

Micro-credential

FORUM 2024

Developing Tomorrow's Workforce



February 29, 2024
Globe and Mail Centre

The Micro-credential Forum is made possible with funding by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities.

ecampus
Ontario



Welcome to eCampusOntario's

Micro-credential Forum 2024:

Developing Tomorrow's Workforce



Since 2017, eCampusOntario has brought together colleagues and changemakers in industry, government, and higher education to showcase the impacts of micro-credentials across the province and beyond.

The annual *Micro-credential Forum: Developing Tomorrow's Workforce* will explore how institutions, employers, and eCampusOntario are working together to develop new programs that position Ontario as the best place to recruit and retain workers.

Experts will provide insights for program laddering, credit pathways, and scaling micro-credential offerings through employer demand. This Forum will highlight successful partnerships between industry, community organizations, and post-secondary institutions, showcasing their work to empower trailblazers, improve learner experiences, and prepare the future workforce to thrive. We'll spotlight how the growing micro-credential ecosystem is working to meet the needs of learners, employers, and educators in a rapidly changing global economy.

About eCampusOntario

eCampusOntario is a not-for-profit organization that accelerates the transformation of postsecondary digital learning in Ontario to increase participation in higher education. With \$47 million in funding from the Province of Ontario in 2021, eCampusOntario leads a consortium of the province's publicly-assisted colleges, universities and Indigenous Institutes to advance the development and adoption of online and digital learning technologies, programs and environments.



Conference Tracks



Anticipating Labour Market Demands

How can micro-credentials equip learners with the skills needed to secure employment in high-growth industries?



Operationalizing and Scaling

How can educators secure resources and foster support to overcome implementation challenges, grow their programs, and get more graduates into jobs?



Building Partnerships

How can post-secondary institutions collaborate with industry and community organizations to co-create micro-credentials that are responsive to local needs?



Pathways and Laddering

How can micro-credentials interface with traditional credit systems and provide underserved groups with opportunities to continue lifelong learning?

Join us as we drive innovation in the higher education sector and work together to develop tomorrow's workforce. Together, we're getting people into programs, and then into jobs.



Featured Speakers



Kelly Archer

Director, Employment and Social Development Canada

Kelly Archer joined the federal public service in 2000 and has held various positions related to employment and labour market policy. She currently holds the position of Director of Operations responsible for Canada's National Job Bank (www.jobbank.gc.ca). Kelly is passionate about delivering high quality services to Canadians and connecting people with jobs. Under Kelly's leadership, Job Bank has grown to serve over 80 million people a year and has become the Government of Canada's most popular online service. Kelly holds Bachelor and Master's degrees in Political Science from York University.



Rhonda Barnet

CEO, Palette Skills

Rhonda Barnet has over three decades of experience as a female trailblazer, achieving great heights in male-dominated industries and institutions. A STEM graduate in mathematics, she is a successful executive, entrepreneur, and director, as well as a key voice in Canada, and around the world, on industrial policy, skills of the future, and diversity. Barnet was the first woman in history to chair the National Board of Canada's oldest, largest trade association, Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (CME). Barnet is the founder of Canada's Women in Manufacturing Initiative, led by CME and funded, in part, by the federal government's Ministry of Women and Gender Equality. Most notably, she led a campaign to add 100,000 new jobs for women in Canada to the manufacturing sector. Barnet is a member of the Government of Canada's Industry Strategy Council, and was the voice of manufacturing, diversity, and skills in the final strategy set to position Canada for growth in key sectors. Barnet is a sought-after Canadian advocate for the advanced manufacturing sector and is an international spokeswoman on diversity, women in manufacturing, innovation, skills, and the future workforce.



Kelvin Bentley, PhD

**Program Manager, Texas Credentials for the Future,
University of Texas System**

Kelvin Bentley is the program manager of Texas Credentials for the Future, an initiative within the University of Texas System designed to provide students access to employer-initiated and validated microcredential programs at no added cost. Through partnerships with Coursera and Google, and with funding from the Strada Education Foundation, the program aims to reach 30,000 learners by 2025, equipping them with technical skills they combine with their college degrees to be successful in the world of work. Kelvin has more than 22 years of experience leading online learning initiatives as an administrator and consultant for two- and four-year colleges and universities, and K-12 and for-profit organizations. Kelvin has received various honors including Blackboard's 2017 Catalyst Award for Inclusive Education, and his selection as a Fulbright Specialist in 2010.



