



The 5th Annual
**Canadian Health and Wellbeing
in Developmental Disabilities**
February 4 - 5, 2026 | Digital Conference



The 5th Annual Canadian Health and Wellbeing in Developmental Disabilities (HWDD) Digital Conference (Feb 4-5, 2026) – Call for Abstracts

Overview

The [Canadian Health and Wellbeing in Developmental Disabilities Conference](#) (HWDD) provides an interprofessional forum where health care providers and community partners engage in sharing educational and informative updates and practical innovative, promising and effective practices that improve the health and wellbeing of people with developmental disabilities across the lifespan.

The conference strives to achieve equity, diversity, and inclusion through recognition of intersectionality—the inter-connected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to people with developmental disabilities, creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage.

For more information, please visit the [conference website](#) and/or contact: Continuing Professional Development; Temerty Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto (500 University Avenue, 6th Floor, Toronto Ontario, M5G 1V7; ; Tel: 416.978.2719; E-Mail: facmed.registration@utoronto.ca).

Abstract Submission Overview

Submission Types

The Conference Program Committee invites abstract submissions for:

- **Workshops** – 60-minute interactive workshops will take place during virtual concurrent sessions and will be recorded; conference participants have the option to join workshops sessions live virtually or watch the recording later on
- **Posters** – posters will be presented in a virtual poster hall, with the optional of including a short video; participants can view these any time, or at assigned poster viewing times where we encourage presenters to be present to answer chat texts or engage in one-on-one video chats

Abstracts discussing solutions and interventions to addressing the [conference outcomes](#) are highly encouraged – we also strongly encourage submissions that include people with lived experience as co-creators and/or co-presenters. We encourage submissions from clinicians, direct support professionals, health care providers/organizations and from students who are doing new and innovative work.



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Timelines

- **Call for abstracts closes: 11:59pm EST Friday, October 10th, 2025**
- Notification of acceptance: two weeks after closing date
- Presenter confirmation of acceptance: one week after notification of acceptance

Presenter Responsibilities

- **Covering their own registration fee(s)** (it is our expectation you will attend the event; we can offer presenters get a 20% discount off the general attendee fee; however, if this still presents a barrier, please contact us regarding options)
- Where applicable, prior to submitting an abstract, confirming with their employer/agency that participation in the conference will be supported
- Declaring any commercial or financial interests
- Willingness to present on days/at times as determined by the conference organizers

Abstract Evaluation

All submissions will be evaluated based on:

- Relevance to conference outcomes and target audience
- Demonstration of evidence-based, innovative and/or emerging approaches
- Informed by and/or presented by people with developmental disabilities and/or their families
- Clear and complete submission (e.g., use of plain-language, sufficient detail provided)

Workshops will also be evaluated on:

- Ability to engage participants in a creative, interactive, outcomes-based learning experience
- Involves more than one presenter and voices from diverse perspectives in the presentation

Submitting Abstracts

Once you have all the information below ready, please go to the [conference abstract page](#) and press the “Submit Abstract Online” link to start the abstract submission process.

- **NOTE:** Title, Presenters/Authors (including the order of names), and Abstract Summary sections should be provided as you wish it to appear on the conference website and program

Submission – General Information

- **Title:** Full title of the workshop/poster (maximum 200 characters; *NOTE: This information will be published on the conference website and program*)
- **Presenters/Additional Authors:** List all presenters (individuals who will be attending the event and presenting the poster or workshop) and any additional authors (additional individuals that



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you wish to recognize who were involved or affiliated with the work you are presenting); for each person please provide:

- Their name, title/position, and affiliation (*NOTE: This information will be published on the conference website and program*)
 - Their city, province, and email address (this is for our records and communication purposes only and will not be published).
- **Conference Outcomes:** Indicate the conference outcome(s) the workshop/poster best aims to address relating to the health and wellbeing across the life span for persons with a developmental disability (select all that apply):
 - Discuss innovative, promising, and effective practices that contribute to positive physical and mental health outcomes, interprofessional collaboration, and strategic leadership
 - Identify possible solutions for core issues and challenges faced by the people being supported, their families, and community partners
 - Explore evidence-based clinical best practices relating to physical and mental health
 - Discuss the role of community healthcare in maintaining and improving quality of life
 - Develop, maintain, and expand interprofessional partnerships in order to provide more effective supports
- **Target Audience:** Indicate the target audience(s) the workshop/poster is primarily geared toward (select all that apply):
 - Healthcare Providers and Clinicians (e.g., Behaviour Professionals, Counselors, Family Physicians, Medical Specialists, Mental Health Therapists, Nurses/Nurse Practitioners, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Physician Assistants, Psychologists, Social Workers, Speech Language Pathologists)
 - Administrators (e.g., Case Managers/Planners, Government Officials & Ministry Staff, Policy and Decision Makers, Program Managers, Senior Leadership)
 - Partners in Health and Wellbeing Across the Lifespan (e.g., K-12 and Post-Secondary Educators, Academics, Direct Support Providers, Families, People with Developmental Disabilities & Self-Advocates, Post-secondary Students)
- **Previous Presentations at HWDD:** Have you or your co-presenters/authors presented on this topic/program/project at a previous HWDD conference? If yes, please indicate when you presented and how this submission differs and/or builds on that work (maximum 100 words).

Submission Details – WORKSHOP specific:

- **Abstract Summary:** Submit a summary of your workshop (maximum 100 words; *NOTE: This information will be published on the conference website and program*)



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- **Main Learning Outcome:** Indicate the main focus of your workshop (i.e., what participants will be able to do differently back at work because of attending your workshop [“As a result of participating in this workshop, participants will be able to...”; maximum 50 words])
- **Detailed Description:** Describe the format of your workshop and two-three main messages and include a brief description of the background of the problem your workshop will address. Also provide a brief agenda of how the 60 minutes will be filled (e.g., amount of time for lecture, small group activity, activity debrief, discussion, etc..) (maximum 200 words).
- **Audience Engagement:** Indicate the methods that will be used in the workshop to engage the audience (e.g., activities, reflection, Q&A, polls, etc...) in order to improve the quality of the learning experience (maximum 100 words). Workshops will take place using the University of Toronto’s digital platform, which includes options such as text chat and polling – unfortunately the option to use breakout rooms is NOT currently available; advanced support is provided in the form of technical rehearsals to help familiarize you with the platform.

Submission Details – POSTER specific:

- **Poster Type:** Indicate if your poster is a: Research abstract OR Intervention/program description and/or evaluation
- **Abstract Summary:** Submit a summary of your poster (maximum 100 words; *NOTE: This information will be published on the conference website and program*)
- **Detailed Description:** Provide a detailed description of the poster content (maximum 300 words)
 - For Research Abstract Posters include: a brief overview with the following headings; introduction, objectives, methods, results, analysis, and discussion/conclusions
 - For Intervention/Program Posters: include: a brief overview with the following headings; short description of program, target audience, objectives, evaluation (If applicable) and outcomes

Submission Details – ALL:

- **Status of Results:** Is the work that will be shared complete and ready to present now? Or, if it’s still in progress, please describe your expected analysis and outcomes – we expect the work will be completed by the conference date (maximum 100 words).
- **Lived Experience Voice:** Please indicate how this work has been informed by and/or will be presented by/with who have developmental disabilities or their families (maximum 100 words)
- **National Relevance:** Please indicate how this work is relevant not just to your region but to a national audience as well (maximum 100 words)
- **Additional Information:** Share anything else you would like the reviewers to know (maximum 200 words)