



Views from Hibou Conservation Area

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE AGENDA PACKAGE

2026

Bringing together members of the public, community leaders, service providers, and partners to inspire a culture of wellness across Grey and Bruce Counties and the lands of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation.



TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 9 AM - 4 PM
HARRY LUMLEY BAYSHORE COMMUNITY CENTRE
1900 3RD AVE E, OWEN SOUND, ON





HEALTHY COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE

APRIL 28, 2026, 9AM - 4PM | BUILDING A CULTURE OF WELLNESS

HARRY LUMLEY BAYSHORE COMMUNITY CENTRE

1900 3RD AVE E, OWEN SOUND, ON 

8:15 – 9:00 AM	Check-in (pre-registration required), Coffee, Light Breakfast and Networking		
9:00 – 9:20 AM	Land Acknowledgement and Opening Ceremony		
9:20 – 10:15 AM	Keynote Address: Dr. Elisa Levi, MD, RD, MPH, CCFP		
10:15 – 10:30 AM	Refreshment Break		
10:30 – 11:30 AM	CONCURRENT SESSIONS: BLOCK 1 *		
	Designing age-friendly, walkable communities across the lifespan	Culturally safe & sensitive care in practice: Indigenous-led models and broader applications	Work, income & well-being: Building sustainable pathways
11:30 – 12:30 PM	Lunch and Networking		
12:30 – 1:15 PM	Panel Discussion: Housing, Homelessness and Health: A whole community approach		
1:20 – 2:20 PM	CONCURRENT SESSIONS: BLOCK 2 *		
	Improving equity and access to palliative care	Belonging, inclusion and newcomer welcome	Healthy Land, Healthy Water, Healthy People
2:20 – 2:35 PM	Refreshment Break		
2:35 – 3:30 PM	Rural Innovation Activity: Facilitated by Georgian College		
3:30 – 4:00 PM	Closing Remarks and Next Steps		

*Description of concurrent breakout sessions on page 5.

SPEAKERS



Keynote Speaker - Dr. Elisa Levi, MD, RD, MPH, CCFP (She/Her)



Dr. Elisa Levi is family physician and registered dietitian committed to advancing health equity through culturally grounded, community-led approaches. With over two decades of experience working alongside non-profits, governments, and Indigenous organizations, Dr. Levi brings an interdisciplinary approach to health systems transformation. Her work spans the development of food sovereignty and health strategies that centre meaningful engagement with Indigenous Peoples.

Dr. Levi holds a Bachelor of Applied Science in Nutrition from Toronto Metropolitan University, a Master of Public Health from Lakehead University, and a Doctor of Medicine with residency training in rural family medicine from McMaster University.

Currently, she is working to establish Noongwa Wellness a place-based, Indigenous-led primary care and healing space located in Neyaashiinigiing. Rooted in community, culture, and connection to land, Noongwa Wellness reflects a vision of health care that is relational, grounded, and responsive to community-identified needs. She is proudly Anishinaabe, mother of two, member of the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation.

Rural Innovation - Jessica Flynn, B.Ed., B.A. Hons, OCT (She/Her)



Jessica Flynn is an educator, strategist, and facilitator who works with leaders across business, government, nonprofit, and education sectors to strengthen collaboration and unlock new possibilities for impact. Her work spans youth entrepreneurship, social innovation, and community ecosystem development.

Jessica is the founder of The Youth Empowerment Project, a Social Innovation Fellow at Georgian College, and a trusted advisor to organizations seeking to align purpose with sustainable strategy. Jessica is known for creating thoughtful spaces where leaders can step back, see the bigger picture, and move forward with clarity.

PANELISTS



Housing, homelessness & health: A whole community approach

Annette Pedlar, Executive Director - Safe 'N Sound



Annette grew up on a farm outside Meaford and has been the proud Executive Director of Safe 'N Sound for just over three years. She believes she has the best job in Grey and Bruce and is excited to share some of the many lessons she has been gifted.

