

Professional Development Conference for Homestay Managers

November 29-30, 2018

Toronto, Ontario

AGENDA

Thursday

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|-------------------|--|
| 1 pm – 1:15 pm | Welcome and Introductions |
| 1:15 pm – 2:15 pm | <p>Get Your Hosts to Solve Problems – And Save You Time and Grief!</p> <p>Equip your host families to prevent problems, resolve conflicts and build strong relationships with students – all without you having to intervene. This session will provide concrete tools and ideas that you can implement in your program.</p> <p><i>Kristi Ash is the manager of recruitment and community development with Muskoka Language International. She has many years of experience in the education sector.</i></p> |
| 2:15 pm – 3:15 pm | <p>Marijuana is Legal: How Does this Impact Hosts, Students and Your Program</p> <p>With the legalization of recreational marijuana, programs face many issues. Will you ask potential hosts about their use and how will this impact your selection process? How will you deal with concerned parents? What plans do you have to educate students, most of whom come from countries where pot use is a serious crime?</p> <p><i>Doug Ronson publishes the Homestay Times newsletter and has written about the issue of marijuana legalization for several years.</i></p> |
| 3:15 pm – 3:45 pm | Coffee and Networking Break |
| 3:45 pm – 4:45 pm | <p>Money: Homestay Is Not Supposed To Be About Finances But...</p> <p>Hosts are increasingly concerned about the high cost of food and will switch programs for a few extra dollars per month. This session will look at all things financial – monthly fees, damage deposits, food costs and more.</p> <p><i>Doug Ronson has been involved in homestay for more than 20 years as a host, homestay coordinator and as the author of a guide for hosts</i></p> |
| 5:30 pm - 7 pm | Networking Reception |

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FRIDAY

9 am – 10 am

Privacy, Confidentiality and Duty to Report

Whether your students are in high school or young adults, it's important to understand the legal requirements to protect them. This session will discuss what standards you should put in place.

Dave Bird is a veteran educator and expert in education law and risk management.

10 am – 10:30 am

Coffee Break and Networking

10:30 am – 12 noon

Host Contracts: Make Sure All Your Bases Are Covered

Contracts with your hosts should not only cover expectations, they should also protect you in the event that something goes awry in a homestay. This session will discuss everything that must be included in a contract.

Dave Bird is a veteran educator and expert in education law and risk management.

12 pm – 1 pm

Buffet Lunch

1 pm – 2:30 pm

Supporting LGBTQ2S International Students

Many LGBTQ2S students face serious discrimination in their home countries. When they arrive in Canada, they may find more tolerance but questions still remain. Should they come out to classmates, teachers and the host family? We will consider how Homestay Coordinators can help students during their homestay.

Chris Spiess is a trainer with The519.org, a Toronto LGBTQ2S rights organization.

2:30 pm-2:45 pm

Coffee Break

2:45 pm – 3:45 pm

Case Studies of Challenging Homestay Scenarios at Tables

(separate tables for high schools, language schools and post-secondary)

3:45 pm – 4 pm

Key Takeaways and Wrap up