

Meet our Speakers

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

David Knapp-Fisher



Spending 30+ years in hospitality and sales as either owner, manager and corporate trainer David Knapp-Fisher knows the importance and value of connecting with passionate, like-minded people.

A self-described “Speaker, Writer and Connector” David has spoken and facilitated sessions across Canada, including keynote addresses for organizations including Victoria Young Entrepreneur Society, Social Media Camp and Muscular Dystrophy Canada. His 2015 TED Stanley Park talk “Discipline or Regret: A Father’s Choice” detailing his quest to take his son with Muscular Dystrophy travelling received a standing ovation.

David writes speaks workshops about personal development strategies, emphasizing the importance truly connecting personally - not digitally - with those around us. He focuses on helping people develop the simple habits that help attract, connect and create rewarding relationships, both personal and professional.

When not connecting, speaking or writing David can be found hanging out with his son Tristan; or travelling the world in search of (a) exotic adventures, (b) great coffee and (c) epic hot beach/cold beer combinations.

Miriam Duff



Miriam Duff completed her Master of Education in Counselling at the University of Manitoba, and has attained her designation as a Canadian Certified Counsellor (CCC), in addition to being a Certified Child Life Specialist. She is also a Teacher-in-Training for Mindful Self-Compassion.

She is employed as a psychosocial clinician at CancerCare Manitoba, where she provides individual and group counselling services to patients and family members, in particular, those being treated for Head and Neck cancer, and patients in the Quit Smoking Program. She also facilitates the Expressive Arts Group and Art Grad Group programs.

Prior to joining CancerCare Manitoba, Miriam worked for many years as a Child Life Specialist, providing care to children and families at Childrens Hospital, most recently in the Pediatric Special Care and Intensive Care Units.

Miriam is married and has two adult children. She enjoys spending time with her family and getting out to paddle her kayak in warm weather and cross country ski when there is snow on the ground. She has been told that the kayak is the "sports car of the paddling world" - she likes to take hers out for a spin on the LaSalle and Seine Rivers and is interested in learning about other good flat-water spots.

WORKSHOP FACILITATORS

Eveline Delorme - Eveline was married to her husband Paul Delorme, having two lovely children. She ran a special needs daycare for 12 years with family services. After a while, she transitioned to working at the veteran's affairs office as a receptionist and after some years became a social worker in that field. In 1997, her husband was diagnosed with MS and three years after he quit his job, at this point her role as a caregiver began. In 2003, Paul was admitted to Tache Centre and her role continued until his passing in March 2011. In her role as a caregiver, Eveline had experienced the different transitioning points as it relates to caring for a person living with MS, including making practical decisions like the paneling process from home care into a personal care home, and navigating available emotional supports and resources.

Danya Dziedzic - Danya has been with Muscular Dystrophy Canada for over a year as Services Coordinator for Manitoba & Saskatchewan. She works to provide five pillars of service: Advocacy, Education, Equipment, Information and Support to individuals affected by neuromuscular disorders and their families.

Patricia Frain - Patricia Frain, M.Ed., M.P.S. (Chicago) has worked in healthcare for over 15 years. Presently, she works as a staff consultant at Winnipeg Health Sciences Centre. For the last three years Patricia, since transitioning from her position as Director of Spiritual Health Services at HSC, has been following her passion by working with clinical and non-clinical staff at HSC on an initiative called Time to Care: Caring for Staff; Caring for Patients. These sessions are partly based on the work of New Zealand's Dr. Robin Youngson, founder of Hearts in Healthcare on-line community. They are also grounded in current research on self-compassion, mindful presence, and the relationship between staff self-compassion and compassion for others.

Mike Goldberg - Mike has been the Community Outreach and Education Coordinator for Palliative Manitoba since July 2015. He received his undergraduate degree in Psychology from Winthrop University in South Carolina, and his Masters in Gerontology from the University of Regina. During his time at Palliative Manitoba, Mike has been able to facilitate Grief Seminars, Customized Compassionate Care Courses, and a Kids and Teens Grief Support Group. He has also co-facilitated PM's new initiative to provide Grief education to Rural Manitoban communities.

Bonnie Hopps - Bonnie currently trains and does presentations for Manitoba Fitness Council's certified fitness instructors. In addition she is a trainer and mentor for ALCOA's Steppin' Up program. Currently Bonnie is teaching specialty aquacise classes for the City of Winnipeg. Bonnie has been teaching specialty exercise programs for the past 40 years.

Norma Kirkby - Norma joined the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba in June of 2002 and holds the portfolio of Program Director. She is a Professional Home Economist whose personal objective is to assist individuals and families to live successfully. As Program Director she is responsible for the Society's vision for client services, education and advocacy. Norma's desire is to empower people impacted by Alzheimer's disease or another dementia to experience the greatest possible quality of life.

Diana Rasmussen - Diana is a Registered Nurse with numerous credentials and has been a driving force for the ALS Society of Manitoba. She helped establish the ALS/MND clinic at Deer Lodge Centre as well as the ALS Society of Manitoba itself. She also was one of the driving forces in establishing Brummitt Feasby ALS House the only Home with Care and Support in North America. Diana has worked with people who have ALS for over 30 years and continues to develop programs and services for clients and families dealing with this devastating disease. She has won numerous awards for her work and has been a finalist in the Donner Canadian awards for Not for Profit Excellence in services to those with disabilities. Diana has also served as a President of ALS Canada, she was honored with the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012. Diana serves on a number of committees and Boards including Caregiving with Confidence, Federation Council of ALS Societies across Canada.

Dayna Robinson - Dayna is a wife and mother who was diagnosed with MS in the fall of 1999 at the age of 24. She has a Bachelor degree in Education and spends time volunteering in that field. Dayna enjoys yoga, walking her dog, travelling and baking. Dayna lives in Winnipeg with her husband and two teenage children and strives to create a balance with her career, responsibilities as a wife and mother as well as her diagnosis with MS.