



**Atlantic Society Regional Conference
October 2 & 3, 2008**

Life Changes & Transitions

Presentations:

Helping Adults to Personal Change and Transition in Turbulent Times: Joe Puaii, National Rehabilitation Consultant, Veterans Affairs Canada

This interactive presentation will explore the linking of the theories of adult transition and the ethical practice of helping adults in transition. The presentation will center on the work of Nancy K Schlossberg, in *Counselling Adults in Transition, Linking Practice and Theory*. Hence, it will explore the **Types** of transition, the **Content** of transitions, and the **Impact** of transition. Schlossberg has integrated into her content model much that has been written on transitions in relation to Ages and Stages over the Life Span. Her specific view 'transition framework', will be explored. Also, many theories have been written regarding counselling individuals experiencing life change and transition. This presentation will focus on Schlossberg's work of integrating her content framework model of transition, and linking it with the modification of Egan's helping model for counsellors. In this process, proper ethical case management will be demonstrated, with linkages to Career Counselling, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselling, and Vocational Evaluation Outcomes. The workshop will provide suggestions as to how the effective helper can integrate appropriate helping skills and strategic intervention in enabling adult transitions. The workshop will also involve discussion of the parallels of working with and in organizations in transition. Specific issues related to the types of transition and best practices will be noted and distributed to the participants.

Joe Puaii, BA, MA Counseling

He has a BA. from St. Dunstan's University Charlottetown, with BA. and a Masters in Counselling from Liberty University Lynchburg, Virginia, USA. His Practicum was at East Prince Mental Health. He managed the Occupational Training Centre sheltered workshop for four and a half years. He worked 21 years with HRDC, as an Employment/Vocational Counsellor/Team Leader. He joined Veteran's Affairs Canada in 2000, as a Client Service Team Manager and currently works at VAC Head Office as a National Standards and Education Officer/Rehabilitation Consultant. He was assigned to CFB Summerside, as Vocational/Employment Counsellor at the time of base closure and led the team that assisted the nearly 700 workers of Marine Atlantic, when their operation on PEI shut down.

Creating Accommodation Strategies That Work for Everyone: Reid Burke, Executive Director, Canadian Mental Health Association

The presentation will focus on the mental health problems in the workplace from both the employee perspective and the employer perspective. Areas to be examined are: Accommodation, Rehabilitation, Recovery and Stigma. All the topics will be presented in a manner that will enable those who provide disability benefits and supports to gain insight into what effective management of mental health problems can and should look like. The end goal is to ensure that people who experience problems with their mental health have an opportunity to manage their mental health issues in an environment where there is the greatest opportunity for success. That environment will benefit the employee, the employer and benefit providers.

Reid Burke, BBA

Reid has worked with Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) for 22 years. Prior to that he worked for the Toronto Dominion Bank and Mutual Life for six years in various locations throughout the Maritimes. He joined CMHA as Financial Manager and then advanced to the positions of Associate Executive Director and Executive Director. He is an active

volunteer in various organizations and is currently a member of the Mental Health Commission of Canada (Service Delivery Committee). Reid believes **mental health is a dimension of our overall health whose time has come. Mental health is for everyone. He also believes in a strong commitment to faith and family...and sees them as the main priorities in life.**

The Impact of Traumatic Injury (Brain/Spinal Cord) on the Family Unit: Joan Coffin, Social Worker, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, QEH

Survivors and families of traumatic injuries journey through a recovery process which is dynamic and continual. It evolves throughout the hospitalization period and continues into residential, community, social and vocational environments. It is a difficult journey marked with chronic sorrow. Families and survivors face many complex and challenging situations. This presentation will focus on the journey that many families encounter.

Joan Coffin, MSW

Joan Coffin received her Master of Social Work Degree from Wilfrid Laurier University in 1986. She has extensive experience in the mental health and rehabilitation fields with a special interest in working with survivors and families coping with the impact of traumatic injuries. She led a multidisciplinary needs assessment to outline the short and long term needs of survivors and families in 2000. She has served as a board member to the Brain Injury Association and has provided service to the P.E.I. chapter of the Canadian Paraplegic Association.

