

Toronto Homestay Staff Professional Development Conference

Monday, October 28, 2024

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| 12 noon | Welcome Lunch (included with your registration) |
| 12:30 pm – 1 pm | Introductions and goals for the workshop |
| 1 pm – 2 pm | Recruitment of Homestay Hosts
<i>Doug Ronson, ESQ Educational Services</i>
Hosts are essential to the success of any program. Without enough hosts, you may have to turn away students. This session will focus on proven techniques to recruit outstanding hosts without wrecking your budget or taking up all of your time. |
| 2 pm – 3 pm | Improving intercultural communications
<i>Samantha Morneau, Certified Intercultural Competency and Diversity Trainer</i>
A session focused on understanding culture and how our cultural values and make-up affect and dictate our actions, thoughts and beliefs. This will set the foundation to explore how we can be better communicators with individuals from varying cultures, how to manage a cross-cultural misunderstanding and how non-verbal cues can contribute to this. Participants will leave with tools and resources to enhance their intercultural competency and communication skills. |
| 3:00 pm – 3:15 pm | Networking and coffee break |
| 3:15 pm – 4:45 pm | You have great hosts. Now how do you keep them?
This will be a facilitated discussion with group members sharing ideas on how to retain hosts for the long term. We will consider ways in which programs can build community among hosts and students and ensure that their needs are met. |
| 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm | Networking reception |

Thanks to our sponsor!

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



Tuesday, October 29, 2024

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| 8 am | Coffee and scones (included with your registration) |
| 8:30 am – 9:30 am | Working with diverse students and hosts
This will be a facilitated discussion about how to work with a diverse range of hosts and students. |
| 9:30 am – 10 am | Coffee break and networking |
| 10:00 am – 12 noon | Reducing Risks in Homestays
<i>Dave Bird, Education Risk Management Consultant</i>

This presentation will discuss ways to protect your students and hosts and reduce liability risks to your program. It will present a checklist for home inspections and explain what must be included in a host family contract. |
| 12 noon to 1 pm | Lunch (included with your registration) |
| 1 pm to 2 pm | Leveraging technology in host recruitment and retention
<i>Doug Ronson, ESQ Educational Services</i>

Many programs need more hosts but lack time for recruitment. This session will discuss ways to attract more hosts by leveraging technology and minimizing time spent on this vital task. Host retention is essential and can also be supported with a variety of tools. |
| 2 pm – 3 pm | Case studies of complex homestay scenarios

Participants will be asked to share challenging case studies that they have faced. We will discuss these as a group to develop ideas for dealing with difficult situations. |

About the presenters

Doug Ronson

Doug is the author of the Essential Guide for Homestay Hosts and the publisher of The Essential Guide for Homestay Students. He has been an international educator for more than 25 years and has served as a host parent, homestay coordinator and student recruiter. He just published a book, The World's Campus, which discusses the impact that international students are having on Canada.

Samantha Morneau

Samantha is a certified Intercultural Competency and Diversity Trainer and has been facilitating workshops for PSI and K12 staff, faculty and students since 2016. Her goal is to empower people to have better and more effective experiences engaging cross-culturally, particularly when supporting international students on campus.

Samantha is with Student VIP Insurance, where she is responsible for developing inclusive and accessible health insurance plans and services, including mental health programs for international students. She draws on her professional experience and student case studies to educate and promote mental health and wellness services for youth.

Dave Bird

Dave is Canada's foremost expert in risk management in the education sector. He has consulted with private schools and school districts across Canada, covering issues such as homestays, student recruitment and legal liability.