Day 1: November 24th 2026

12:15-12:25	**Welcoming Remarks** • Heather Walkus, Council of Canadians with Disabilities		
12:25-12:40	**Indigenous Opening** • Elder Margie Bannon		
12:40-1:00	**Building a Strong, Accessible Canada** • Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Jobs and Families and Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario		
1:05-1:15	**Break**		
	Parallel Session 1	**Parallel Session 2**	**Lightning Talks 3**
1:15-2:15	**Worker Built Talent: How Unions Fix the Disconnect to Promote More Accessible and Inclusive Workplaces** • Lily Chang, Canadian Labour Congress • Lisa Freeman • Jeryn Daly	**Accessible Workspaces with YVR** • Uli Egger, Rick Hansen Foundation • Josh Vander Vies, YVR • Marco Chiaramonte, YVR	**Building a More Inclusive Labour Market: Federal Policy on Disability and Work** • Eppo Maertens, ESDC **Cracking the Code in the Job Market.** • Sam Chan, T-i-Y **Meaningful Access to Agricultural Work in Market Gardens** • Marcel Visser, Visser Accessibility Solutions
2:15-2:25	**Break**		
	Parallel Session 4	**Parallel Session 5**	**Lightning Talks 6**
2:25-3:25	**More Than a Job Coach: The Changing Face of Supported Employment** • Anna Nelson, LiveWorkPlay • Frank Fagan, Inclusion Canada • Oly Backstrom, Lifeworks	**AI in the Workplace** • Shari Raghoo, Youth Employment Services • Sambhavi Chandrasekhar, D2L • Mahadeo Sukhai, IDEA-STEM	**The Recognition Gap: Disability, Talent, and the Future of Work** • Farshid Sadatsharifi, Samaak Institution **Removing Barriers Together: What We've Learned About Inclusive Employment** • Claire Forrest, CanAssist • Paul Green, CanAssist **Building Operations To Showcase Disability Talent** • Kat Inokai, Spin the Idea Ltd.

Day 2: November 25th 2026

12:15-12:30	**Welcome Back Day 2** • Heather Walkus, Council of Canadians with Disabilities		
12:30-1:00	**Leaving No One Behind: Disability and Intersectionality in a Changing World** • **Laverne Jacobs**, Professor of Law; Director, The Windsor Law LLM Program; Research Chair in Disability Equality & Administrative Justice; Member and Committee Rapporteur, UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities		
1:05-1:15	**Break**		
	Parallel Session 7	**Parallel Session 8**	**Lightning Talks 9**
1:15-2:15	**Inclusion Benefits Everyone: Building Capacity and Support for Inclusive Employment** • Elaine Logie, The Career Foundation – Empowering Abilities Program • Jolene MacDonald, Accessibrand • Neil Merovitch, McMaster University • Rebecca Gewurtz, McMaster University	**Designing For Variability: How IDEAL workplaces unlock innovation for racialized employees living with episodic disabilities** • Ingrid Palmer, Realize • Keneisha Williams, Coalition of Innovation Leaders Advancing Racism • Sophie Vira, Realize	**Accessibility as Workforce Strategy: Closing the Gap Between Talent and Employer Readiness** • Fineen Davis,BDO Canada LLP **Untapped Talent: Fixing the Disconnect Between Disability Talent and Workforce Needs** • Chantaine Green, Race and Disability Canada • Raihanna Hirji-Khalfan, Race and Disability Canada **Entrepreneurship Without Barriers: Creating Pathways to Success for People with Mental Health and Addiction Challenges** • Adwoa K. Buahene, Rise
2:15-2:25	**Break**		
	Parallel Session 10	**Parallel Session 11**	**Lightning Talks 12**
2:25-3:25	**Project SEARCH: From High School to Competitive Employment, Reducing Barriers for Neurodiverse Youth** • Joshua Gray, LiveWorkPlay • Oly Backstrom, SCE Lifeworks	**Beyond Accommodation: A Systems Approach to Inclusion Through Psychological Health and Safety** • Lina Maria Lopez, CSA Group • Michael MacDonald, Jazz Aviation	**Unlocking Talent by Design: Aligning Work Systems with Employee Needs and Strengths** • Marie-Claude Leblanc, The Sinneave Family Foundation **Building Inclusive Business Partners** • Mitch Lawson, Southern Alberta Community Living Association IDC Neil