Caitlin Currie, Homelessness Response Supervisor - Grey County Housing



Caitlin Currie (she/her) is a dedicated system navigator and homelessness advocate who leads Grey County's coordinated response to homelessness. As the Homelessness Response Supervisor, she oversees the County's Short Term Shelter Program, encampment response initiatives, and outreach services, ensuring compassionate and effective support for individuals experiencing homelessness. Caitlin's approach is rooted in equity, collaboration, and a belief in the dignity and resilience of every person.

Christy Lowry, Housing Services Tenant Supervisor - Bruce County Housing

Christy Lowry (she/her) is the Housing Services Program Supervisor for Bruce County, with more than 20 years of frontline experience in housing, addiction and mental health. Christy is deeply committed to collaborative, community-driven solutions that help people access safe, affordable housing. She is passionate about reducing barriers, strengthening partnerships, and ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to find stability and thrive.



Tabitha Tutin, Community Support Coordinator - Bruce County

Tabitha has over 18 years of experience working with at-risk youth across Southwestern Ontario. For the past three years, Tabitha has been supporting vulnerable individuals in Bruce County, focusing on outreach, reducing barriers, and connecting people to essential services. Tabitha is passionate about building strong community partnerships and making supports more accessible, especially in rural areas.

Scott McKay, Director of Client Services - CMHA

Scott holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminology from Simon Fraser University and a Master of Social Work Degree from the University of Toronto with a specialization in health and mental health. He has been in this role since December 2021. He previously worked in community mental health and addictions in a variety of roles over the course of his career.



Matthew Shute, Director of Community Initiatives, Employment Services and Settlement Services - YMCA Owen Sound Grey Bruce



Shine On

Matthew has a Masters of Social Work degree from Lakehead University with a focus on Organizational Development and Transformational Change. Matthew has over 25 years of varied experience working in the human services field, including work as the Director of Housing and Outreach with HopeGreyBruce Mental Health and Addiction Services. In 2021, he joined the YMCA Owen Sound Grey Bruce as the Director of their Community, Employment and Settlement Services. Currently, Matthew continues to work with the great team at the YMCA and look for opportunities to preventatively meet community need while continuing to seek eudaemonia.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS



MORNING BREAKOUT (10:30AM - 11:30AM)

<p>Designing age-friendly, walkable communities across the lifespan</p> <p>Room: Shore Room 1</p>	<p>This session explores how age-friendly, walkable community design supports health, safety, and connection for people of all ages.</p>
<p>Culturally safe & sensitive care in practice: Indigenous-led models and broader applications</p> <p>Room: Shore Room 2</p>	<p>This session centers Indigenous leadership in culturally safe and sensitive care and examines how these approaches can inform broader practice change.</p>
<p>Work, income & well-being: Building sustainable pathways</p> <p>Room: Bay Room</p>	<p>This session focuses on creating pathways to sustainable work by connecting people, training, and local opportunity. Speakers will share labour market trends and collaborative approaches being pursued in Grey-Bruce.</p>

AFTERNOON BREAKOUT (1:20PM - 2:20PM)

<p>Improving equity and access to palliative care for all</p> <p>Room: Shore Room 1</p>	<p>This session explores how rural communities can better support people through coordinated, equitable palliative care.</p>
<p>Belonging, inclusion and newcomer welcome</p> <p>Room: Shore Room 2</p>	<p>This session focuses on building welcoming, inclusive communities in Grey-Bruce by examining newcomer experiences, systemic barriers, and intentional inclusion practices.</p>
<p>Healthy Land, Healthy Water, Healthy People</p> <p>Room: Bay Room</p>	<p>This session showcases place-based efforts across Grey-Bruce that link healthy ecosystems with healthy people.</p>

BREAKOUT SPEAKERS



MORNING BREAKOUT (10:30AM - 11:30AM)

