



**SPEAKERS &
LEADERS
GUIDE**



2018 STUDY TOUR: Challenge The Way You Think



Tour Speakers & Leaders

Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Toronto



Ian Tyson – Youth Speaker, Co-Organizer of PAC Tour 2018, Director of Corporate and Community YLCC

Since his very first show in 1989, Ian Tyson has strived to entertain and inspire people across North America with his unique brand of “Comedy with a Message”. Ian’s passion is always on full display during his presentations, with high energy, humour and heart-warming relatable stories of overcoming obstacles and making a difference in the lives of others. An author, award-winning stand-up comic, master story-teller and insightful entertainer, Ian has performed for millions of people at the middle school, high school, college/university level and corporate clients in his career across the continent and around the world. His keynotes have been creating positive change for hundreds of thousands of people every year.

A 2009 winner of the “Leader of Distinction” Award, Ian served for 4 years on the Board of Directors for the Canadian Student Leadership Association and was a co-founder of Youth Leadership Camps Canada.

Ian’s book, “Hooray for Everything! The Optimist Manifesto” is a collection of motivational stories, tips, and rants and has been well received across the continent.

Website Links:

<http://youthspeakers.ca/ian-tyson/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=ltVnJ8czSMY

<http://www.iantyson.ca/hooray-for-everything>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=13gnjdmwBxY&t=171s>



Stu Saunders - Youth Speaker, Founder and Co-Executive Director of YLLC in Canada

Since 1991 Stu has been traveling North America delivering inspirational and hilarious speeches to over 2 million people in every province, the Yukon, across Europe and over 40 American states.

In 2005, Stu was awarded the Canadian Leader of Distinction award recognizing him for his contributions to youth leadership in Canada.

In 1999 he was tagged as one of North America’s funniest young comedians. Stu also has been named one of the top 30 leadership trainers and facilitators in the world, a list that includes Stephen Covey, Robin Sharma and Tony Robbins.



Stu Saunders is the founder and owner of Youth Leadership Camps Canada (YLCC), a summer camp and 2 full service leadership training centres. Stu runs the largest multi day leadership conference in Canada, the Ontario Student Leadership Conference (OSLC).

In 2006 Stu partnered with Robin Sharma who is the founder of one of the worlds most recognized leadership development firms; Sharma Leadership International. Stu has been known for his ability to inspire and connect with the youth and he strives to provoke positive change. He exudes courage and strength with his persona and somehow targets the true inner self within all those that he interacts with.

Stu's Workshops:

Leadership NOW and Carpe Diem – Seize Today

That's right, not yesterday or some future day, but TODAY!

Too often people of ALL ages wait for something to happen before they decide to make a change or a choice. Stu's keynote program challenges us with powerful examples of people who seize today. His true-life stories are hilarious, thoughtful and full of adventure. Stu encourages his audiences to stop worrying about what they look like amongst their friends and co-workers. He encourages them to start living each day, each hour, each minute, and each second to the fullest!

Website Links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uHrTZmFqUyQ>

<http://youthspeakers.ca/stu-saunders/>



Dan and Mary Lou Smoke - Adjunct Professors at Western University & Speakers & Award Winners

Smoke Signals and are available at the Aboriginal Resource Centre to provide personal consultation, conversation, guidance and mentorship to First Nations, Métis & Inuit students and the campus community.

Mary Lou is very knowledgeable about the arts and traditional indigenous knowledge systems. She has been singing traditionally in many sacred ceremonies and lodges throughout North America. Dan has been working with traditional knowledge carriers from many Nations which include: Cayuga, Seneca, Oneida, Mohawk, Tuscarora, and Onondaga Nations of the Haudenosaunee. He has also been working with the Ojibway Medicine Man Isaac Day to learn the pipe and the fasting ceremonies.

In recognizing as much, the City of London, Ontario named Dan and Mary Lou Smoke to the 2001 Mayor's New Year's Honours List in the "Humanitarian" category. Since 1991 Dan and Mary Lou Smoke have been the hosts of the First Nations radio program "Smoke Signals" (CHRW 94.9 FM Radio Western, University of Western Ontario), a radio newsmagazine program that bridges the gap of understanding between Native and non-Native world views.



They are also commentators on the local London TV station, CTV which is owned by the CTV Bell Globe Media Family. They reach an audience of 8 million viewers in Southern Ontario.

He has been an invited speaker at the AGM of the Canadian Association of Journalists in Winnipeg, Manitoba, in 2005. Mary Lou, a member of the Ojibway Nation, is a gifted writer, singer, guitarist and traditional drummer who willingly volunteers and shares her talents with the community at large. Mary Lou has performed internationally (Germany, Holland), nationally (1976 Olympics) and locally (Grand Theatre, London and Ontario Place, Toronto). She also performs at traditional pow wows and Aboriginal Music Festivals. In 2013, Mary Lou was selected to be one of the YMCA's Southwestern Ontario Women of Excellence Award Winners in the Category of Education and Culture. They continue to be Cultural Counsellors for a number of Colleges, Universities, Agencies and Organizational Service Providers

Website Links:

PLEASE WATCH!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubyozti2TCA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=klHyDXx5st8>

<http://london.ctvnews.ca/more/smoke-signals>



Helen Bajorek MacDonald - a writer, critic, poet, journalist, photographer and university lecturer at the University of Toronto, Trent University in Peterborough, and School of Education at University of Ontario Institute

Her family was among the hundreds of thousands of Polish families deported and imprisoned by the Soviets in the Soviet-occupied part of Poland during the years of Soviet-Nazi friendship, 1939-1941.

