

Call for Keynote Speaker Submissions



The Speaking Out Conference Planning Committee is excited to invite proposals for **Keynote Speaker** at the **2026 Speaking Out Conference**.

The Speaking Out Conference brings together people with developmental disabilities, self-advocates, families, supporters and support professionals for a weekend of learning, connection, and inspiration.

The Speaking Out conference theme is ***Embracing Our Abilities*** and if you have a related story, idea or message related to this topic, we would love to hear from you. We welcome submissions from people with lived experience, meaningful stories, and perspectives that inspire, challenge, and celebrate inclusion.

Keynote Speaker Expectations

Keynote speakers will:

- Deliver a **60-minute keynote presentation** related to the theme, ***Embracing Our Abilities***
- Inspire and connect with a wide group of people by sharing your lived experience
- Support the overall success and positive atmosphere of the conference
- Interact with the audience by use of humour, visual aids, handouts, or interactive activities

Who Can Apply

- People with **lived experience of a developmental disability** and/or **supporters of the disability community**
- Speakers who are inclusive, engaging, and comfortable presenting to a large audience
- Previous speaking experience is an asset but not required
- People who enjoy sharing their story

Submission Deadline: March 21, 2026

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS? Contact Vicky Pearson at 519-476-6096 or vicky.pearson@cll.on.ca

Keynote Speaker 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

Other: _____

Your Presentation Idea

4. What is the title of your presentation?

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

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

7. What do you hope people will learn or experience by listening to your presentation?

How You Will Present

8. How will you inspire and motivate your audience?

9. 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: _____

10. Have you presented to a group before?

- Yes
- No

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

12. 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.

Alternate Presentation Interest

If you are not selected as a keynote speaker, would you be interested in presenting a session at the conference?

Yes

No