Featured Speakers (Continued)



Lorrie Deschamps

President, Oshki-Pimache-O-Win: The Wenjack Education Institute

Lorrie Deschamps is originally from Moose Factory, Ontario, and is a member of the Moose Cree First Nation. Lorrie graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Lakehead University in 2008 and considers herself a lifelong learner. Lorrie joined Oshki-Pimache-O-Win: The Wenjack Education Institute as the Community Liaison and Student Recruitment Officer in 2009. Since then, she has taken on many roles at Oshki-Wenjack leading up to becoming the President in June 2020. She has been involved in Education since 1990 and has spent a majority of her career working with Nishnawbe Aski Nation Communities in the Education field and is very passionate about supporting all First Nation students in their educational journey. Lorrie has been a board member of the Indigenous Institutes Consortium since January 2019 which is comprised of seven First Nation owned and controlled post-secondary institutes in Ontario.



Hon. Jill Dunlop

Minister of Colleges and Universities

Jill Dunlop has been the member of provincial parliament for Simcoe North since 2018. Born and raised in the Town of Coldwater in Simcoe North, Jill witnessed the importance of community and small local businesses early on as her grandparents owned and operated Dunlop Plumbing, and her parents were actively engaged community members. Prior to being elected, Jill attended Western University, and later joined the faculty of Georgian College. She is also the mother of three postsecondary aged daughters, all giving her unique insights into the world of higher education. In 2019, Jill was appointed Associate Minister of Children and Women's Issues in the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. In 2021, she was appointed Minister of Colleges and Universities, and was re-appointed to the post in June 2022.



Darian Kovacs

**Partner, Jelly Academy, Jelly Digital Marketing & PR and
Chair, Digital Marketing Sector Council**

Darian Kovacs is the Métis founder of Vancouver-based PR, digital ads, and SEO company Jelly Digital Marketing & PR and digital marketing school Jelly Academy. He is the host of the podcast Marketing News Canada, chairs the Digital Marketing Sector Council, and is on the board of NPower Canada. His recent book, Marketing Mentors, featuring interviews with Seth Godin, Guy Kawasaki, and marketing leads from LEGO, Lululemon, and Starbucks, is available now wherever you purchase your books. Darian lives in Fort Langley, British Columbia with his wife and four children and likes to mountain bike, swim, grow dahlias, watercolour, and read YA novels in his free time.



Featured Speakers (Continued)



Dr. Marilyn Herie, PhD RSW

Vice President Academic and Chief Learning Officer, Centennial College

With over two decades as a leading educator, Marilyn Herie's focus is on transformational, experiential, inclusive, and student-centred leadership and learning. She is a TEDx speaker and professional trainer, and has published widely on evidence-based practice approaches in motivation and health behaviour change. Marilyn serves Centennial College in Toronto, Ontario as Vice President Academic and Chief Learning Officer, and on the Boards of eCampusOntario and OntarioLearn.



Jake Hirsch-Allen

Workforce Development and Skills Lead, LinkedIn

Jake Hirsch-Allen builds public private partnerships between North America's governments, workforce development organizations, colleges and universities, and LinkedIn Talent Solutions. Through this work, Jake supports and is learning to be an ally to groups such as newcomers, refugees, and people with disabilities. Jake advises an impact investing firm, a large US foundation, Avalanche VC, the US CCSSO, and several startups. He speaks regularly on the changing nature of work and learning and is passionate about immigration, interoperability, open and user-owned data, skills-based hiring and learning, and AI regulation. Jake is a Director on the Boards of the Ontario Tech Talent and the Canadian Club. He also founded Lighthouse Labs, Canada's foremost software bootcamp, and Hacking Health.



Elder Whabagoon

Elder Whabagoon is an Ojibwe elder and sits with the Loon Clan. She is a current member of Obishikokkang First Nation while having resided in Toronto for 45 years. She is a Keeper of Sacred Pipes, speaker, land defender, and water protector.



