



# Provincial Network on Developmental Services HR Forum

October 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025

HILTON TORONTO AIRPORT HOTEL & SUITES

5875 Airport Road, Mississauga ON L4V 1N1, Canada

Day One: October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025

8:00-9:45 am		
7:45-8:40 am	Breakfast	Mississauga Ballroom
8:45-9:00 am	Welcome- Jennifer Gleva and Ann Bilodeau	
9:00-9:45 am	Keynote Speaker- Corey Hirsch	
8:00 am- 6:30 pm	Tradeshow	Vista
8:00 am to 5:00 pm	Mental Heath Café Space – Various activities throughout the day focused on mental health and wellness- More to come!	Arista
10:00-11:00 am		
Session 1	DS Labour Law Update: Bargaining, the Worth Fighting For Campaign, New Legislation and Case Law Developments impacting the DS employers. Presenters: Pooran Law- Cheryl Wiles Pooran, Jenna Bontorin	Mississauga Ballroom
Session 2	Workforce Data Indicators: Insights from Workforce Surveys Presenter: Dr. Robert Hickey	Dundas
Session 3	Balancing Work & Care: Building a Culture that Supports Working Caregivers Presenter: Katie Muirhead and Katie MacDonald	Ontario
Session 4	Beyond Wellness: Building a collaborative culture of health and well being together Presenters: Sailaja Pillalmarri, Sojie Tate & Shanika Niwanthi	Mavis
11:00-11:15 am	Break/Networking/Tradeshow	Vista
11:15 am-12:15 pm		
Session 5	CSBT Session- Best Support for our Best Resource: Our Employees Presenter: Paul Wheeler	Mississauga Ballroom
Session 6	HR Dashboard Presenter: Aneliya Arnaudova	Dundas
Session 7	Building Inclusive Workplace strategies Presenter: Indu Radhakrishnan	Mavis
Session 8	Marketing and Communication in a Sea of Marketing and Communication Presenters: Angela Murdoch, Derek Roy & Karen Bell	York
12:15-1:30 pm	Lunch	Mississauga Ballroom
1:30-2:00 pm	Greetings from the Provincial Network on Developmental Services and MCCSS	Mississauga Ballroom

<b>2:00-3:00 pm</b>		
<b>Session 9</b>	<b>The Language of Leadership: Communication Skills for Healthier Workplaces</b> Presenter: Dean Benard	<b>Mississauga Ballroom</b>
<b>Session 10</b>	<b>Recruitment 2029: Building the Future Workforce, Today</b> Presenters: Loralyn Smith Evita Pastorska & Roxanne Bird	<b>Dundas</b>
<b>Session 11</b>	<b>Mental Fitness</b> Presenter: Chery Farrugia	<b>Mavis</b>
<b>Session 12</b>	<b>Workforce Wins: Why the DSW Apprenticeship Works</b> Presenters: Jamie Russell, Mark Benner	<b>York</b>
<b>3:00-3:15 pm</b>	<b>Break/Networking/Tradeshow</b>	<b>Vista</b>
<b>3:15-4:15 pm</b>		
<b>Session 13</b>	<b>Labour Relations Update for Developmental Services</b> Presenter: Chuck Hofley	<b>Mississauga Ballroom</b>
<b>Session 14</b>	<b>Keeping EDI Active in Today's Climate: Strategies, Tools, Discussion</b> Presenters: Mimi Mahmud, Tara Hyatt, Susanne Willett & Alison McLean	<b>Dundas</b>
<b>Session 15</b>	<b>Introduction to psychological safety in the workplace for people leaders</b> Presenters: Telus	<b>Mavis</b>
<b>Session 16</b>	<b>Caregiver-Inclusive Culture: Simple First Steps That Strengthen Your Whole Workforce</b> Presenter: Katie Muirhead and Katie MacDonald	<b>Arista</b>
<b>5:30-6:30 pm</b>	<b>Networking Reception</b>	<b>Vista</b>
<b>6:30-7:45 pm</b>	<b>Dinner</b>	<b>Mississauga Ballroom</b>
<b>7:45-8:15pm</b>	<b>Awards and Door Prizes</b>	
<b>8:15-10:00pm</b>	<b>Entertainment</b>	

## Day Two: October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025

8:00-9:00 am	Breakfast	Mississauga Ballroom
8:00 am- 1:30 pm	Tradeshow	Vista
9:00am-10:00 am	<b>Building Capacity and Capability of the Future DS Sector: Trends and Directions</b> Presenters: Brad Saunders, Janet Noel Annable & Dr. Claudine Cousins	Mississauga Ballroom
10:00-11:00 am		
Session 17	<b>The Balancing Act: Managing competing rights of people supported, families and employees in the workplace</b> Presenter: Pooran Law- Brendon Pooran, Alan McCallum	Mississauga Ballroom
Session 18	<b>Leadership From A Distance - Operational Leader Community of Practice Session</b> Presenters: Jamie Russell & Holly Duff	York
Session 19	<b>Strategic HR in Action: Building Capacity through Core Competencies and Succession Planning</b> Presenters: Core Competencies Working Group	Ontario
11:00-11:15 am	Break/Networking/Tradeshow	Vista
11:15 am-12:15 pm		
Session 20	<b>Legal Foundations for a Thriving Workforce: What HR Needs to Know in 2025 for Charities and Not-for-Profits</b> Presenters: Gowlings Law Firm- Shefali Rajaputra & Gwenyth Stadig	Mississauga Ballroom
Session 21	<b>Introducing the DSWI Succession Planning Toolkit</b> Presenter: Brenda Van Houtven	Dundas
Session 22	<b>From Overwhelmed to Organized: A Calmer You Starts with a Clear Plan</b> Presenter: Traci Timony	York
Session 23	<b>Using EAP support for financial planning</b> Presenter: Greenshield	Mavis
12:15-1:30 pm	Lunch & Closing Remarks	Mississauga Ballroom
1:30 pm	Tradeshow Ends	Vista