

The 6th Annual Canadian Health and Wellbeing in Developmental Disabilities (HWDD) – Digital Conference (Feb 3-4, 2027)

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.

Submission Types

We welcome submissions on solutions and interventions that address the [conference outcomes](#) for:

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

Abstracts are also highly encouraged from:

- Initiatives that include people with lived experience as co-creators and/or co-presenters
- Clinicians, direct support professionals, health care providers/organizations and from students who are doing new and innovative work

Timelines

- **Call for abstracts closes: 11:59pm EST Friday, October 16th, 2026**
- Notification of acceptance: two weeks after closing date
- Presenter confirmation of acceptance: one week after notification of acceptance

Presenter Responsibilities

- Cover their own registration fee(s) (all presenters are expected to attend the conference and will receive a 20% discount off the general attendee rates; for presenters with lived experience where the organization is not able to cover their fees, additional discounts are available)
- Where applicable, prior to submitting an abstract, confirm with their employer/agency that participation in the conference will be supported
- Declare any commercial or financial interests
- Willingness to present at the time designated by conference organizers

Abstract Evaluation

All submissions will be evaluated using the criteria below. Final decisions will also ensure the program offers a balance of topics and perspectives suited for a national audience.

- Relevance to the conference's [audience and outcomes](#)
- Demonstration of innovative, evidence-based, solutions-focused work
- Informed by, and where possible presented by, person(s) with lived experience
- Clear and complete submission (e.g., use of plain language, sufficient detail)

Workshops will additionally be evaluated on:

- Ability to engage participants in a creative, interactive, outcomes-based learning experience
- Presentation includes voices from diverse perspectives, ideally with more than one presenter

Submitting Abstracts

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

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 (i.e., attending the event and presenting the poster or workshop) and any additional authors (i.e., not presenting, but whose involvement in the work you want to recognize); for each person, provide:
 - Their name and main position and institution/organization (*NOTE: This information will be published on the conference website and program*)
 - Their city, province, and email address (this is for internal use 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
- **Previous Presentations at HWDD:** If you or your co-presenters/authors have presented on this topic/program/project at a previous HWDD conference, 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*)
- **Main Learning Outcome:** Indicate the main outcome of the workshop (i.e., what participants will be able to do differently at work because of attending your workshop; maximum 50 words)
- **Detailed Description:** Provide a brief background of the problem your workshop will address and 2-3 take-home messages. Also, provide a brief agenda of how the 60 minutes will be filled (e.g., amount of time for lecture, activities, case studies, Q&A, etc.) (maximum 200 words).
- **Audience Engagement:** Indicate the methods that will be used in the workshop to engage the audience (e.g., activities, polls, case studies, Q&A, etc.) in order to improve the learning experience (maximum 100 words). Note that our digital platform currently does not support breakout rooms.

Submission Details – POSTER specific:

- **Poster Type:** Indicate if your poster is a: Research OR Program abstract
- **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)
 - Research Posters: use the following headings: background, objectives, methods, results, conclusions
 - Program Posters: use the following headings: program description, target audience, objectives, outcomes
- **Student Involvement:** If the first author and/or presenting author for the poster is a student, please provide their name(s) (*NOTE: all posters with a student first author and/or presenting author will be eligible for a poster award*)

Submission Details – ALL:

- **Status of Results:** Is the work that will be shared ready to present now? If it is 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 where possible presented by, person(s) with lived experience of having a developmental disability or other neurodevelopmental conditions (maximum 100 words)
- **National Relevance:** Please indicate how this work is relevant to a national audience (maximum 100 words)
- **Additional Information:** Share anything else you would like the reviewers to know (maximum 200 words)