Agenda

Time	Session		
	Event Hall*		
9:30 am – 10:00 am (EST)	Land Affirmation & Welcome: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elder Whabagoon • Hon. Jill Dunlop, Minister of Colleges and Universities • Robert Luke, CEO, eCampusOntario • Steven Murphy, President and Vice-Chancellor, Ontario Tech University • Ann Marie Vaughan, President and CEO, Humber College • Rich Louttet, Micro-credentials Program Manager, eCampusOntario 		
	Event Hall*		
10:00 am – 10:45 am	Building a Future-Ready Workforce: How to Unlock Canada's Highly Skilled Workforce and Build a More Inclusive Economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rhonda Barnet, CEO, Palette Skills 		
10:45 am – 10:55 am	Break		
	Event Hall*		
10:55 am – 11:40 am	Seneca Polytechnic and Quick Train: The Impact of Micro-credentials from a Learner, Educator, and Organizer Perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adrienne Madden, Coalition Manager, Canadian Colleges for a Resilient Recovery (C2R2), Mohawk College • Kiley Bolton, Chair, Centre for Executive & Professional Learning & Business Studies, Seneca Polytechnic • Sherrie-Lee Neill, Property Enthusiast 		
11:40 am – 11:55 am	Break		
11:55 am – 12:25 pm	Event Hall*	Yoho	Nahanni
	Who's Using Micro-credentials in Canada? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graham Dobbs, Senior Economist, The Dais, Toronto Metropolitan University 	Better Decision Making: Using Labour Market Information to Inform Training Choices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Burt, BComm, MBA, MA, Vice President, The Conference Board of Canada 	Connecting People with Jobs: Training and Canada's National Job Bank <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kelly Archer, Director, Employment and Social Development Canada
12:25 pm – 1:10 pm	Lunch		
	Event Hall*		
1:10 pm – 2:00 pm	Empowering Futures: Enhancing the Undergraduate Experience Through the Use of Industry-Recognized Credentials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kelvin Bentley, PhD, Program Manager, Texas Credentials for the Future, University of Texas System 		
2:00 pm – 2:15 pm	Break		

*All Event Hall sessions are livestreamed.



Agenda (Continued)

Time	Session		
2:15 pm – 2:45 pm	Event Hall*	Yoho	Nahanni
	<p>Developing Culturally-Responsive, Community-Driven Micro-credentials: Case Study from an Indigenous Institute, Oshki-Pimache-O-Win: The Wenjack Education Institute</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lorrie Deschamps, President, Oshki-Pimache-O-Win: The Wenjack Education Institute • Kim Falcigno, Vice President, Oshki-Pimache-O-Win: The Wenjack Education Institute 	<p>Employer and Employee Perceptions of Micro-credentials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partha Roy, Market Research Manager, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) 	<p>Core Skills Across the Campus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Stokes, Manager, Student Learning Centre, Ontario Tech University • Fiona McArthur, PhD, Strategic Project Manager, Ontario Tech University
2:45 pm – 3:00 pm	Break		
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Event Hall*	Yoho	Nahanni
	<p>Development and Deployment of the Neurotech Micro-credential Program at Queen's University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susan Boehnke, PhD, Director, Neurotech Micro-credential Program; Associate Professor, Department of Biomedical and Molecular Sciences & Centre for Neuroscience Studies, Queen's University • Saurabh Bhaskar Shaw, PhD, NTMC Manager and Industry Liaison, NeuroTechX; Adjunct Research Professor, Western University 	<p>IM4 Lab Indigenous Storyteller Micro-credential Virtual Production Training Program: An Overview of the Achievements and Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loretta Sarah Todd, Founder/ Creative Director, IM4 Lab • Shenaz Baksh, Director, Screen Industry Training Hub (SITHub) 	<p>Micro-credentials in Collaboration: FNTI and ASOO Micro-credential Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Victoria Jackson, Program Manager, Micro-credentials Programs, First Nations Technical Institute (FNTI) • Jeanine George, Executive Director, Aboriginal Shelters of Ontario (ASOO)
3:30 pm – 3:40 pm	Break		
	Event Hall*		
3:40 pm – 4:30 pm	<p>Panel Discussion: Supporting Labour Market Mobility by Increasing the Porosity between Public and Private Education Providers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darian Kovacs, Partner, Jelly Academy, Jelly Digital Marketing & PR and Chair, Digital Marketing Sector Council • Dr. Marilyn Herie, PhD, RSW, Vice President Academic and Chief Learning Officer, Centennial College • Jake Hirsch-Allen, Workforce Development and Skills Lead, LinkedIn • Moderator: Robert Luke, CEO, eCampusOntario 		
4:30 pm – 4:50 pm	<p>Closing Ceremony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrea Krasznai, Digital Learning Associate, eCampusOntario • Robert Luke, CEO, eCampusOntario • Elder Whabagoon 		
4:50 pm – 6:00 pm	Networking Social		

