



15th Annual Federal Policy Forum on Inclusion  
Roofs and Rights – Inclusive Housing Policy and People with Intellectual Disabilities

## Meet Our Speakers



**Donna Brown**  
(she/her)

Donna Brown is the newly elected President of People First of Canada. She lives in New Brunswick, and she is passionate about advocating for people to use their voices to create a world that is truly inclusive.



**Moira Wilson**  
(she/her)

Moira Wilson is the President of Inclusion Canada. She has been extensively involved in the movement for inclusion playing multiple leadership roles in her local community and at the provincial and national levels. She is the parent of four adult children, one of whom has an intellectual disability.



15th Annual Federal Policy Forum on Inclusion  
Roofs and Rights – Inclusive Housing Policy and People with Intellectual Disabilities

## Meet Our Speakers



**Tara Levandier**  
(she/her)

Tara has worked in the Inclusion Canada federation for over 15 years at the provincial, national, and international levels. As Executive Director, Operations & Social Impact, Tara translates vision into action by providing strategic leadership and performance oversight to the organization's operational functions and national initiatives. Tara also leads Inclusion Canada's efforts on inclusive and affordable housing, intersectional collaboration, federal accessibility legislation, and the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*.



**Emily Branje**  
(she/her)

Emily Branje is the Managing Director of Facile Perth and also an independent facilitator. For the past 16 years, she has been an active member of the inclusion movement at the local, provincial and national levels working primarily with youth, families and survivors of institutions. Her passion for this work is grounded by her personal relationships to people who have a disability and her desire to see people live meaningful lives firmly rooted in their community.



15th Annual Federal Policy Forum on Inclusion  
Roofs and Rights – Inclusive Housing Policy and People with Intellectual Disabilities

## Meet Our Speakers



**Melanie Benard**  
(she/her)

Melanie Benard works as a Senior Policy Advisor at the Canadian Human Rights Commission. Before joining the Commission in 2021, she worked as a legal and policy consultant for several national and provincial disability organizations. She also served as Vice-Chair of the City of Ottawa’s Accessibility Advisory Committee. She is a lawyer and a member of the Barreau du Québec.



**Gordon Fletcher**  
(he/him)

Gordon Fletcher got involved in the People First movement in the late 1970s at the local level in British Columbia. Gordon was one of the first leaders of the movement in his province and was involved in growing the movement. He is also a past president and treasurer for People First of Canada. Gordon has served as the Co-Chair of the People First of Canada/Inclusion Canada National Deinstitutionalization Task Force for the past 6 years.

15th Annual Federal Policy Forum on Inclusion  
Roofs and Rights – Inclusive Housing Policy and People with Intellectual Disabilities

## Meet Our Speakers



**Robert Lattanzio**  
**(he/him)**

Robert Lattanzio is a lawyer and is the Executive Director of ARCH Disability Law Centre. Robert has represented persons with disabilities and disability rights groups at all levels of tribunals and courts, including the Supreme Court of Canada. Robert first joined ARCH in 2003. Robert’s legal practice has always focused on advancing the full inclusion of all persons with disabilities.



**Rupa Bhawal-Montmorency**

Rupa Bhawal-Montmorency has served as the Director General of the Accessible Canada Directorate at Employment and Social Development Canada for five years and is dedicated to the goal of creating a barrier free Canada. As an executive for over 16 years in the Public Service of Canada, Rupa brings extensive experience in driving complex public policy and programs towards impactful outcomes for Canadians.

15th Annual Federal Policy Forum on Inclusion  
Roofs and Rights – Inclusive Housing Policy and People with Intellectual Disabilities

## Meet Our Speakers



**Dean Findlay**  
(he/him)

Dean has served as the Deputy-Chief Building Official/Chief Building Official/Director Building Services for the City of Peterborough for over 20 years. He has worked as a professional Building Official for more than 30 years. Volunteer work during his career has seen over 14 years of service to the Ontario Building Officials Association. Following that was 8 years as President of the Alliance of Canadian Building Officials Associations. With regard to provincial and national codes and standards advocacy issues, he holds his work in First Nations, sustainable community construction, and inclusive/accessible construction for all Canadians as priorities.



