

Call for Presenters

Speaking Out Conference 2026

Port Elgin, Ontario

Your voice matters! Share your knowledge, experience, or creative ideas by submitting a **presentation proposal** for the **Speaking Out 2026 Conference**.

This conference is led by self-advocates and supporters. It focuses on self-advocacy, community, and our theme, *Embracing our Abilities*.

We welcome presentation ideas from:

- People with lived experience of a developmental disability
- Self-advocates
- Supporters, and organizations that work with and on behalf of people with developmental disabilities

What We Are Looking For

- Workshops that are interactive and fun
- Presentations that help people learn, connect, and feel empowered
- Presenters who interact with their audience by using methods such as: music, slides or pictures, videos, group discussions, activities or games or something that works for you!
- **Highly interactive workshops** that involve the audience and **feature** people with lived experiences **as presenters**.

Example Topic Ideas-

- Sensory activities
- Drum circle or music
- Fun ways to exercise
- Budgeting and money skills
- Rights and advocacy
- Sharing your story to help others
- Public speaking

- Jobs, resumes, and working in the community
- Fundraising or event planning
- Building friendships and connections
- Legal help and where to find support
- ODSP and employment options
- Therapy through fun activities (karaoke, pets, music)
- Or maybe you have a great idea of your own!

Interested?

If you feel you have a fun and interactive presentation idea, a story to share, or a skill to teach, fill out the presentation application form.

Please submit presentation proposals by May 31, 2026 to:

Vicky.pearson@ccl.on.ca

Presentation Application Form

Speaking Out Conference 2026

About You

1. Name:

2. Contact:

Email: _____

Phone: _____

3. How do you identify? (check all that apply)

Person with a disability

Self-advocate

Family Member or Supporter

Organization

Other: _____

Your Presentation Idea

4. What is the title of your presentation?

5. Has this presentation been presented before?

Yes

No

If Yes, when and where?

6. What is the key message you hope people will learn or take away from your presentation?

7. Give a brief description of your presentation to be included in our conference booklet.

8. What do you hope people will learn or experience?

How You Will Present -

9. How will you inspire and motivate your audience?

10. We highly encourage you to interact with your audience. How will you involve the audience in your presentation? (check all that apply)

- Group discussion
- Activities or games
- Music or movement
- Slides or pictures
- Video
- Other: _____

11. Have you presented to a group before?

Yes

No

A little
(It's okay if this is new!)

12. Projector, screens, laptop and microphones, flipcharts and markers are all provided for your presentation. Is there any other equipment you require?

13. Will you have handouts, resources and/or prizes to share with the audience?

Yes

No

If Yes, please describe and include a copy of any handouts and materials. Full description of prizes, gifts etc. must be listed and pre-approved.