



## Forum Agenda

Holiday Inn International Airport Hotel  
970 Dixon Road, Etobicoke, ON



October 23, 2017

**8:00 AM – 9:00 AM** Registration Opens & Continental Breakfast (*Trillium Foyer*)

**9:00 AM – 9:10 AM** **Welcome (*Trillium C*)**

**Dan McCormick, CAO, District of Rainy River DSSAB, OMSSA Vice President**

**9:10 AM – 10:15 AM** **Opening Plenary: *The Art and Science of Positive Leadership***

Building a positive culture is a top priority for public sector organizations today. However, countless models and ideas exist, which can leave leaders frustrated and uncertain as to how to achieve this important goal. During this engaging session, Craig Dowden will provide a thought-provoking and interactive overview of the evidence surrounding the science and practice of positive leadership. Rather than be prescriptive, Craig shares a body of classic and cutting-edge research, which participants can use to bring back numerous evidence-informed tips and strategies to their respective areas. Topics to be covered include:

- ❖ Share the benefits of a healthy workplace culture for individuals, teams, and organizations
- ❖ Highlight the importance of self-awareness in positive leadership and how to manage our personal biases
- ❖ The how and why of positive communication
- ❖ How empathy drives our ability to lead with impact

**Speaker: Craig Dowden, Leadership & Organizational Excellence**

**10:15 AM – 10:30 AM**

**Break**

**10:30 AM – 12:00 PM** **Breakout Sessions**

**1.1 *Strategies for Successfully Navigating Uncertainty (Algonquin)***

Erick will share with participants his experience working with staff and through systemic changes in the developmental disability service field that took place in the state of Oregon between 2002 and the present day. Discussing strategies to re-engage boards of directors and advisory panels; ways to encourage new and tenured staff to look at the ground floor as a positive workplace value; and more.

**Speaker: Erick Mertz, Author & Advocate**

**1.2 *Leadership 2.0: Growing Leaders at Every Level of your Organization (Trillium B)***

This session will provide participants with the knowledge, tools and resources for *Leadership 2.0: Growing Leaders at Every Level of your Organization*. Including; what Leadership 2.0 is and how it can help you; 6 behaviours and skills of Leadership 2.0; and strategies to grow leaders at every level of your organization.

**Speaker: Amit Seth, Lead Without a Title**

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Lunch (*Trillium C*)

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM **Breakout Sessions**

**2.1 Speaking as a Leader (*Algonquin*)**

During this session participants the four-step process for speaking as a leader, will demonstrate how to; embrace what it means to communicate as a leader during times of change; craft compelling messages that inspire your employees to embrace leadership; Use simple, clear, and conversational language to connect with an audience and more.

**Speaker: John Wright, Humphrey Group**

**2.2 A Strength-based approach to Achieving Outcomes: Win-win Performance & Career Planning (*Trillium B*)**

The City of Peterborough, like many others today recognizes that a significant portion of our employees will be advancing toward retirement eligibility across the next 5 to 15 years. This session will share lessons learned and strategies used to engage staff, demonstrate how we established foundational division wide competencies that every role at all levels of the organization can relate to and use to guide their professional development learning goals. Participants can expect to engage in some of the hands-on activities used across the project work to support buy-in and promote a strength-based coaching culture at every level of the organization.

**Speakers:**

- **Sheila Crook, Manager Quality Assurance, Innovation and Staff Development, Social Services Division, City of Peterborough**
- **Teresa Macdonald, Supervisor, City of Peterborough Social Services**

2:30 PM – 2:45 PM

Break

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM **Transformation: The Future of Social Services Leadership (*Trillium C*)**

**Speaker: JP Gedeon, Transformative Directions**

Dr. JP Gedeon is an award-winning corporate and motivational speaker and one of North America's foremost experts on Personal Transformation and Transformative Leadership. Organizations are increasingly looking for unique opportunities to help their employees face the challenges in today's changing environment.

Dr. Gedeon is an award-winning keynote speaker, respected executive, sought-after strategist and transformation consultant, award-winning Broadway entertainer, and internationally published author. He has worked for the top corporations in Canada and the United States, in the private, public, and not-for-profit sectors.

**Closing Remarks**

**Elaine Baxter-Trahair, General Manager, Children's Services, City of Toronto, OMSSA President**