



SPEAKERS & LEADERS GUIDE



STUDY TOUR: Challenge The Way You Think



Canada Study Tour Guide to Speakers



Alina Deja (Polish Academy of Canada)

She is a passionate Canadianist, energetic English Coach Confidence, Positivity Purveyor, and Passionate Home Cook. I have Silesian-Polish roots, fell in love with Canada, and currently I live in Berlin with my husband where I enjoy the German cultural diversity and share the Canadian values. Her mission is to inspire and empower today's young Europeans to leave a positive impact on our world through their involvement in leadership exchanges. She also dedicates herself to strengthening EU-Canada bilateral relations, by developing multilateral applied educational projects in areas of common interest for both Europe and Canada.



Ian Tyson – Motivational Speaker and PAC advisor

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.





Stu Saunders - Youth Speaker, Founder of YLCC 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 centers. 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.

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!

Carla Cuglietta



Carla Cuglietta is a Canadian born educator, consultant, humanitarian and keynote speaker. Over the last 22 years she has been involved in global projects in several countries around the world, all aimed at teaching youth about building a better life through personal leadership. Carla is the Executive Director and Co-founder of YoungLeaders.World, an international non-profit organization with the aim to help young people understand that leadership is a mindset, not a status, and that mindset is possible for all. To date, she has trained over 12,000 youth worldwide and has spoken to tens of thousands more through her speaking tours. Carla has been awarded the Canadian Prime Minister's Certificate of Achievement and the University of

Alberta Alumni of Distinction for her work in engaging youth in Canada. In addition, she has been awarded the YWCA Woman of Distinction and the Lions Club International Humanitarian Award for her leadership and humanitarian work around the world.





Tyler Waye

Tyler Waye is a career strategist, leadership consultant, author, agitator of those on autopilot, green tea drinker, athlete and keynote speaker. Tyler speaks around the world and consult globally, having worked with numerous private, not-for-profit and public sector organizations. His body of work includes: leadership, the future of work, and strategies for change. Tyler is the author of the book, "I Went To School That Long For THIS?!" He is the co-founder of YoungLeaders.World, a global non-profit helping young people understand leadership. Tyler holds a Master of Arts degree in Leadership. He has been a long time instructor with Executive Education at the University of Alberta, and he is the host of the 10,000 Days docu-series. Tyler currently works as an executive at one of the biggest YouTube media outlets in the world.



Lois Harder

Lois Harder is the Dean of Social Sciences at the University of Victoria. She is committed to creating opportunities for engaging conversations about leadership. Before starting this new role, Lois was the Principal at the Peter Lougheed Leadership College at the University of Alberta for 3 years. Lois holds a PhD in Political Science and Government. As an academic, Lois' research and teaching focuses on citizenship law, social policy and the complexities of birthright citizenship. In 2014, Lois was the Eccles Centre Visiting Canadian Fellow in North American Studies at the British Library and a Visiting Scholar at the University of Kent Centre for Law, Gender and Sexuality in March 2015. She also held a Fulbright Professorship at the University of Hawaii (2008). Together with her former student Michelle Thomarat, Lois was awarded the Jill Vicker's Prize from the Canadian Political Science Association for her work. In addition to her academic work, Lois is an avid amateur musician, playing violin in a piano trio and violin and viola in an early music ensemble.



Dr. Curtis Clarke

Curtis Clarke served as the Deputy Minister for Education and PostSecondary Institutions in Alberta, Canada for 6 years. He has held a variety of public service leadership positions including associate deputy solicitor general, assistant deputy minister and executive director. He helped design and implement national and international models of competency-based curriculum design and delivery as a founding member of the INTERPOL Group of Experts in Training, as president of the Canadian Association of Police Educators, and as a board member of the National Police Sector Council. He holds a PhD in sociology from York University, has a leadership certificate from Cornell University, and has completed an executive program in public policy from the Harvard Kennedy School. Curtis currently works in leadership development and consulting.





Lauren White

When Lauren is an award-winning advocate and youth keynote speaker. When Lauren was nine years old, she fell in love with filmmaking and storytelling and started to post YouTube videos online. Since then, she worked for years as Creative Director for a group of children's YouTube channels with millions of subscribers. Her early success in her career allowed her to travel the world, reaching every continent in an effort to learn as much as she can about global and social issues including weaving in her own stories of being able to persevere through some of her own challenges. Lauren has raised thousands of dollars for education projects, led petitions and campaigns in support of Gay-Straight Alliances in Alberta, played for Team Canada Junior Roller Derby, has written many screenplays and short stories, and has started her own business in photography and videography. Now, Lauren is 22 years old and is working for a YouTube company.



Melissa Hoffort teaches the Kindness Course in Polish Academy of Canada and is a helping hand to understand leadership in Canada. Melissa Hoffort is a native to the Canadian Prairies before she found her home on Vancouver Island, more than 20 years ago. Melissa identifies as Spouse, Mother, Sister, Daughter, Recovering perfectionist, reader, walker, be-outsider, spiritual being, anti-hustler, Human-doing-their-best. Beyond that, Melissa is a Certified Professional Coach with a primary focus on working with Mothers to be their best at all stages of parenthood. Her background as a Mother and small business owner, combined with over 15 years of retail sales and management has offered many opportunities to work with a variety of people and grow as an individual. Melissa is grateful to be growing through and with her community and clients.



Helen Bajorek McDonald

An educator and active life-long learner. She is committed to best practices in curriculum design and instruction, both in the classroom and through E-learning. Whether working in a leadership capacity, as part of a team, or independently, I welcome challenges, applying strong organization, problem-solving and effective communications skills to all tasks and projects, along with a commitment to purpose and respect for others, timelines, targets, performance, and results. Extensive travel has played a role in informing my perspectives on teaching, learning, the arts, global awareness, and the roles of individuals in society.



Jean-Michel Komarnicki

Jean-Michel Komarnicki is a photographer and instructor of photography, as well as owner of JMK Image-ination where he specializes in the concept, design and production of books, and photography. Since his graduation from the Photographic Arts Department of Ryerson Polytechnical Institute (1971), he has exhibited his works in a variety of venues. He has lectured on Canadian photography at universities in Poland and Ukraine (2009). He curates the Artspace on the Mezzanine at the Bowmanville branch of the Clarington Public Library.



About his work, Jean-Michel states: “When I photograph, I simply observe. I try not to intrude, without hiding. I look for the artifice and layers of images in a scene, I then let the shutter click as quietly as possible. I seek the unusual and fleeting in the ordinary – be it in people or objects. In a way, I look for the unintentional and attempt to transform it into an intentional image. In the end, I hope to elicit from the viewer, after perhaps a bit of puzzlement, a smile of understanding. And, as Robert Frank wrote: ‘When people look at my pictures, I want them to feel the way they do when they want to read a line of a poem twice’.



Oliwia Sagan

PAC Team Spirit Leader

Olivia is 16 years old and a student at IB school in Lublin. As a spirit leader she values good communication within the group and loves to bring the young people up instead of down. She wants to help the Polish youth to understand that they all have values worth bringing to the group, and all of them are important. She has been to Canada two times and the second time as a spirit leader of the group.

What she loves about Canada is the people who taught her a lot about being herself and learning how to grow within herself. In Canada she has learnt to give back so much care and kindness into her environment and, in her opinion, this is what Canada is all about. She also loves traveling, reading books, watching films and her dog Yoda. She is in medical program at her high school.