***All Event Hall sessions are livestreamed.**



Session Abstracts

10:00 am – 10:45 am | Event Hall

Building a Future-Ready Workforce: How to Unlock Canada's Highly Skilled Workforce and Build a More Inclusive Economy

- **Rhonda Barnet**, CEO, Palette Skills

Canada has one of the most highly skilled workforces in the world. And yet, employers still struggle to find the talent they need to grow. It's clear that we are underutilizing the diverse, skilled workforce we already have, resulting in a double-sided drag on productivity, where companies aren't tapping into the skills they need to grow their businesses, and Canadians aren't unlocking their full economic and human potential. Everybody recognizes the importance of upskilling Canadian workers to fill new roles in high-demand sectors – and giving companies access to the talent they need to thrive in the global marketplace. But until now, there has been no pan-Canadian attempt to accomplish this task at scale – and in partnership and consultation with the companies who are searching for skilled employees.

That's where Upskill Canada comes in. Upskill Canada is a new national talent platform that helps fast-growing companies access the talent they need to succeed while creating new career pathways for workers to rapidly transition into high-demand roles. Upskill Canada, supported by a \$250 million investment over three years from Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED), supports 17 projects that will upskill 5,500 workers by the end of 2024.

10:55 am – 11:40 pm | Event Hall

Seneca Polytechnic and Quick Train: The Impact of Micro-credentials from a Learner, Educator, and Organizer Perspective

- **Adrienne Madden**, Coalition Manager, Canadian Colleges for a Resilient Recovery (C2R2), Mohawk College
- **Kiley Bolton**, Chair, Centre for Executive & Professional Learning & Business Studies, Seneca Polytechnic
- **Sherrie-Lee Neill**, Property Enthusiast

Hear from a micro-credential learner, delivery institution, and Canadian Colleges for a Resilient Recovery (C2R2) as they celebrate the impact of upskilling on supporting Canada's transition to a cleaner tomorrow. C2R2 is a coalition of leading institutions from across Canada. Quick Train Canada, powered by C2R2, provides Canadian workers and employers with options to update skills quickly, increasing job security and participation as Canada's economy transitions to more sustainable, low carbon practices. As an active C2R2 member, Seneca Polytechnic successfully launched and offered eight micro-credentials through Quick Train Canada. The micro-credentials, which included sustainable events, sustainable food chain supply, and geospatial data and analysis, provided thousands of learners with the opportunity to rapidly retool and enhance their skills. In this session, we will share lessons learned and best practices; most importantly, a learner from the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) micro-credential will join us to share personal experiences on how the opportunity impacted their learning journey.



Session Abstracts (Continued)

11:55 am – 12:25 pm Event Hall	
<p>Who's Using Micro-credentials in Canada?</p> <p>Alternative credentials, particularly micro-credentials, have become a major priority for policymakers, post-secondary institutions, and employers, viewed as a solution to upskill, retrain, or formalize competency-based learning. Given the rapidly changing technical tools and products of the technology economy, micro-credentials have the potential to support the development of digitally intensive skills and workers. Using a novel labour market information source through LinkedIn profile data, we investigate Canadian professionals who have completed micro-credentials across experience levels, skills profiles, educational attainment, and other labour-related characteristics. The report's findings inform higher education and workforce practitioners building micro-credentials and policymakers seeking to understand and support this new form of learning and upskilling.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Graham Dobbs, Senior Economist, The Dais, Toronto Metropolitan University
11:55 am – 12:25 pm Yoho	
<p>Better Decision Making: Using Labour Market Information to Inform Training Choices</p> <p>Navigating the sea of available labour market information (LMI) can be intimidating for the uninitiated. Yet, providing people with the right information at the right time can help them make more informed decisions about the next step in their career paths. In this session, we will discuss how our skills based LMI databases are being leveraged, with a particular focus on the outcomes of our recent partnership with eCampusOntario.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Michael Burt, BComm, MBA, MA, Vice President, The Conference Board of Canada
11:55 am – 12:25 pm Nahanni	
<p>Connecting People with Jobs: Training and Canada's National Job Bank</p> <p>Canada's training system plays a key role in preparing workers for the jobs of the future. Information linking training to jobs can help workers make upskilling decisions. Kelly Archer, Job Bank Director at the Government of Canada, will share some ideas being explored by jobbank.gc.ca on jobs and training.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kelly Archer, Director, Employment and Social Development Canada