She is an author of *Iron in the Blood*. The Bowmanville Foundry: One Hundred Years of Innovation (2004), and of *"Gra[M]other Tongue"*. Her video production, *Our Grandmothers, Ourselves*, is based on the narratives of Canadian women, in which Canadian women of various cultural, ethnic and economic backgrounds celebrate the memories of their grandmothers. She dedicated the film to her grandmother who was of Polish origin and kept up the Polish tradition in her family. The film was featured in *"Legacies"* of the Future, Joseph Carrier Gallery (2005)





Jean-Michel Komarnicki, Photographer, artist, graduate of the Photographic Arts Department of Ryerson Polytechnical Institute Instructor of photographic printing at Ryerson University

He is currently – President, Visual Arts Centre of Clarington, Instructor, Visual Arts Centre of Clarington: teaching Photography Workshops, director and owner of JMK Image-ination where he specializes in the concept, design and production of printed publications – books, manuals, brochures – as well as providing

photographic services.

His recent solo exhibitions include: New Works: Sun Kissed Developments and Preliminary Plans, Variations on the Flag; Etude and Variations on RGB, Clarington Gallery, Bowmanville, Ontario (October 2008), What Remains, Kent Farndale Gallery, Port Perry, Ontario, an exhibition of 29 photographs (Feb. 2008), Nine Photographs, Artist Showcase, Municipal Administrative Centre of Clarington (1996); collaborative: Photographs & Poems: Look and Where Colour Is, Clarington Public Library Artspace on the Mezzanine (2008), Over the Bridge, Our Field, Kumf Gallery, Toronto (2008), Duotopia, 6 artists paired with 6 politicians by artist/ animator Robin Pacific (2004).

Website Links: <http://www.jmkimage-ination.com>



Natalia Kusendova – Outreach Advisor at Ontario Parliament, Vice-Chair, ‘Quo Vadis 2017: Nowa Fala’ Conference, Senior Advisor, PISK (Polish Students’ Initiative of Canada), Director, KPK (Canadian Polish Congress), Board of Directors, The Polish Combatants’ Association Branch 20

Natalia graduated from the University of Toronto in 2012 with a BSc in Human and Molecular Biology. After a few years of working in the corporate environment, she decided to pursue her passion for health care and enrolled in an accelerate BSc in Nursing, Scholar Practitioner Program at Nipissing University, from which she graduated in 2016.

Natalia’s dream is to participate in the shaping, transformation and improvement of Ontario’s health care system through advocacy and involvement in policy and politics. She serves as an Outreach Advisor to Patrick Brown, Leader of Ontario’s Official Opposition. She is also a member of the PC Health Care Policy Advisory Council where she is working together with other health care professionals on proposing innovative, true and tested solutions to the current health care challenges.

She believes that strong communities and future leaders are created through civic engagement and mentorship. She is very passionate about her Polish roots and has volunteered for many Polonia organizations over the years.



Currently, she is a Director at the Canadian Polish Congress National Head Executive Board where she is focusing on youth engagement, mentorship and fundraising.

She also volunteers her time for our honoured Veterans at Polish Combatants' Association, Branch 20. She believes that in order to carve a path and a future for oneself, a young person must be aware of their ancestral history and their cultural heritage. She is tremendously grateful to all Veterans and senior community leaders for their sacrifices, their incredible work ethic and their willingness to share with the younger generations.

She welcomes all opportunities to chat about nursing, health, Polonia or politics.

Website Links:

Becoming a Young Professional: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pwv5_NbctN0

Conference: Polish-Canadian Young Professional

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7H_JdXPJZgc

<https://quovadisconferences.org/natalia-kusendova>

<https://www.facebook.com/QuoVadisConferencesCanada>



Andrew Borkowski - a writer, journalist and University of Toronto teacher.

He grew up along Roncesvalles Avenue, north of Sunnyside, where he pursued a road hockey career in the back laneways, hoisting several Stanley Cups ingeniously crafted from his mother's pots and pans.

Being inclined to ride off in many directions at once, Andrew combined his literary aspirations with a theatrical career in the years following university. He apprenticed with theatre director George Luscombe at Toronto Workshop Productions, and wrote, produced, and directed one-act plays for the city's fringe theatre festivals.

He devoted himself to freelance journalism, contributing travel, arts and human interest pieces to the Globe and Mail, the Los Angeles Times, Chatelaine magazine and countless doomed and now-defunct publications.

Andrew's first book, Copernicus Avenue, a cycle of stories inspired by his youth in Roncesvalles' Polish community will be published in spring 2011 by Cormorant Books.

Website Links:

<http://www.andrewborkowski.com/AndyJBorkowski/home.html>

