



## Building a Safe Culture in Employment Services PRESENTER BIOS

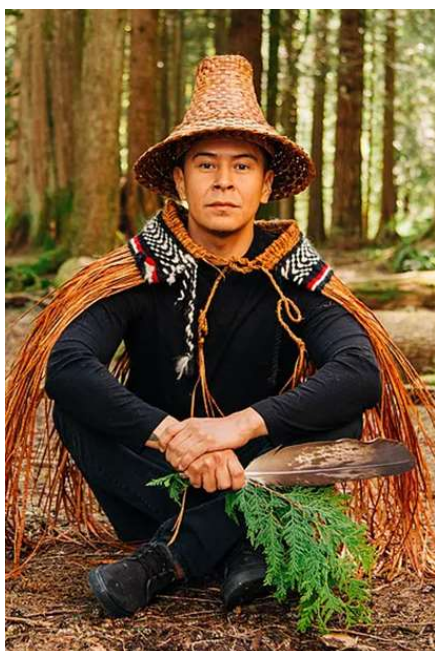
### Keynote Speaker: Frank Cohn, [Vancouver Association for Survivors of Torture](#)

Originally from Vancouver, Frank is currently the Executive Director of VAST (Vancouver Association for Survivors of Torture), which provides rehabilitation for newcomer survivors of war & torture, and training and policy advisory for the refugee-serving sector and the public. He also serves as the Director of the DUDES Club Society: a Brotherhood for Men's Wellness, with clubs in more than 50 Indigenous communities around BC.

Frank has been a Lecturer in Social Work and Public Affairs at 10 universities in NYC and Vancouver, and provides guest lectures and Field Instruction with more than a dozen other universities, focusing on International Community work, Non-Profit Management, and Program Evaluation. Frank speaks and conducts trainings in 5 languages: French, Spanish, English, Chinese, and Haitian Creole, and has basic functionality in several other languages.



He has done leadership capacity building work with over 15k people in over 150 rural villages and urban neighbourhoods in 25 countries in Latin America and Asia. In 2007-2015 Frank was the Founder and Executive Director of Global Potential, an organization providing 5,000 youth from low-income communities in five countries with transformational experiences and networks. His previous work also includes: Field Director for an NGO in Central America, Associate Director of a Women's Resource Center in Brooklyn, and in Social Policy & Development with the United Nations. Frank has his BA in Literature and Philosophy from UBC, and his Masters of Science in Social Work from Columbia University. He currently lives with his family on the North Shore of Vancouver, as an honoured yet uninvited guest in Squamish territory.



### Len Pierre, [Len Pierre Consulting](#)

Len Pierre is Coast Salish from Katzie (kate-zee) First Nation. Len is an educator, consultant, TEDx Speaker, social activist, traditional knowledge keeper, and cultural practitioner. He is in the final stages of his Master of Education degree from Simon Fraser University focusing on curriculum and instructional design. His experience includes Indigenous education and program leadership from various health organizations including the First Nations Health Authority, Fraser Health Authority, and the Canadian Centre for Mental Health and Addiction.

As an agent for change, Len leads and advises for systemic transformation in universities across North America. He specializes in the development of educational programs and services with decolonization and reconciliation as its core values. He comes to us with an open heart and open mind and hopes to be received in the same way.

**Heather McCain, [Creating Accessible Neighbourhoods](#)**

Heather McCain is Executive Director of Creating Accessible Neighbourhoods (CAN), which has grown from a small grassroots organization in two communities to an organization delivering workshops and adding their voice to projects and events across Turtle Island.

Heather recognizes that people with disabilities have many intersecting identities. Heather, herself, is disabled, trans, and queer. Committed to cross-movement organizing, Heather works hard to ensure that the entire disabled person is considered. Their work is informed by a multitude of voices and experiences. Applying a Disability Justice framework to their work, Heather recognizes and acknowledges the intersecting legacies of colonialism, capitalism, white supremacy, gendered oppression, audism, and ableism, and how those legacies have led to exclusion, isolation, and oppression of disabled people. Heather operates with a disability justice framework, working to challenge our way of thinking while fundamentally shifting the way we organize and fight for social change.



Heather's own experiences with multiple types of disabilities, neurodivergence, inaccessibility, and ableism led them to become a well-known and respected advocate, speaker, educator, and activist.

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**Sadiq Mohibi, [Immigrant Services Society of BC](#)**



Sadiq is a settlement worker for ISS of BC's SOS program for Refugee Claimants. He has a Bachelor of Business Administration and years of experience as a Victim Assistance Disability Advisor in the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in New York. For six years he was a Coordinator with Community Based Rehabilitation in Afghanistan and for seven years he was with Community Based Rehabilitation in Asia Pacific. Sadiq also worked with the VAST (Vancouver Association for Survivors of Torture), from 2018-2019.

Sadiq speaks four languages: Dari (Persian), English, Pashto and Urdu.