Session Abstracts (Continued)

1:10 pm – 2:00 pm | Event Hall

Empowering Futures: Enhancing the Undergraduate Experience Through the Use of Industry-Recognized Credentials

The University of Texas System's Texas Credentials for the Future initiative offers access to industry-recognized credentials to help learners gain the skills they will need to be successful in the world of work. This presentation will highlight the partnerships that the University of Texas System established with companies like Google and Coursera as well as philanthropic organizations like the Strada Education Foundation to support this initiative. Some initial data about the project will also be shared in addition to upcoming data gathering and analysis strategies that will be implemented to evaluate the impact of the overall project.

- **Kelvin Bentley, PhD**
Program Manager, Texas Credentials for the Future, University of Texas System

2:15 pm – 2:45 pm | Event Hall

Developing Culturally-Responsive, Community-Driven Micro-Credentials: Case Study from an Indigenous Institute, Oshki-Pimache-O-Win: The Wenjack Education Institute

The micro-credential development process at Oshki-Pimache-O-Win: The Wenjack Education Institute begins at the community level. Oshki-Wenjack works directly with Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) to develop education and training to meet identified needs and labour market demands of NAN First Nation communities in Northern Ontario. Together with community partners, Oshki-Wenjack recruits subject matter experts to design and develop curriculum alongside our internal team to ensure education and training not only meets community needs, but: (1) is culturally safe; (2) abides by best practices in Indigenous education; (3) abides by best practices in teaching and learning; and (4) meets learners at their individual level to better prepare learners for future employment and/or continued learning. This session will share details about the context and examples of recent micro-credential course development projects.

- **Lorrie Deschamps**,
President, Oshki-Pimache-O-Win: The Wenjack Education Institute
- **Kim Falcigno**, Vice President, Oshki-Pimache-O-Win: The Wenjack Education Institute

2:15 pm – 2:45 pm | Yoho

Employer and Employee Perceptions of Micro-credentials

Funded by the Future Skills Centre and in partnership with the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) and Bow Valley College, the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) conducted a research study of Alberta students and employers' perspectives on micro-credentials with an emphasis on the Information Technology and Renewable Energy sectors. This research's conceptual framework will help guide the future investment and development of micro-credentials and ensure programming addresses the demonstrated needs and expectations of earners and employers, particularly in growth sectors of the Alberta economy. To access the full report on the Future Skills Centre's website, [please click here](#).

- **Partha Roy**, Market Research Manager, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT)



Session Abstracts (Continued)

2:15 pm – 2:45 pm | Nahanni

Core Skills Across the Campus

Transferrable skills are developed through a variety of activities on campuses, including professional development, co-curricular activities, independent learning, and within the academic stream. While rarely explicitly assessed and articulated, employers frequently stress that these transferrable skills are key drivers of success in applying technical skills in the workforce. Thanks to a grant from TD Ready Commitment, we piloted a series of micro-credentials that empowered learners to articulate a range of enduring, transferrable competencies. This program has been designed to exploit the flexibility of micro-credentials by allowing learners to earn the same badge following a variety of learning opportunities, including professional development aimed at campus staff, co-curricular activities, independent learning, and integrated within the classroom. To date, more than 5,000 independent learning opportunities have been undertaken by more than 2,000 unique learners, allowing us to tailor the program to the needs of each student.

- **Sarah Stokes**, Manager, Student Learning Centre, Ontario Tech University
- **Fiona McArthur, Ph.D.**, Strategic Project Manager, Ontario Tech University

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm | Event Hall

Development and Deployment of the Neurotech Micro-credential Program at Queen's University

Neurotechnology includes any tools for measuring and manipulating the brain and nervous system. The neurotech field is expanding rapidly, offering potential benefits for human health, and the economic benefits of an emerging growth industry. Monitoring and manipulating the brain also raises ethical and social considerations. A new workforce is required that can tackle the technical, analytical, and ethical/social challenges in this emerging field, but how do learners from different backgrounds (Engineering, Computing, Health/Social Sciences) master these multidisciplinary aspects? We felt this could be solved by the creation of micro-credentials targeting knowledge and skills gaps. With support from the Ontario Micro-credentials Challenge Fund, our team at Queen's University partnered with the leading neurotech non-profit NeuroTechX to help us interface with industry. Together, we worked to imagine, content curate, design, and deploy a set of micro-credentials to target the skills and knowledge necessary for the next generation of neurotechnology innovators.

