

# Homestay Staff Professional Development Conference

Nov. 17-18, 2022

SFU Downtown, Morris J. Wosk Centre, Room 470  
580 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, British Columbia

## Thursday

- 12 noon **Welcome Lunch**
- 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm **Why homestays are vital to the success of international programs**  
*John Taplin, Global Village Victoria*  
International education veteran John Taplin will discuss the key role that homestays play in the ensuring that students are satisfied. He will offer some fresh ideas on host recruitment and retention in this engaging presentation of humorous anecdotes, tips and stories from his new book *Easier Said Than Done: Adventures in the Language Business*.
- 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm **Supporting both hosts and students in problem solving**  
*Rhonda Teramura, Campbell River School District*  
Conflict between students and their hosts is common. This session will look at a behaviour plan process that has been implemented by one British Columbia school district. When issues arise, the process helps students and provides support for hosts. It streamlines coaching and, if necessary, facilitates a homestay move or disciplinary action.
- 2:30 pm – 3 pm **Networking and coffee break**
- 3 pm – 4 pm **Home Inspections: Make sure your students are safe**  
*Chris Short, Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services*  
A thorough home visit and inspection is a vital component of screening hosts. In this presentation, a representative of the Vancouver fire prevention team will discuss what to look for to ensure that students are safe in their homestays.
- 5:30 pm – 7 pm **Networking reception**

**Thanks to our sponsor!**

**Supporting the health & wellness**  
of international students  
and their valued homestay parents.



## Friday

- 8:30 am – 10 am      **Protect your program with solid host and student contracts**  
*Dave Bird, Risk Management Consultant*  
By writing detailed contracts, you make sure that both students and hosts understand the rules. In addition, you reduce the risks facing your program. This session will provide sample contracts that you can use as a basis for your own standard agreements. Dave will be joining us via Zoom link from Ontario.
- 10 am – 10:30 am      **Coffee break and networking**
- 10:30 am – 12 noon      **Food costs are soaring! Should you raise host compensation?**  
*Doug Ronson, ESQ Educational Services*  
Many hosts are quitting or have expressed concerns to homestay programs that payments no longer cover the cost of food. This session will discuss some creative ideas for helping hosts and how homestay staff should address this issue.
- 12 noon – 1 pm      **Lunch**
- 1 pm – 2 pm      **Recruiting hosts in challenging times**  
*Doug Ronson, ESQ Educational Services*  
During the pandemic, many programs lost existing hosts for a wide variety of reasons. With students coming back to Canada, it's essential to find new hosts. We'll be inviting you to share some ideas on what works for your program.
- 2 pm – 3 pm      **Case studies of complex homestay scenarios**  
Prior to the conference, we'll be asking you to share challenging homestay scenarios that you are facing or have dealt with in the past. We'll select a variety of cases for discussion at tables. Each group will present their case study and proposed solution.