**Jonathan Bouchard**  
(he/him)

Jonathan Bouchard is currently on the People First of Canada board as the Francophone Member outside of Quebec. He is also the Treasurer for People First of New Brunswick. This spring, Jonathan worked on a video presentation that brought together members from across the country to share their thoughts on the impact of People First. He enjoys connecting with other members and is here today to share the perspective of his fellow members.



15th Annual Federal Policy Forum on Inclusion  
Roofs and Rights – Inclusive Housing Policy and People with Intellectual Disabilities

## Meet Our Speakers



**Ashton Kennedy**  
(he/him)

My name is Ashton Kennedy, and I am 24 years old. I am from Grande Prairie, Alberta and live now in Calgary, Alberta. I am a student at Ambrose University taking Business Administration through Inclusion Alberta.



**Karla Verschoor**  
(she/her)

Karla brings a rights-based, person-centered approach to her leadership at Inclusion BC. She joined in 2006, holding various positions before becoming the Executive Director in 2018. She strives to be a connection point between people experiencing barriers to inclusion and those with decision-making power within our systems of support.





15th Annual Federal Policy Forum on Inclusion  
Roofs and Rights – Inclusive Housing Policy and People with Intellectual Disabilities

## Meet Our Speakers



**Noah Zon**  
(he/him)

Noah co-founded Springboard Policy to help organizations make better public policy a reality. In previous roles, Noah has been the Director of Policy and Research at Maytree, led a research program on economic and social policy at the Mowat Centre, a public policy think tank, and worked as a civil servant in Ontario's Cabinet office.



**Doug Tennant**  
(he/him)

Doug Tennant is the Chief Executive Officer of UNITI, a partnership of three not-for-profit organizations that build healthy and inclusive communities through advocacy, services, and housing. He has been actively involved in the Community Living movement for the past 33 years as a parent, a worker, and a volunteer.

15th Annual Federal Policy Forum on Inclusion  
Roofs and Rights – Inclusive Housing Policy and People with Intellectual Disabilities

## Meet Our Speakers



**Takara Lockyer**  
(she/her)

Takara Lockyer is the current 1st Vice President for People First of Canada (PFC). She was the first Chair of the PFC Youth Committee and the Treasurer for People First of Newfoundland and Labrador. With the PFC Youth Committee, Takara addressed issues that matter to youth with intellectual disabilities. She says that she hopes that "people get to be more aware of the issues we face."



**Jill Teeple**  
(she/her)

Jill Teeple is the Vice President of the Inclusion Canada Board of Directors and the Chair of the Income Security Advisory Committee. Since the announcement of the Canada Disability Benefit in 2020, Jill and the Committee have been working hard to support Inclusion Canada's policy work and the design of the benefit to ensure that as many people as possible will see meaningful change as a result of the benefit.



15th Annual Federal Policy Forum on Inclusion  
Roofs and Rights – Inclusive Housing Policy and People with Intellectual Disabilities

## Meet Our Speakers



**Patty O'Donnell**  
(she/her)

Patty O'Donnell is a lifelong resident of Saint John, New Brunswick. She is the current President of People First of New Brunswick. Strengthening community bonds, bringing back disbanded groups, and ensuring every voice is heard are some of her goals.



**Danny Soucy**  
(he/him)

Danny is a dedicated leader in community development, having spent most of his career with Inclusion NB. He served as the Executive Director of the Grand Falls Association and as a provincial consultant for the New Brunswick Association for Community Living, focusing on employment, sexuality, and training. Danny is married to Jacinthe, and they have four adult children and five grandchildren. Their youngest son, Daniel, who has Down Syndrome, moved out on his own three years ago, further inspiring Danny's commitment to community inclusion.



15th Annual Federal Policy Forum on Inclusion  
Roofs and Rights – Inclusive Housing Policy and People with Intellectual Disabilities

## Meet Our Speakers



As Director of Development and Donor Relations, Jody works to show the impact being made and the opportunities we can create together for individuals with an intellectual or developmental disability and their families to live full and valued lives in all aspects of community. He also works with Inclusion NB staff, consultants, committees, volunteers, community-based groups and businesses.

