

# Claiming Full Citizenship

Self Determination • Personalization • Individualized Funding

## 2015 International Conference

October 15 - October 17, 2015  
The Hyatt Regency, Vancouver, BC

### Post-Conference Report



Photo credit: Tourism Vancouver

Presented by



**CENTRE FOR INCLUSION AND CITIZENSHIP**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

In collaboration with



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## General Information

The Claiming Full Citizenship: Self Determination, Personalization and Individualized Funding 2015 International Conference was held on October 15 -17, 2015 at The Hyatt Regency in Vancouver, British Columbia. The conference brought together a broad range of people from around the world to share experiences and dialogue to support the effective implementation of self-determination, personalization and individualized funding and ultimately to promote the full and effective citizenship of those who rely on formal and informal supports to participate to their full capacity. This conference brought together advocates, self-advocates, policy makers, government representatives, service providers, agency administrators, as well as researchers from around the world to share stories, current research, and network with like-minded leaders from all over the world.

Presentations included topics on individualized funding, social inclusion and accessibility, as well as examining policies and implementation strategies to improve the process of claiming full citizenship. Because of it being an international conference, individuals were able to get a real understanding of practices, policies, and models that were being used in different parts of the world. A highlight of this conference was the strong representation of self-advocates in all aspects of the conference.

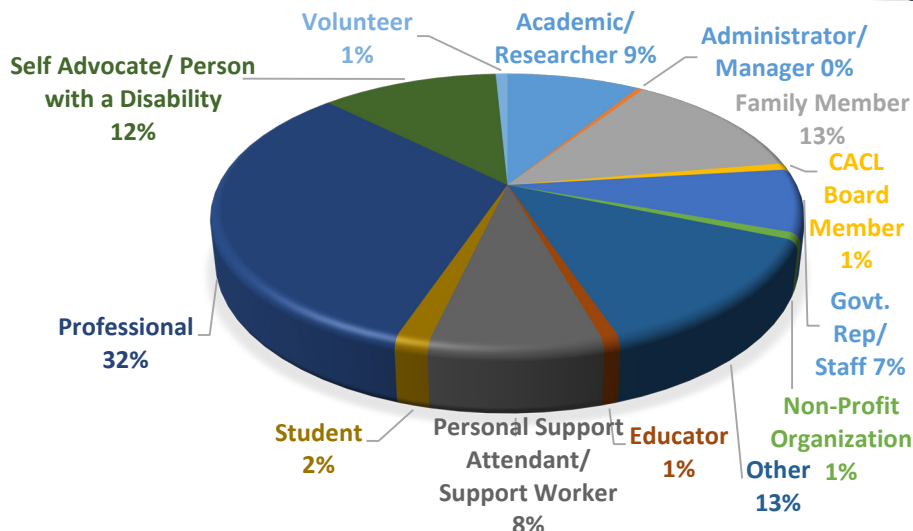
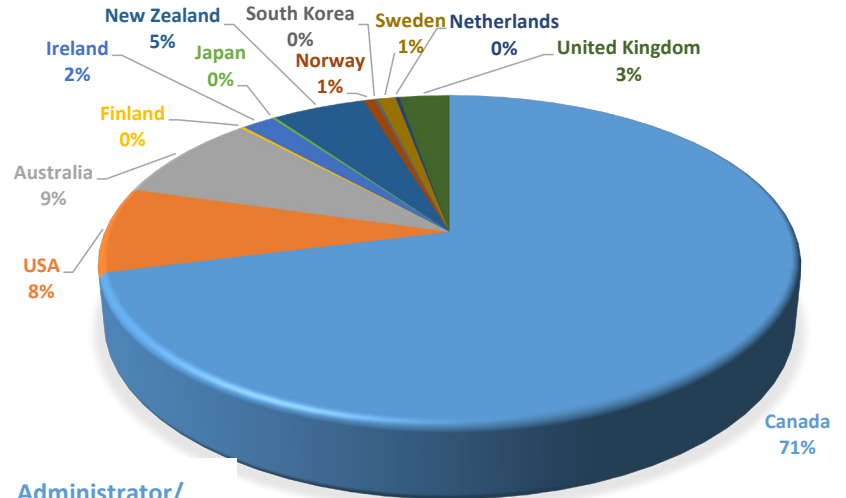
The conference was presented by the Centre for Inclusion and Citizenship and UBC Interprofessional Continuing Education. The tone of the main conference was set during the opening remarks by conference chair Tim Stainton, Professor at the School of Social Work at UBC and Director of the Centre for Inclusion and Citizenship followed by the opening prayer by Cecilia Point from Musqueam First Nation. By the end of the conference, a total of 168 presenters and 24 poster presenters shared their knowledge with delegates.



