



# Building Capacity in Independent Facilitation OIFN Shared Learning Events 2021-2022

***OIFN Shared Learning Events are designed for people living with disabilities, family members and/or loved ones, and aspiring, new, and experienced independent facilitators.***

Courses will be held virtually using **Zoom Video Conferencing** and delivered in an interactive format, to include a combination of presentation, small group work, reflective exercises, whole group dialogue, and invitations to do some reading and reflection prior to the sessions.

## **DECEMBER 7 & 9, 2021** **Leisure Identities & Valued Social Roles**

Led by Judith McGill of LifePath Facilitation and Training

## **JANUARY 18 & 19, 2022** **The Power of Possibility: Who I Am and Why I Do What I Do**

Led by Heather Simmons of H Training and Consultancy

## **MARCH 1 & 3, 2022** **Conscious Listening and Speaking**

Led by Judith McGill of LifePath Facilitation and Training

**\$150.00 per course**

**OR**

**Register for all 3 courses for \$400.00**

*Passport funding can be used to cover registration for people and families, to be submitted under Person-directed Planning.*

*Some subsidies are available for people, family members, and loved ones.*

*Please fill out the **OIFN Bursary Request Form** here: <https://forms.gle/vqjBFKZMsPbu7vDg7>*

**Space is limited! Register now:**  
**<https://tinyurl.com/OIFNSharedLearning21-22>**

If you need assistance to register, please contact Bill Rollo, OIFN Administrative Assistant  
brolo@oifn.ca or 519-966-8094, Ext. 6

## Course Descriptions

### The Power of Leisure Identities & Valued Social Roles

with Judith McGill, LifePath Facilitation and Training

**Tuesday, December 7 & Thursday, December 9, 2021 | 10:00am - 3:00pm Eastern each day**

This two-day course helps to build a more robust understanding of how social roles define how we come to know others in social contexts and how we become known. Without this role “lens” it is difficult to help adults to take up a meaningful life in the community where they can offer their gifts and make a contribution.

This energizing and thought provoking course begins with personal introspection around the ways each of us creates a life for ourselves. The unique exercises and dialogue lead to a fuller appreciation of leisure and how it can create aliveness and balance in our lives. Some leading questions include:

- What does it take to support others to go after their dreams, to really do what they have always imagined doing?
- How can people be supported to get on with creating a passionate life for themselves within their leisure.?

*"What is really intrinsic in leisure identities is the combination between the doing and the relationship. We appreciate that others really "see us." We need to be both the giver and receiver. Not always the receiver. Even though it may change over time what remains is a sense that "I have something I am passionate about and I can share that passion with you and get acknowledged for the passion." That is important for all of us. Particularly for those who live with labels and seem to always be on the receiving end. Our passions help others to see one another as a belonging member of society." - Past Participant*

### The Power of Possibility: Who I Am and Why I Do What I Do

with Heather Simmons, H Training and Consultancy

**Tuesday, January 18 & Wednesday, January 19, 2022 | 10:00am - 3:00pm Eastern each day**

Imagining possibilities takes practice!

Many of us doubt our own worth and are held back by what we see as our failings and inadequacies. We often find it difficult to be comfortable with difference, seeing it as a negative and judging people harshly. In the world we live in ‘possibility thinking’ can be a challenge. At the heart of any Person-centred work is the capacity to imagine possibilities for people and their lives. Throughout this course we will

- focus on gifts and capacities for ourselves and for others
- look at language and how words shape perceptions.
- offer the Values of Inclusion to encourage people to think differently.

This course is intended to encourage participants to develop their capacity to think in terms of possibilities and in creating freedom in their imagination to see themselves and their situation differently and the future of people labelled with disability or difference. The course will be practical and interactive, with exercises that encourage participants to see the best in themselves and in others. Come and join us...see where your imagination can take you!

### Conscious Listening and Speaking

with Judith McGill, LifePath Facilitation and Training

**Tuesday, March 1 & Thursday, March 3, 2022 | 10:00am - 3:00pm Eastern each day**

We are called to find a way to listen with our entire being to what matters the most to the people we serve and our family members who live with a disability. Our aim is to meaningfully come to know those we serve so that we can support them set the pace and direction of change. Today, conversation is skewed by a barrage of questions with little space left to have something new emerge spontaneously in our speaking and listening.

This two-day, in-depth course offers participants an expanded imagination of what it takes to be truly present in a conversation and hold space. Through personal reflection and dialogue, participants will have opportunities to explore new ways to approach conversations and practice what it takes to transform our relationships with others.

*"The reflective nature of this webinar encouraged me to grow as an independent facilitator and to become more in tune with the possibilities that can exist if we are willing to walk with people and truly listen with our whole being to what they are telling us, as well as the possibilities that exist if we are willing to look a and be conscious of our own prejudices." - Past Participant*

*"Judith has figured out the fine line between too much information and not enough, providing a surprising depth to such a short amount of time." - Past Participant*

## About the Course Guides



### Judith McGill

Judith has had extensive experience over the past 27 years supporting individuals with developmental disabilities within the context of their families to take the next step, whatever that might be and to live the life they have imagined. She is the Executive Director of Families for a Secure Future and as such has had the privilege to mentor several facilitators on an ongoing basis over the years. Judith has been writing and speaking about leisure, relationships, independent facilitation, and community building in the field of disability for almost four decades. She has a marvelous capacity for supporting people to discover what really matters in their life and muster the courage to go after it. Judith has a brother who lives with a disability.