Breakout Session	Speakers
Designing age-friendly, walkable communities across the lifespan	Cassandra Dillman - Grey County Meghan Loney - Beaver Valley Outreach & Georgian Bay Youth Roots Stuart Reid - Community Foundation
Culturally safe & sensitive care in practice: Indigenous-led models and broader applications	Dr. Elisa Levi - Noongwa Wellness Ronat John - M'Wikwedong Indigenous Friendship Centre
Work, income, and well-being: Building pathways to decent work	Dana Soucie - Four County Labour Market Planning Board Matt Shute - YMCA Employment Services Jenn Linklater - Aboriginal Student Advisor, Georgian College

AFTERNOON BREAKOUT (1:20PM - 2:20PM)

Breakout Session	Speakers
Improving equity and access to palliative care	Lindsay Johnston - Grey Bruce Ontario Health Team Kate Dickenson - Safe 'N Sound
Belonging, inclusion and newcomer welcome in Grey-Bruce	Hilary Thurston - Grey Bruce Local Immigration Partnership Suneet Kukreja - YMCA Settlement & Language Services Rachel Paterson - M'Wikwedong Indigenous Friendship Centre Deepikaa Gupta - Welcoming Communities Grey Bruce
Healthy land, healthy water, healthy people	Jenny Carver - Youth Climate Action Conference Gloria Dangerfield - Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Linda Swanston - Grey County

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



YOUR SUPPORT PLAYED A VITAL ROLE IN MAKING THIS EVENT POSSIBLE AND IMPACTFUL



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GREY BRUCE

We're here for good.



Community Foundation Grey Bruce encourages endowment building and facilitates philanthropic partnerships within all communities in Grey and Bruce, now and for future generations. Community Foundation Grey Bruce supports Grey Bruce residents through grants to community projects by nonprofit organizations and scholarships, bursaries or awards to students. Community Foundation Grey Bruce provides leadership in identifying community issues and convening discussion.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Grey, Bruce and West Simcoe (BBBSGBWS) has been serving youth and families throughout the community for over 60 years. As a mentorship organization, BBBSGBWS invests in the power and potential of all youth. With both community-based and in-school programs, BBBSGBWS ensures children and youth are supported to overcome adversities and increase resiliency across time.



Big Brothers Big Sisters
OF GREY, BRUCE AND WEST SIMCOE



Four County Labour Market Planning Board
Serving Bruce Grey Huron Perth

Serving Bruce, Grey, Huron, and Perth counties, the Four County Labour Market Planning Board facilitates effective labour market strategies through data analysis, engaging with local partners, employers, job seekers, and community organizations.

Grey County is the upper-tier municipal government serving the residents, businesses and visitors of nine member municipalities. Grey County delivers important services including housing, childcare, paramedic services, long-term care, county roads, planning, economic development, and business supports. Grey County is committed to building healthy, inclusive and resilient communities.



Grey County
Colour It Your Way



Ontario Corporate Training Centre

Disability Inclusive Hiring

The Ontario Disability Employment Network (ODEN) is a province-wide organization that brings together businesses and Employment Service Providers to increase employment opportunities for job seekers who have a disability.



AzadMedica Foundation is a local Non-Profit organization focusing on rural and community research and healthcare advocacy initiatives.



Shine On

At the YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce we offer a wide range of programs and services that empower people of all ages and life stages to overcome barriers and reach their full potential.



Bridging the mind - body connection through evidence informed massage therapy and wellness practices in Owen Sound.



Investments. Insurance. Advice.

Ryan Enright & Team
Hanover / Durham

Co-operators help Canadians build and grow their financial strength and security through multi-line insurance and investment products, services and advice that's tailored to your unique needs.



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GREY BRUCE



We're here for good.



A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO OUR PLANNING COMMITTEE

We extend gratitude to the members of our Conference Planning Committee for their dedication, creativity, and tireless efforts in bringing this event to life. From the earliest brainstorming sessions to the final touches, your vision and commitment have shaped an experience that inspires, informs, and connects us all.



Grey Bruce Community Legal Clinic