



Future Musician



Future Electrician



Future Office Assistant



Future Physical Trainer



Future Pastry Chef



Future Health Care Worker

WELCOME

# commencement

CELEBRATING YOUR PAST. CREATING YOUR FUTURE



Future Police Officer



Future Auto Mechanic



Future Entrepreneur

PASSPORT

MENTORING



FEBRUARY 8 – 9, 2012

Sheraton Parkway Toronto North

600 Highway 7 East

Richmond Hill, ON L4B 1B2

# commence

## 2012 CELEBRATING YOUR PAST. CREATING YOUR FUTURE.

February 8 – 9 • Toronto • Sheraton Parkway Toronto North

Commence 2012 is a conference designed to inspire professionals and educators in their efforts to support young adults who have an intellectual disability to achieve success in their final years of high school and as they transition into the adult world.

If you are a parent or student this event is for you too! You will be amazed by the possibilities. Hear what others have achieved and discover big and bold opportunities for the future. You cannot afford to miss these remarkable speakers and the opportunity to connect and network with others!

## February 8th

8:30 am – 9:00 am: Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00 am – 9:15 am: Welcoming Remarks

9:15 am – 10:30 am: Opening Keynote:

### ➔ Take Hold of Opportunities!



**Kathie Snow**

**Kathy Snow** is the author of *Disability is Natural: Revolutionary Common Sense for Raising Successful Children with Disabilities* (now in its second edition), *101 Reproducible Articles: Revolutionary Common Sense for a New Disability Paradigm*, and *Apple-Bites: Commonsense Disability Strategies for Everyone*.

Through humor and stories Kathie will share what she has learnt from one of her greatest teachers – her son, Benjamin. He has taught her many life lessons including the value of holding a vision. Kathie will speak on the importance of holding that vision, embracing the imagination it takes and welcoming the support of those around you on that journey. With those three ingredients; *Vision, Imagination* and *Support* anything is possible.

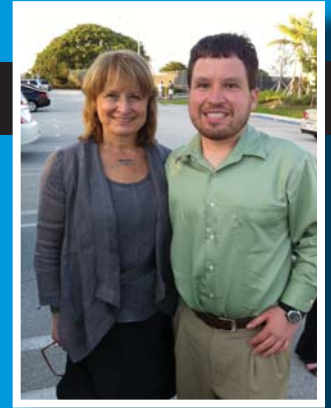
10:30 am – 10:45 am: Break

10:45 am – 12:30 pm: Mid Morning session

## ➔ Living the Dream!

### Micah Fialka-Feldman

**Micah Fialka-Feldman**, 27, recently completed the OPTIONS program at Oakland University in Michigan. It was the latest in a series of “firsts” for Micah. Since beginning school, when he told his parents he wanted to go in the same door as all of his friends, he has been fully included in his school, community and eventually a college campus. Micah has spoken at many conferences before hundreds and is known for his social and political commitments and a pioneering spirit.



### Janice Fialka

**Janice Fialka**, Micah’s mother, will share her experiences of supporting her son through his journey of living his dream.

This presentation offers new ideas and resources about ways to build networks of support and how to become an assertive student, strong advocate as a parent and supportive ally as a teacher and professional. In this presentation you will witness how Micah’s journey empowers all of us to re-examine what we believe is possible. Included in this presentation is a viewing of an award-winning 25 minute DVD, *Through the Same Door: Inclusion Includes College* which documents Micah’s experience as a college student.

12:30 pm – 1:15 pm: Lunch

1:15 pm – 3:30 pm:

## ➔ Afternoon Break-out Sessions

Includes a selection of informative breakout sessions designed to challenge our thinking and inspire our creativity when considering post-secondary options. Presenters will provide insight into current resources available to support students and highlight strategies for success.

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm: Informal Q and A with the day’s presenters and wrap up

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# February 9th

8:30 am – 9:00 am: Continental Breakfast

9:00 am – 9:15 am: Opening Comments

9:15 am – 10:30 am: Opening Keynote:

## ➔ Employment ~ Finding your Place in the Workforce

### Jeff Strully

Jeff is the CEO of Jay Nolan Community Services and for many years has worked at transforming those services to be more responsive to people’s individual choices and aspirations. Jeff will share some inspiring stories of the people he has supported in developing meaningful social roles in the community. This has been based on drawing from people’s passions and then linking them to valued participation in competitive employment, micro businesses, and in local clubs and associations.



# February 9th cont.

10:30 am – 10:45 am: Break

10:45 am – 12:00 pm: Mid-Morning Plenary

## ➔ In Pursuit of the Good Life



### Paul Young

Paul is an internationally recognized keynote and motivational speaker. He also has considerable experience as a panelist and consultant on disability issues. Paul is the former Chair of the Council of Canadians with Disabilities, he founded People First of Nova Scotia, and was a founding member and former President of People First of Canada. Paul will share his story of employment opportunities and how that led to his current career.

12:00 pm – 12:45 pm: Lunch

10:45 am – 12:00 pm: Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

You will have the opportunity to attend two informative break-out sessions on employment.

### Finding work – myth busters; the facts may surprise you!

This session will focus on the benefits that employers gain by hiring people with disabilities.

### Youth Panel - Stories of youth who have sought out employment opportunities.

Participants will enjoy hearing from a panel of entrepreneurs with disabilities who have developed, and are working in micro-enterprises.

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm: Closing Remarks

## Registration and Accommodations

### Registration includes:

Two day workshop with continental breakfast and lunch both days, and all handouts and materials. Accommodations are not included, but available at an affordable group rate.

**Conference Registration fee:** \$219 plus hst (a limited number of subsidies available on a first-come, first-served basis for students and a family member)

### How to register:

Visit [www.communitylivingontario.ca](http://www.communitylivingontario.ca)

Or contact Joel MacIntyre 1-800-278-8025 ext. 236



### Accommodations:

#### Booking Your Hotel Room

A block of rooms is available at the Sheraton Parkway and Best Western Parkway Toronto North Hotels. Please help us fill our group block by booking your hotel room as soon as possible.

In addition to the affordable room rate, guests of the Sheraton Parkway and Best Western Parkway will also receive complimentary indoor and outdoor parking, complimentary internet in all guest rooms, and complimentary use of the Fitness Centre facilities including 2 indoor pools, one of which is a saltwater pool.

Both hotels are conveniently located in the same building as our conference facilities.

Please call the Sheraton Parkway & Best Western Parkway directly at 1-800-668-0101 to book your reservation - quantities at our special group rates are limited and based on availability.

\$129.00 Sheraton Traditional

\$139.00 Sheraton Corporate Jacuzzi Suite

\$ 89.00 Best Western Traditional

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT US

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