began as an Employment Coach, which involved supporting employees in their job and assisting them in setting up the structure they require to succeed in their position. Stacie quickly moved into a leadership role, her current role, as Employment Coaching and Supports Coordinator to coordinate the deployment and delivery of coaching supports across the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM), and soon, the expansion of employment coaching to rural areas of the province. Stacie has a wealth of experience in development and facilitation of work readiness programming for adults with autism/autistic adults, as well as delivering autism education to employers in the HRM to support inclusive workplaces.

In her spare time, Stacie enjoys going on adventures with her husband and their coonhound, Vector. She also enjoys quiet nights at home watching movies, crafting, or cooking!


Stacie's pronouns are she/her.

Rod Schofield

Employment Program Facilitator

Rod's journey with Autism Nova Scotia began at the height of the pandemic. During that time, Rod was an integral part of Employment-Works (EW; a pre-employment program), as well as facilitator of Career Quest (CQ; a job search skill development program) and provided support to the Employment & Wellness Support Group (EWSG; a peer group for autistic adults to talk about employment-related barriers and challenges).

Since then, Rod has excelled to a leadership position and is responsible for both CQ and EWSG. Under Rod's leadership, EWSG has grown and evolved to be one of Autism Nova Scotia's most popular programs, which is led by a person on the Autism spectrum/autistic person. Rod works with these leaders to develop skills that can be used in their future employment paths

	<p>and to gain self-confidence, while giving them the opportunity to lead in a group setting.</p> <p>The third ANS program Rod is involved with is LaunchPad (LP; a 12-week pre-employment program for autistic adults who are looking to gain job readiness skills and work experience). Facilitation, program development and cultivating partnerships with businesses as part of the work experience portion of the program are a few key highlights of Rod's contributions to LP.</p> <p>In his spare time, Rod is an avid record collector and baseball fan. His dog, (a pug named Beans), is rarely far from his side.</p> <p>Rod's pronouns are he/him</p>
2:30 to 2:45	Coffee and Networking Break
2:45 to 4:00 Keynote	<p>Zac Crouse (M.Ed, CTRS) is a certified therapeutic recreation specialist who has worked for over 17 years as a frontline practitioner with at-risk youth & families. He has an M.Ed from St. FX University and a Bachelor of Recreation from Dalhousie University.</p> <p>He has worked extensively for individuals with mental illness and substance related disorders; primarily youth & families. Zac's primary experience is in adventure, family, and eco-therapy.</p> <p>Zac has instructed at St. FX University for the Faculty of Education and at Dalhousie University for the Faculty of Health & Human Performance. Zac is a contributing author to <i>Quality Lesson Plans in Outdoor Education</i> (Human Kinetics). He has also acted as a consultant in Belize on a national citizenship curriculum for youth.</p> <p>In 2013 Zac released the film <i>Paddle to The Ocean</i> – a documentary film about Zac's use of recreation therapy as part of his treatment for PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). He uses this film as part of his work as a keynote speaker and workshop facilitator on the topics of mental health, leadership, and recreation therapy.</p> <p>Zac is also a musician and expedition kayaker. His latest passion is surfing and paddle boarding. Zac is extensively certified in water-based sports through Paddle Canada.</p>
	
4:00 to 4:15	Closing / Prize Draw
4:15 to 7:00	Networking Wine and Cheese, Music, and Prize Draw