



**PARTNERS IN INNOVATION
SYMPOSIUM**

PUTTING INNOVATION INTO ACTION

program agenda

Tuesday, May 30th, 2017 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM
Segal Building, Simon Fraser University
500 Granville St, Vancouver BC

timetable

8:30 – 9:00	Registration – Coffee and Tea
9:00 – 10:00	Welcome and Setting the Day
10:45 – 10:45	Session One – Youth (Concurrent Sessions)
10:45 – 11:00	Break
11:00 – 12:00	Session Two – Examples of Innovative Approaches in the Delivery of Employment and Training Services
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 2:00	Session Three – Indigenous Initiatives
2:00 – 2:45	Session Four – Lessons on Client Engagement (Concurrent Sessions)
2:45 – 3:00	Break
3:00 – 3:45	Session Five (Concurrent Sessions)
3:45 – 4:30	Reflections on the Day – Panel Discussion
4:30	Closing

8:30 - 9:00

Registration – Coffee and Tea

9:00 - 10:00

Welcome and Setting the Day

Overview of the BC Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation's Community and Employer Partnerships R&I Program
- (MSDSI representative, TBA)

Opening Panel

- Why is innovation so important for the employment services sector? - Monika Bertrand, Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC)
- Experimenting in support of innovation – Jean-Pierre Voyer, Social Research and Demonstration Corporation (SRDC)

10:00 - 10:45

Session One – Youth (Concurrent Sessions)

1. Individual Placement and Support

Individual Placement and Support (IPS) supports individuals with mental illness to obtain and maintain competitive employment. This session will describe the principles of IPS, and two research projects assessing the timing of its use in clients at different stages. The first project is *Occupational Recovery after First-Episode Psychosis: A Critical Period*. Here, results regarding short-term employment outcomes in a randomized controlled trial (RCT) of IPS with 108 young adults in Fraser Health will be described. The second project, *Thinking Skills at Work*, is designed to boost employment outcomes among 120 clients who are at risk of not succeeding despite IPS support. In this new RCT, the effects of adding cognitive remediation to continuing IPS, compared to IPS alone, are being assessed.

Presenters: Dave Erickson, Amy Burns, Ruth MacLennan; Fraser Health and Canadian Mental Health Association

2. Evaluating the Role of Social Enterprises in Supporting “Opportunity Youth”

Recent research has demonstrated how employment social enterprises create meaningful work for transitioning job seekers by exposing them to paid work experiences, while providing additional informal supports and training. The *Youth Employment Social Enterprises Project* is providing rigorous evidence on the relative effectiveness of offering short-term work placements in social enterprises to young job seekers within the context of WorkBC employment supports and services. This session outlines the design of the project and will present on some of the early implementation lessons from working with social enterprises and WorkBC partners.

Presenters: Shawn de Raaf, BC Centre for Employment Excellence (BC CfEE) and Dr. Maryam Nabavi, SRDC

10:45 - 11:00 Break

11:00 - 12:00 Session Two – Examples of Innovative Approaches in the Delivery of Employment and Training Services

1. Overview and examples of pilot projects delivering employing and training services conducted and evaluated on behalf of federal, provincial and territorial governments and lessons learned to date

Presenter: David Gyarmati, SRDC

2. Pay for Success – an innovative performance-based approach to funding essential skills training delivery

Presenter: Dr. Boris Palameta, SRDC

12:00 - 1:00 Lunch

1:00 - 2:00 Session Three – Indigenous Initiatives

1. BRIDGES: Building Resources for Innovative Development, Growth and Economic Stability

BRIDGES, a culturally-based employment initiative of the Okanagan Nation Alliance in partnership with UBC Okanagan, is designed to provide individualized employment services to 140 Okanagan (Syilx) Aboriginal youth with a focus on their Syilx culture, knowledge, and values. The goal is to break down systemic barriers to employment for Aboriginal youth in finding new and innovative ways to help them join the labour market. This unique project in British Columbia will provide valuable lessons for other First Nations communities.

Presenters: Pauline Terbasket, Okanagan Nation Alliance, Dr. Rachelle Hole, UBC Okanagan, and Dr. Mike Evans, UBC Okanagan

2. Indigenous Communities Public Works Program

The Village Public Works Project-Based Labour Market Training program provides Indigenous people with training, certification and on-the-job work experience intended to lead to well-paid, long term employment as public works technicians. The program was developed by the College of New Caledonia and Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC (ASTTBC) and piloted in McLeod Lake. A broader strategic partnership model under the leadership of the Okanagan Training & Development Council has adapted the program to deliver a similar public works training program in partnership with the Westbank First Nation. This unique and innovative partnership model has the potential to advance infrastructure, public works and workforce development in Indigenous communities.

Presenters: Shannon Bezo, College of New Caledonia, Karen Abramsen, Okanagan Training & Development Council, and John Coward, ASTTBC

2:00 – 2:45 Session Four – Lessons for Client Engagement
(Concurrent Sessions)

1. Improving Client Engagement

This session draws on the preliminary findings from two R&I projects, *Biz Hub* and *Employment Navigator Project*, as they relate to client engagement. The presenters discuss the small “nudges” that can be applied to the client engagement process, resulting in tangible improvements for both the organization and the client.

Presenters: Greg Lockwood, CfEE and Dr. Barbara Dobson, Evaluation Consultant

2. Integrating Motivational Interviewing within Employment Services for Income Assistance Recipients

This presentation reviews evidence to date on integrating the Motivational Interviewing (MI) approach into case management in employment services, as an approach to try to engage and motivate income assistance clients to improve their work readiness and participate in the labour market. We include results from two recent BC projects, and one in Manitoba, that add to the evidence base on what it takes to implement the approach successfully in employment services settings.

Presenter: Dr. Reuben Ford, SRDC

2:45 – 3:00 Break

3:00 – 3:45 Session Five (Concurrent Sessions)

1. Testing Innovative Employment Services for Newcomers

MOSAIC will describe two research projects that tested innovative approaches to providing employment services to newcomer groups facing some of the most challenging labour market attachment challenges. *Innovating for Employment Success* was aimed at internationally-trained professionals and *Hope To Work* focused on recently-arrived refugees.

Presenters: Joan Andersen and Marina Gherman, MOSAIC, and Natasha Bailey, Coach and Organizational Development Consultant

2. *Calculator BC: Personal Income Information for Disabilities Assistance Recipients*

This project develops a state-of-the-art income calculator website for British Columbians receiving disability assistance and trains employment services centre case managers in its use. The site is designed to improve access to accurate income information for persons with disabilities, including (a) income estimates for specific job opportunities and (b) a personal account where they can keep track of their earning exemption totals and see the effect that earnings have on their Disability Assistance payments.

Presenter: Dr. Reuben Ford, SRDC

3:45 – 4:30 Reflections on the Day

Panel Discussion

- Panel members will reflect and share their insights and take-aways from the day of learning.

Panel members: Joan Andersen, MOSAIC, Dr. William Borgen, UBC, and Naomi Pope, BC Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training

4:30 Closing