Cost of Care and Needs Assessment:

Sandra Preeper and Warren Comeau, Rehabilitation Counsellors and Partners in Voc Rehab Canada.

Rehabilitation practitioners are often asked by solicitors to provide assessments of future care costs regarding individuals they represent who have suffered bodily injury in motor vehicle accidents. These assessments typically involve the review of medical and other information as well as consulting with physicians and other allied health care professionals in establishing the individual's needs which can include medical and therapeutic interventions, equipment, medical supplies, rehabilitation aids and assistive devices, housing, transportation and mobility, among others. This presentation will examine the methodology and structure of Cost of Care and Needs Assessments using the example of the needs presented by an individual who has sustained neurotrauma resulting in spinal cord injury.

Warren Comeau, BA, RRP, CCRC, FCARP

Designated a Canadian Certified Rehabilitation Counsellor (CCRC) in 1993, Warren has been involved in Vocational Rehabilitation and Rehabilitation Case Management since 1980. Warren is President and co-founder of Rehabilitation Alternatives Limited and Vocational Alternatives Software, private sector companies based in Atlantic Canada, which have been providing a spectrum of rehabilitation services since 1992. Although involved primarily with staff mentoring, supervision and service development, Warren also handles special legal assessment assignments, particularly in catastrophic injuries. He has been accepted as an Expert Witness in the field of Rehabilitation by the Court of Queen's Bench, Province of New Brunswick. Warren was designated a Registered Rehabilitation Profession (RRP) in 1992, and began serving on the National Board of Directors of the Canadian Association of Rehabilitation Professionals as an Atlantic Director in the same year. He was a founding Director of CARP Atlantic in 1996. In 1998 Warren completed his term as the National President of CARP, and continued to serve on the Board of Directors of the CARP Atlantic Regional Society until 2005. He has also chaired and served on numerous national committees through CARP such as the Ad Hoc Committee on Scope of Practice, Professional Development and Rehabilitation Education. He was Chair of the CARP/CAVEWA 1995 National Conference in Halifax; Chair of the 2001 CARP National Conference, also in Halifax. Warren was the Program Content Chair of the 2002 CARP National Conference held in Ottawa; was Chair of the 2003 CARP Atlantic Conference in Moncton, and co-chaired the 2005 CARP National Conference held in Charlottetown. Warren was also on the National Board of Directors of the Canadian Association of Research in Rehabilitation and has been an Associate Editor of *The Canadian Journal of Rehabilitation*. He is co-author, with Barry Morrison, QC of "Judging the Credibility of Witnesses" published in the *Advocates Quarterly* in 2002. He was honoured with a Fellowship Award by CARP in 2005 in recognition of outstanding services in the field of rehabilitation. Along with Sandra Preeper and others, Warren's company is a partner in Voc Rehab Canada, a national consortium of private sector companies providing voc rehab and disability management services across Canada.

Sandra Preeper, MBA, RRP, CCRC

Sandra Preeper has worked in rehabilitative settings for over 27 years. She has operated a successful private practice in Rehabilitation Counselling which she opened in 1998 after 9 years of work with a large national disability management firm. She has held her Registered Rehabilitation Professional designation since 1990 and her Canadian Certified Rehabilitation Counsellor designation since 1992. Sandra has provided Cost of Future Care Analysis services to over 100 individuals since 1990 and has testified as an expert several times. She has also trained several consultants throughout the Atlantic Region and across Canada in the theory, philosophies and practices of this type of assessment. Her firm, Sage Rehabilitation and Management Consulting Inc., provides vocational rehabilitation, case management, cost of future care and occupational therapy services from its base in Halifax. Sage is also a proud partner in Voc Rehab Canada, a national joint venture of 12 highly experienced Vocational Rehabilitation and Disability Management Firms providing seamless service from coast-to-coast. Currently, Sandra is also President of the Board of Directors of the Moving in New

Directions Society (MINDS), which is a new non-profit society aimed at providing a continuum of care to residents of Nova Scotia living with Acquired Brain Injury. She also serves as a Director on the Board of the Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Network in Halifax.

The Limits of Testing:

Al Legerwood, Greg McKenna, Holland College Adult Education Centre

The Limits of Testing session will attempt to explain test construction and interpretation with the purpose of making test results more user friendly for the practitioner. Practical examples will be shared and discussed.

