



## Tech in Jobs and Jobs in tech PRESENTER BIOS

### Keynote: Garth Johnson, auticon Canada



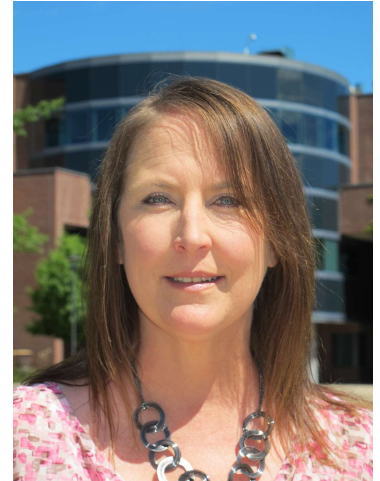
Garth Johnson co-founded Canada's first enterprise to deploy the abilities of autistic individuals as technology consultants, Meticulon, in 2013. He became CEO of auticon Canada in 2019 after the acquisition of Meticulon's technology consulting business by auticon GMBH. Garth has over 25 years of experience supporting the growth of successful technology companies. Prior to starting Meticulon, Garth served as VP of Business and Community Development for iStockphoto, and President of Fotolia (Adobe Stock) North America before helping to bring those companies to successful exits.

Garth brings his personal life experience with having an autistic family member, together with his professional passion for building sustainable, disruptive businesses to drive auticon Canada's mission to create long-term, successful technology careers for autistic Canadians. Garth also serves on the board of the [Canadian Association for Supported Employment \(CASE\)](#) and serves as past Board Chair of [Between Friends](#).

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### Rachelle Hole, UBC Okanagan

Rachelle lives on the unceded, ancestral territories of the Syilx people in the Okanagan. Rachelle is a professor in the school of social work, co-director of the UBC Canadian Institute for Inclusion and Citizenship, and a Principal's Research Chair in Critical Disability Studies at UBC Okanagan. She is also the lead research on the Transitioning Youth with Disabilities and Employment Project. Rachelle is passionate about community-engaged research that contributes to social justice and inclusion.



### Sandra Polushin, TYDE Research Assistant



Sandra resides in Langley on the unceded traditional territories of the Katzie, Kwantlen, Matsqui, and Semiahmoo First Nations. She is a research assistant with the TYDE project under Dr. Rachelle Hole at UBCO, a faculty member and coordinator with the Disability and Community Studies Department at Douglas College, and a PhD Candidate with the Faculty of Education at SFU in the Ed Tech and Learning Design program. Each of these roles and responsibilities are long-standing commitments to effect positive change *with* members of our diverse communities.



### **Jody Dickerson, Neil Squire Society**

Jody is an Assistive Technology Specialist and Trainer who specializes in using disability-specific assistive technologies, as well as mainstream technologies in unconventional ways, to remove access barriers due to physical and cognitive challenges.

Her focus is on building customized systems to meet the needs of the user, as well as providing training in how to best use technology in an empowering and independent fashion.

### **Gordon Watt, Neil Squire Society**



Gordon is a Distance Training Coordinator With more than 25 years of experience in IT customer and end-user technical support. He is a practiced professional in the field of disabilities.

Since 2011, through his work coordinating two Canada-wide programs, [Distance Computer Comfort](#) and [Digital Jumpstart](#) programs, Gordon has been very active in helping to improve the lives of the clients he works with.

His primary focus is to providing quality training and technical support to the clients receiving AT solutions, and assisting fellow Neil Squire staff resolve technical issues, when they arise.

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### **Kim Donaldson, Fable Pathways**

Kim Donaldson is the Pathways Lead at Fable. Kim brings experience from the non-profit sector where she supported people with disabilities in gaining employment. This work led her to become an advocate for accessible and inclusive workplaces. Kim has worked with Fable’s community team to provide flexible and consistent work opportunities at scale to people with disabilities. Now at Fable, Kim leads a team to create free, accessible, and on-demand course content to help people with disabilities advance their careers in the tech sector.

Outside of Fable, Kim sits on the Board of Directors at the Victoria Disability Resource Centre, where she helps the centre advance and promote its essential community programming.



### **Ling Huang, Technology North**

Ling Huang is an entrepreneur, senior consultant, and visionary with more than thirty years of experience in the security and ICT industries and clients ranging from the oil and gas industry, and healthcare to the Government of Alberta. Currently the CEO of Technology North Corporation and co-lead to the Canadian National Autism Cantech! Project, his work focuses on the integration of

business processes, inclusion programs, and technologies into a single social and technological innovation to create a better world and quality of life for people like his autistic son and others dealing with disadvantageous circumstances.

He leads the Technology North (TN) team in creating RoboCoach and Technology North Digital Services, a digital economy-focused employment program that allows those living with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) to thrive in today's world.

## **Aaron Davis, Mission Community Skills Centre Society**



Aaron Davis is the Senior Facilitator and Free Radical with Mission Community Skills Centre Society (MCSCS), a community organization dedicated to helping people improve their employability through quality services and training. In addition to facilitating employment and self-employment groups, Aaron designs programs, writes proposals, and develops curricula intended to support young adults in the community.

When the global pandemic demanded that service providers pivot to use technology for virtual services and programs, Aaron and MCSCS wasted no time in adopting video conferencing, cloud-based digital applications, and learning management systems to continue meeting the needs of youth in BC. In 2021 Aaron delivered MCSCS's entirely virtual Empowering Youth Entrepreneurs program. In 12 months, the program helped more than 40 young people with the skills, support, and financial assistance they needed

to launch their small businesses on Vancouver Island.

In their other programs MCSCS didn't simply continue to meet their contracted outcomes, they exceeded them and demonstrated that virtual delivery could be just as effective as when it is done in-person. After more than 20 years of experience facilitating, Aaron continues to find purpose and passion while walking alongside new and young workers navigating their career success.