## Attendee Statistics

511 attended the main conference. The majority of participants came from Canada however, we welcomed international delegates from USA, Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Sweden, and 6 other countries.

The chart on the right illustrates the breakdown of main conference attendees by location.



More than 25 professions were represented at the conference. Major professional groups included: Academic Researchers, Self Advocates, Support Workers, and Government Representatives.

The chart on the left indicates the representation of professions.

## Participant Feedback

We are pleased to report that the overall rating of the program was highly positive based on the responses provided by our participants on the evaluation questionnaires. This year's agenda offered a wide variety of topics delivered in the following diverse formats:

- Keynote Presentations
- Plenary Presentations
- Concurrent Sessions
- Poster Presentations

"Blend of voices. Great to have so many self-advocates present- fantastic. This was a well-organized conference."



It was clear from participants' feedback that the sessions they attended enabled them to extract new ideas, change their perspectives, and have a renewed motivation to create citizenship for all.

Participants also reported that they were inspired by self-advocates that shared their stories and experiences, and felt that it gave them a nudge to take on a greater role in their work, advocate harder, and push for change. Participants also reported that attending the conference made them much more comfortable in working with other community members, as well as reaching out to others around the globe when it came to working on new strategies and advocacy for individualized funding.

"Tim was an outstanding host. Great variety in presentation topics."

Interaction with colleagues was one of the main areas highlighted in the evaluation questionnaires. During the conference, the speakers from various fields not only shared their valuable expertise and experiences, but also had an open dialogue with the audience during facilitated Q&A periods. Because of the number of sessions at one time, there was a wide variety of options with at least one being suitable for each attendee.

Many delegates expressed their views about the excellent quality of the posters, which covered a wide range of themes and research areas. They appreciated the networking opportunity with professionals of a wide variety to gain perspective on an international scale.

"Thoughtful and detailed planning- great variety of plenaries, workshops, outside of conference activities, and international perspective."  
- Government Representative



Delegates also found all the speakers and poster presenters very knowledgeable and worthwhile. Some feedback on highly-rated presentations included the following comments:

### **How our Model of Self-Direction has Changed Lives** by Dianne Mandeville

*"I liked the straight forward, plain language approach - Dianne stripped away the bureaucratic 'lingoes' and presented a model that is both innovative and yet grass roots simple"*

### **What does Supported Decision Making look like in Practice?** by Michelle Browning

*Excellent Presentation. I look forward to your thesis being published!! Thank you for doing this research!"*

### **Self-Determining 'My Life to the Max' Based On Complex Adaptive Systems Theory** by Leighton Jay & Susan Stanford

*"The terminology in this presentation was thoroughly explained. It was motivating to apply this system in every day useful situations! Great information."*

**Plenary | "What's the Story, Morning Glory" by Jim Mann**  
*"Such an eye opening, entertaining, and enriching presentation!" - Family Member*

**Plenary | "What's the Story, Morning Glory" by Linda Jordan & Ellen Goodey**  
*"Inspiring. Real. Reiterated family values. Without that strong advocating, Ellen would not be as amazing as she is. Teary-eyed with happiness!"*

As a result of participant demand, presentations have been posted with speakers' consent on the conference website at [www.interprofessional.ubc.ca/ClaimingFullCitizenship2015/presentations.asp](http://www.interprofessional.ubc.ca/ClaimingFullCitizenship2015/presentations.asp)

Overall, both the turnout and the feedback proved that the conference was greatly successful. We hope the knowledge gained during the conference will translate into an increase in supporting the realization of the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities through promoting the effective global implementation of self determination, personalization and individualized funding, as well as creating a roadmap for the effective implementation of self-determination, personalization, individualized funding and supported decision making.

"The whole conference was a breath of fresh air, stimulating and enriching. I loved the boat cruise."  
 - Family Member

"I feel revitalized. I will try to be more creative and thoughtful about what is possible."

## Acknowledgements

Without the work and support of the conference committee, sponsors, exhibitors and speakers, this conference would not have been possible. Thank you to all those involved in the planning and success of this conference.

We would like to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of the planning committee, who worked closely on this conference for the past year and a half:

Tim Stainton	Rachelle Hole
Michael Bach	Catriona Johnson
Faith Bodnar	Norman Kunc
Cindy Chapman	Jim Mann
Ross Chilton	Jeff Moulins
Katia Despot	Deborah O'Connor
Paul Gauthier	Linda Perry

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