

NCON Professional Development Conference

September 2009

The first NCON Professional Development Conference was hosted by the Peel Halton Workforce Development Group on September 24th, 2009 at the Delta Meadowvale Resort and Conference Centre in Mississauga.

The 91 participants were primarily front line staff plus some middle and senior managers from NCON member organizations and other community agencies. They heard two keynotes and two workshops. "Ecopreneurship and Green Collar Jobs: Understanding the Opportunities in Canada's Next Economy" was the title of the opening keynote delivered by Brock Dickinson, Partner, Millier Dickinson Blais Inc. He was followed by two workshops, presented simultaneously. One offered instruction on how to motivate clients in bad economic times and was presented by Peggy Grall of Peggy Grall & Associates, Inc.

The other, presented by Farishta Dinshaw of Ishoni Professional Development, provided methods by which front line staff could manage their own stress as they assisted their clients. The closing keynote, presented by Nouman Ashraf, Research Fellow, Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto, was titled "A Frank Conversation about Navigating Differences Effectively, While Serving our Diverse Client Communities." A hot breakfast, a hot lunch and coffee breaks completed the day.

QUOTES TAKEN FROM ATTENDEES AT THE 2009 PDCONFERENCE

"Wonderful Day. Thank You!"

"Great speakers gave some very valuable information on how to work with newcomers. NCON has done a great job in putting this conference together. I hope to attend more of these conferences."

"Excellent conference, very useful for my work. I have learnt a lot."

"Such conferences should be held more frequently."

"Very well organized. Thanks for taking the initiative and all the hard work behind the scene."

"Thank you for giving us the opportunity as front line staff to participate in a great PD conference through NCON. In non profit organizations, front line staff do not get enough opportunities for PD as usually the managers attend these sessions. Thank you Trillium Foundation for sponsoring this event."