To learn more, please visit:

LifePath Facilitation website: <https://www.lifepathfacilitation.ca/>

Families for a Secure Future website: <https://www.familiesforasecurefuture.ca/>

### Heather Simmons

Heather Simmons is a life long advocate for people with disabilities – people on the margins. She is an author, presenter, and thinker. With a lovely Scottish brogue, she is relentless in challenging us to dig deep, think harder, be better.

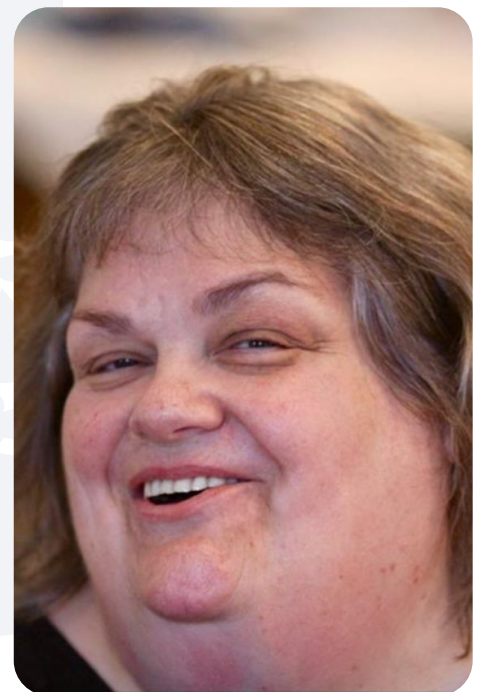
Acknowledged internationally for her thoughtful approach to facilitating learning to create change, Heather is committed to finding ways to support people to be intentional, principled and person centred: able to understand what good looks like in the work and to translate their values in to practical, meaningful action.

Her roots in this work are personal and professional. Work and life experiences and challenges cause her to think every single day about what it would take to have the things she teaches and believes make a real difference in the day to day lives of people with disabilities, their families and communities.

She reflects on these experiences in her blog.

“Just Thinking” blog: [hsimmons708.blogspot.com.au](http://hsimmons708.blogspot.com.au)

Change Makers page: <https://inclusion.com/inclusion-resources/change-makers/heather-simmons/>



### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **Who would benefit from these courses?**

These offerings were developed with the intention of creating a shared learning experience that includes people living with disabilities, family members and/or loved ones, and aspiring, new, and experienced independent facilitators.

OIFN invites participants who are interested in learning together in an inclusive space where all perspectives are present and heard and where co-learning, reflection, and deepening of capacities are grounded in the insights and experiences of people and families and/or loved ones.

#### **Do I need to take all of the courses to be able to participate?**

No, you are welcome and encouraged to partake in any of these course offerings as you wish. There is value in each of the courses on a stand-alone basis, and each course will offer unique opportunities to deepen one's capacity and understanding of the practice.

#### **Will OIFN be offering other dates/times for these courses?**

Additional dates will be considered, based on available resources, demand, and feedback received from these sessions. OIFN will be pursuing opportunities to continue to offer co-learning events in the future.

#### **Does completion of these courses "certify" me as an independent facilitator?**

OIFN does not certify or endorse independent facilitators in Ontario. Independent facilitators are not part of a regulated profession. This means that there is not one specific path, course, or background required to become an independent facilitator.

Upon completion of a course, participants may e-mail Bill Rollo at [broлло@oifn.ca](mailto:broлло@oifn.ca) to request Recognition of Participation.

#### **Are there subsidies available for people with disabilities and their family members?**

OIFN strives to offer affordable rates and encourage broad participation in these learning events.

People who receive Passport funding can submit for reimbursement of course fees.

If the cost of courses would stop you from participating, please know that OIFN has some bursaries available for people, family members, and/or loved ones, and independent facilitators. Please fill out the [OIFN Bursary Request Form](#) to be considered. Please know that we will do our best to fulfil all requests; however, available funds are limited.

#### **What can I expect as a participant?**

Participants will be able to interact, reflect on the practice, and dialogue in meaningful ways in pairs and small breakout groups. Each course offering will have no more than 25 participants.

Prioritizing comfort and engagement, the sessions will include time for health and body breaks throughout the day.

#### **Will there be an preparation needed before and/or in between course days?**

The course guides often share materials and resources 1 week ahead of the course to support the personal learning journey of all participants. Although many materials may be sent out prior to a course, it is not expected that participants will have read through everything prior to our time together. In instances where the course leader recommends specific resources or exercises to be completed prior to the course, this expectation will be outlined clearly to participants with decent notice.