Day 3: November 30th 2026

12:15-12:30	**Welcome Back Day 3** • Heather Walkus, Council of Canadians with Disabilities		
12:30-1:00	**Accessibility will enable Canada to Build Big** • Mark Chapeskie, Electricity Human Resources Canada • Tanara Ferguson, Trucking HR Canada • Shaily Allison, BuildForce Canada • Raf Khan, EMC Canada		
1:05-1:15	**Break**		
	Parallel Session 13	**Parallel Session 14**	**Lightning Talks 15**
1:15-2:15	**Evidence in action: How community-based research drives inclusive employment services and innovation** • Linda Brown, CCRW • Noor Al-Azary, CCRW • Mandy McGrath, CCRW	**Hiding Work-Related Disability, the policy impacts on workers** • Steve Mantis, Thunder Bay and District Injured Workers Support Group • Orlando Buonastella, Injured Workers Community (IWC) Legal Clinic • Dr. Stéphanie Premji, McMaster University	**Labour Unions As Partners In Inclusive Employment** • Marie Takahashi, CATALYST **The Accessible Intrapreneur: Driving Career Innovation Through Inclusive Autonomy** • Sydney Elaine Butler, Spero Canada • Elizabeth Plouffe, Spero Canada **Title TBD** • Christopher Sutton, Canadian Human Rights Commission
2:15- 2:25	**Break**		
	Parallel Session 16	**Parallel Session 17**	**Lightning Talks 18**
2:25- 3:25	**Unsafe Workplaces: What Racialized Neurodivergent Women Need from Employers** • Tamara Medford-Williams, DAWN • Nashwa Lina Khan, DAWN	**Untapped Talent to Workforce Success: A Holistic Framework for Closing the Disconnect Between Disability Talent and Workforce Needs** • Fatemeh Moghimi, Learning Disabilities Association of Toronto • Marla Lam, Learning Disabilities Association of Toronto • Nevannah Norris, Learning Disabilities Association of Toronto	**Built by Us, For Us: Closing the Employment Gap for Canadians with Sight Loss** • Christina Peruzzi, BALANCE for Blind Adults • Michelle McQuigge, BALANCE for Blind Adults **From Accommodation to Anticipation: Co-Designing Workplaces for Cognitive Accessibility** • Virginie Cobigo, Open Collaboration for Cognitive Accessibility **Designing a Disability-Inclusive Work Environment** • Helaine Boyd, Disability Alliance BC and Disability Alliance

Day 4: December 1st 2026

12:15-12:30	**Welcome Back Day 4** • Heather Walkus, Council of Canadians with Disabilities		
12:30-1:00	**Beyond Borders, Beyond Barriers: Building Inclusive Labour Markets** • Katrin Langensiepen, Member of the European Parliament		
1:05-1:15	**Break**		
	Parallel Session 19	**Parallel Session 20**	**Lightning Talks 21**
1:15-2:15	**Mental Illness and Employment** • Carmen Bellows, Sun Life	**Work Integrated Learning and the School to Work Transition for Graduate and Professional Students with Disabilities** • Aysha Badat, IDEA - STEAM • Alicia Bjarnason, Canadian Coalition of Women in Engineering, Science, Trades • Arief Kartolo, Mitacs • Meghan Maiani, University of Saskatchewan • Mahadeo Sukhai, IDEA - STEAM	TRADES Lead Dormay **Postsecondary Graduates with Disabilities: Transition into the Labour Market, Employment Characteristics, and Student Debt** • Amirabbas Mofidi, ESDC **The Untapped Advantage: The Economic Case for Disability-Inclusive Workplaces** • Joanna Goode, CASE • Leah Ringwald, Signal49
2:15-2:25	**Break**		
2:25-2:55	**Nothing Without Us: Disability and Building Canada Strong** • Hon. Carla Qualtrough, Former Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, Government of Canada		
2:55-3:25	**Conference Closing Remarks**		