**Jody Wheaton**  
(he/him)



Katie Bayley is an Ontario Building Official dedicated to advancing equitable and sustainable building practices. Alongside her code enforcement responsibilities, she serves as a Project Lead with the Alliance of Canadian Building Officials' Associations, where she develops technical training for building professionals. Recently, Katie coordinated the creation of a two-part course on Accessibility in the Built Environment, highlighting the social importance of inclusive building design and providing an in-depth look at Accessibility Standards Canada's Model Standard for the Built Environment.

**Katie Bayley**  
(she/her)

15th Annual Federal Policy Forum on Inclusion  
Roofs and Rights – Inclusive Housing Policy and People with Intellectual Disabilities

## Meet Our Speakers



**Patti Chiappetta**  
(she/her)

Patti has been the Executive Director with Innovative LIFE Options for over 10 years. Prior to this she was with the provincial government in various positions including an Assistant Deputy Minister with the Seniors Secretariat. Patti is very involved in a number of Boards and activities in the disability sector. She is passionate about inclusion, active living, and family.



**John Cox**  
(he/him)

John Cox has spent more than 30 years advocating for the rights of Canadians with disabilities. He has advocated for persons with intellectual disabilities as well as persons experiencing poverty. He brings with him valuable research and policy and program development experience. John is still involved with People First as a member. John has been an effective and tireless advocate for the human rights and social support for his fellow Canadians.



15th Annual Federal Policy Forum on Inclusion  
Roofs and Rights – Inclusive Housing Policy and People with Intellectual Disabilities

## Meet Our Speakers



**Madison Arsenault**  
**(she/her)**

Madison is the Project Coordinator for the Inclusive Communities Institute, which is an initiative of Inclusion New Brunswick. She is passionate about creating courses, resources, and materials that will help people learn more about inclusion. Madison hopes to continue to spread the word of inclusion and improve the lives of all individuals one step at a time.



**Matt Farrell**  
**(he/him)**

Matt is the Executive Director for the Alliance of Canadian Building Officials Associations. He currently represents ACBOA on the Advisory Council for Harmonized Construction Codes and has consulted with all levels of government on how to increase the supply of housing while maintaining building safety. His work with ACBOA focuses on creating training and resources for building officials across Canada as well as developing relationships with industry stakeholders. Matt was previously President of the Ontario Building Officials Association and has 23 years experience as a Chief Building Official and Manager of Building and Planning.

15th Annual Federal Policy Forum on Inclusion  
Roofs and Rights – Inclusive Housing Policy and People with Intellectual Disabilities

## Meet Our Speakers



**Lorraine Pelot**  
(she/her)

Lorraine Pelot has been the Director General (DG) of the Office of Disability Issues in Employment and Social Development Canada since early 2024. Prior to that, Lorraine was DG of Canada Pension Plan Disability for about four years. A lawyer by training, Lorraine has worked in a number of different federal departments, with much of that time spent on gender, human rights and equity issues.



**Shelley Fletcher**  
(she/her)

Shelley Fletcher is the Executive Director of People First of Canada. She is a strong advocate for people labelled with an intellectual disability, and she credits People First for providing her with some amazing opportunities in her national role. She is part of the team that produced The Freedom Tour, a national documentary made by survivors of institutions in Canada and is a member of the National Joint Task Force on Deinstitutionalization.



15th Annual Federal Policy Forum on Inclusion  
Roofs and Rights – Inclusive Housing Policy and People with Intellectual Disabilities

## Meet Our Speakers



**Krista Carr**  
**(she/her)**

Krista Carr is a long-time advocate in the inclusion movement. She is the Executive Vice-President (CEO) of Inclusion Canada. Inclusion Canada is a national federation of 300 local and 13 Provincial/Territorial member organizations working on behalf of approximately 1 million Canadians with an intellectual disability and their families. Krista has over 25 years of experience in the nonprofit sector as a champion of inclusion. Before joining Inclusion Canada, she was the Executive Director of the New Brunswick Association for Community Living (now Inclusion NB).