- **Susan Boehnke, PhD**, Director, Neurotech Micro-credential Program; Associate Professor, Department of Biomedical and Molecular Sciences & Centre for Neuroscience Studies, Queen's University
- **Saurabh Bhaskar Shaw, PhD**, NTMC Manager and Industry Liaison, NeuroTechX; Adjunct Research Professor, Western University



Session Abstracts

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm | Yoho

IM4 Lab Indigenous Storyteller Micro-credential Virtual Production Training Program: An Overview of the Achievements and Challenges

The IM4 Lab is an Indigenous-founded and Indigenous-led extended reality (XR) lab. We offer free and inclusive XR training and production opportunities, with over 40 workshops for 300+ participants, ranging from Intro to Advanced Unity, AR for Artists, Music Videos in WebVR, and Soundscapes for VR, to name a few. In 2023, we offered the first-ever in the world Indigenous Micro-credential Virtual Production Training Program in collaboration with the University of Victoria and Emily Carr University of Art & Design. This presentation will share our philosophy, the process of creating the training, the achievements, and the challenges. We will present the value of micro-credentials for the creative tech industry. We will also focus on how we seek to Indigenize creative tech, including the learning process.

- **Loretta Sarah Todd**, Founder/Creative Director, IM4 Lab
- **Shenaz Baksh**, Director, Screen Industry Training Hub (SITHub)

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm | Nahanni

Micro-credentials in Collaboration: FNTI and ASOO Micro-credential Partnership

Over the past year, First Nations Technical Institute (FNTI) developed over 30 distinct micro-credentials as part of a broad suite of stand-alone programs. As part of this development process, FNTI reached out to a number of partners to ensure that these micro-credentials would meet employer demand for professional development and upskilling opportunities. One such partnership is with the Aboriginal Shelters of Ontario (ASOO). FNTI and ASOO collaborated on the development of five micro-credentials to create the Family Violence Worker bundle. The bundle was designed as professional development for ASOO employees and considered the need for flexible delivery models, intuitive programming, and skills-development and enhancement. The collaborative, community-driven approach to curriculum development ensures that this micro-credential programming is responsive to need and is providing skills that will be useful to supporting those working within, and utilizing, the Indigenous shelter sector.

- **Dr. Victoria Jackson**, Program Manager, Micro-credentials Programs, First Nations Technical Institute (FNTI)
- **Jeanine George**, Executive Director, Aboriginal Shelters of Ontario (ASOO)



Session Abstracts

3:40 pm – 4:30 pm | Event Hall

Panel Discussion: Supporting Labour Market Mobility by Increasing the Porosity between Public and Private Education Providers

Education is foundational in preparing people for careers and meaningful participation in civil society, and Canada enjoys the second highest tertiary education attainment rate in the OECD. However, labour market gaps are real and acute, systemic inequities in access and employment persist, and accelerating change across virtually all industry sectors means that even recent, highly trained post-secondary graduates need to adapt and learn new skills. And... in this environment learners have choices. Public post-secondary education and private career preparation exist side by side, providing an array of options for upskilling, reskilling, and career development. Facilitating learner journeys that engage multiple access points (public, private) benefits both individuals and our wider society, especially when diverse learning providers work together in more integrated and complementary ways.

This panel discussion dives into how education providers can better support career development at every age and stage of life. We'll be asking important questions, such as: What does the future of education look like in a post-pandemic landscape? How might we design a system in which post-secondary institutions work productively with private education providers and employers to establish pathways and micro-credentialing programs that ensure training and education meets hiring demands? What are the barriers to engagement and cooperation today, why do these exist, and what might be done to address them?

- **Darian Kovacs**, Partner, Jelly Academy, Jelly Digital Marketing & PR and Chair, Digital Marketing Sector Council
- **Dr. Marilyn Herie, PhD, RSW**, Vice President Academic and Chief Learning Officer, Centennial College
- **Jake Hirsch-Allen**, Workforce Development and Skills Lead, LinkedIn

Moderator:

- **Robert Luke**, CEO, eCampusOntario

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