Greg McKenna , M.Sc., Ph.D

Greg McKenna holds a M.Sc. in Clinical psychology and a Ph.D. in school psychology and special education. He has worked for the past 10 years providing psycho-educational assessments to adults. His research has been focused in the areas of reading and reading disability. He is the Research Consultant for Holland College and the senior member at the College's Assessment and Counseling Service.

Al Legerwood, BA , BED, MED (Counseling)

Al Ledgerwood worked for 30 years as a consultant for the Eastern School Board, in Charlottetown, PEI in the area of counseling and psychology. During that time he taught numerous university courses for UPEI and UNB including testing and measurement. He also did contract work in assessment for the Lomond Group. Al now works as the technical advisor to the Holland College Assessment Centre. He lists assessment as one of his hobbies.

The CPP Disability Program & the Disability Vocational Rehabilitation Program:

**Gisele LeBlanc, Registered Nurse, Vocational Rehabilitation Case Manager
Canada Pension Plan, Service Canada**

A person receiving Canada Pension Plan Disability can also benefit from a number of work incentives that CPP has put into place. A presentation will be given on these work incentives, which include the Vocational Rehabilitation Program, the Allowable Earnings, the Paid Three Month Work Trial, Attending School, Automatic Reinstatement and Fast Track Application.

Gisele LeBlanc, RN

Gisele received her Bachelor Science Nursing from the Université de Moncton in 1992. She is currently studying Occupational Health Nursing with St-Lawrence College. She is a member of the New Brunswick Nurses Association and of the New Brunswick Occupational Health Nurses Association. She worked as a Registered Nurse in various clinical settings including the hospital environment and in community health, as a Medical Adjudicator for Canada Pension Plan disability benefits and as a Vocational Rehabilitation Case Manager for Canada Pension Plan Disability covering the provinces of New Brunswick and Québec.

Conference Schedule

(subject to change)

Thursday, October 2, 2008:

8 a.m. – 8:45 a. m.

Registration & Refreshments

9 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

**Session 1: [Helping Adults to Personal Change and Transition in Turbulent Times:](#)
**Joe Puaii, National Rehabilitation
Consultant, Veterans Affairs Canada****

10 :15 a.m. – 10 :35 a.m.

Break

10 :35 a.m. – 11:50 p.m.	Session 2 : Creating Accommodation Strategies That Work for Everyone: Reid Burke, Canadian Mental Health Association
12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch, AGM
1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Session 3: The Impact of Traumatic Injury (Brain/Spinal Cord) on the Family Unit: Joan Coffin, Social Worker, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, QEH
2:45 p.m. – 3:05 p.m.	Break
3:05 p.m. – 4: 20 p.m.	Session 4: Cost of Care & Needs Assessment: Sandra Preeper and Warren Comeau, Rehabilitation Counsellors and Partners in Voc Rehab Canada.
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Wine & Cheese Reception

Friday, October 3, 2008:

9 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Session 5: The Limits of Testing: Al Legerwood, Greg McKenna, Holland College Adult Education Centre
10:15 a.m. – 10:35 a.m.	Break
10:35 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.	Session 6: The CPP Disability Program & the Disability Vocational Rehabilitation Program: Gisele LeBlanc, Services Canada

Conference Location:

The Rodd Royalty Inn and Suites Hotel: Hwy 1, Charlottetown PEI, Rooms are held for conference attendees until September 1, 2008 at a rate of \$92, plus taxes, per night for a standard room. Please contact the hotel directly to book a room.
Phone # 902-894-8566 or www.roddhotelsandresorts.com

Conference Fees:

Fees are payable in advance of the conference or at registration. Please submit your registration form prior to October 1, 2008. Included in the registration fee are a wine and cheese event and a buffet lunch on Thursday. Nutrition snacks and beverages will also be provided.

**** Early Bird fees are available until September 1, 2008 ****

\$200.00 VRA Atlantic members

\$225.00 for non- members

[After September 1, 2008:](#)

\$225.00 for members

\$250.00 for non members

Please RSVP registration form and fees to:

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