Panelist Biographies

Facilitator – Bruce Dewar, President & CEO, LIFT Impact Partners

Bruce has more than 30 years of experience consulting with private companies, public agencies and not-for-profit organizations, including international projects spanning 12 countries. Bruce spent over seven years as Chief Executive Officer for 2010 Legacies Now, an organization dedicated to creating inclusive social and economic impact and legacies leading up to and beyond the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. He also served as President of a Vancouver-based consulting firm. Bruce is applying the key learnings around change management, strategic planning, and capacity building to Social Purpose Organizations (SPO) in the LIFT portfolio.

ASEQ-EHAQ – Rohini Peris

**Rohini Peris** is a dedicated advocate for environmental health and accessibility, serving as the President and CEO of the **Environmental Health Association of Québec (ASEQ-EHAQ)**. With a strong focus on **Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS)**, she has been instrumental in promoting awareness, driving policy change, and fostering inclusive environments. Rohini’s leadership has guided key initiatives such as the **Empowering Community and Removal of Barriers (ECRoB)** project, which addresses systemic challenges faced by individuals with MCS. A passionate collaborator, she works closely with stakeholders across Canada to advance national accessibility and other standards and promote healthier, scent-free and least toxic spaces. Rohini’s work continues to inspire systemic change and meaningful advocacy.

DEEN Support Services (Race and Disability Canada) – Raihanna Hirji-Khalfan

Raihanna Hirji-Khalfan is a leader in disability justice, anti-racism, and inclusive policy development, with a proven track record of driving systemic change. As National Director of Race and Disability Canada, Raihanna leads initiatives that advance equity-focused policies, strengthen accessibility frameworks, and foster collaboration between government, community organizations, and advocacy groups.

With a diverse academic foundation—including an LLM in Common Law, an MA in Critical Disability Studies, and an MSc in Business—Raihanna brings a multidisciplinary approach to race and disability justice, and inclusive policy development and is dedicated to supporting the leadership and advocacy of Indigenous, Black, and racialized people with disabilities. Raihanna has influenced national conversations on disability inclusion through strategic leadership on initiatives that translate policy into tangible, community-driven change.

Raihanna’s commitment to advancing intersectional, evidence-based solutions positions her as a key voice in shaping the future of disability rights and inclusion in Canada.

New Society Institute (NSI) - Doris Rajan

Doris Rajan (she/her/elle) has worked as a senior consultant in the non-profit sector for over 20 years, with a focus on gender-based violence, access to justice, Indigenous, racialized migrant and disability justice issues. In her work, Doris has designed numerous international, national, and regional community-based social development and applied research projects and has authored numerous research reports and community-designed resources. Doris has a master’s degree in social work and a PhD in Adult Education and Community Development from the University of Toronto, where her research involved the development of a curriculum framework for a critical feminist/anti-oppression pedagogy of solidarity that would unite Indigenous, Black, racialized, refugee and people labeled with an intellectual and/or mental health disability, to challenge structural gender-based violence. As an educator, Doris has taught a variety of courses at post- secondary institutions including, the University of Toronto, Toronto Metropolitan University and George Brown College. Doris is also a theatre and film artist, where she applies a critical arts-based pedagogy for enhancing knowledge sharing, building relationships and growing solidarity amongst systemically marginalized groups.

OCAD University – Jutta Treviranus

Jutta Treviranus is the Director of the Inclusive Design Research Centre (IDRC) and professor in the faculty of Design at OCAD University in Toronto. Jutta established the IDRC in 1993 as the nexus of a growing global community that proactively works to ensure that our digitally transformed and globally connected society is designed inclusively. Dr. Treviranus also founded an innovative graduate program in inclusive design at OCAD University. Jutta is credited with developing an inclusive co-design methodology that has been adopted by large enterprise companies such as Microsoft, as well as public sector organizations internationally. Jutta has coordinated many research networks with and by people with disabilities. Jutta was recognized for her work in artificial intelligence (AI) by Women in AI with the AI for Good - DEI AI Leader of the Year award as well as by Women in AI Ethics. She is the chair of the [Accessible and Equitable Artificial Intelligence standards committee](https://accessible.canada.ca/centre-of-expertise/information-and-communication-technologies#s6.2) at Accessibility Standards Canada.

PHE Canada – Tricia Zakaria

Tricia Zakaria (she/her) began her career teaching elementary school Physical Education and then transitioned to managing education programming in the non-profit sector. She now has over 15 years of experience developing and delivering health and physical activity education programming for children and youth. Tricia holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Carleton University, a Bachelor of Education from the University of Ottawa, and a Master of Education from the University of New Brunswick. She is passionate about developing health and wellness programs for all children and youth that are both equitable and inclusive.