



PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Pre-Conference – Wednesday, September 20th	
Time To Be Confirmed	Pre-Conference Registration

Day 1 – Thursday, September 21 st - Morning	
7:00 AM – 8:15 AM	Conference Registration, Breakfast & Exhibits
8:15 AM – 8:30 AM	Opening Remarks: Elder Donna Debassige, Anishinaabe Kwe
8:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Keynote: Rachelle Bensoussan MA, CT, OAMHP
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Comfort Break
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Breakout Session A
	A01: Why Self-Care Won't Save Us
	A02: You Can't Pour From an Empty Cup: Addressing Empathy Strain and Secondary Trauma Thriving During Times of Difficulty
	A03: De-Fragment Perinatal Care: An Innovative Approach to Early Pregnancy Loss and Abortion at Michael Garron Hospital Supporting The Stillbirth Journey: Using a Human-Centered Design Approach to Develop a Patient-Facing Resource At BC Women's Hospital
	A04: Completing the Circle: Exploring the Midwife Model of Care for Early Pregnancy Loss in Ontario Midwifery Led Home Postpartum Care Following Perinatal Loss: Improving the Quality of Postpartum Care for Bereaved Families at Oak Valley Health Valuing Loss and Honouring Loss: Strategies Used to Strengthen Our Hospital's Perinatal Loss Program
	A05: The Supporting Role Through Perinatal Loss: 3 Ways to Bring Light into the Parent's Darkest Moments You are a Part of Someone's Very Special Story: How Grieving Parents are Helping Care Providers Step Out of Their Comfort Zone and Better Support Families
12:00 PM – 1:15 PM	Lunch & Exhibits

Day 1 – Thursday, September 21 st - Afternoon	
1:15 PM – 2:45 PM	Breakout Sessions B
	B01: Family Panel: Support for Non-Birthing Parents
	B02: Family Panel: Grief and Elective Abortions
	B03: Memory Making: Heath Care Providers
	B04: Memory Making: Families
	B05: Pregnancy and Infant Loss and Workplace Compassionate and Culturally Sensitive Care Through Inclusive Leadership
2:45 PM – 3:00 PM	Comfort Break
3:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Breakout Sessions C
	C01: Coming Soon!
	C02: Coming Soon!
	C03: The (Un)Expected Project: Bereaved Parents as Change- Makers Collective Meanings of Miscarriage: An Art-Based Workshop
	C04: Gaps in Emergency Room Care for Women Experiencing Miscarriage and Their Partner: From Research to Action
	C05: Perinatal Hospice Program at Roger Neilson House: Honouring Precious Lives Making an IMPACT: Practical Strategies for Providing Prenatal Palliative Care Support
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Social & Exhibitor Showcase

Day 2 – Friday, September 22 nd	
7:00 AM – 8:15 AM	Conference Registration, Breakfast & Exhibits
8:15 AM – 8:30 AM	Closing Remarks: Elder Donna Debassige, Anishinaabe Kwe
8:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Keynote: Andrea Warnick RP, RN
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Comfort Break
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Breakout Sessions D
	D01: Supporting the Whole Family through Grief
	D02: Creating Inclusive, Intentional and Supportive Dialogue Through Loss Perinatal Loss & Stigma: Granting Permission to the Elephant in the Room
	D03: Pregnancy After Loss: Nurturing Sadness and Joy at the Same Time North York General Hospital: Late Loss Support and Pregnancy and Loss Supporting Siblings After Pregnancy or Infant Loss
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Lunch & Exhibits
1:30 PM – 3:00 PM	Breakout Sessions E
	E01: Family Panel: Cultural Safety Considerations
	E02: Family Panel: Pregnancy After Loss
	E03: Coming Soon! Coming Soon!
	E04: Infant Palliative Care and Stillbirth at Home with Registered Midwives Experience of Support After Pregnancy Loss Among Displaced Syrian Refugee Families Care of Prenatal Loss in Northern Indigenous Communities



Keynote Speakers

Elder Donna Debassige, Anishinaabe kwe, Fish Clan

Boozhoo. Bebibdekwedang dishnikaaz, Donna Debassige, Anishinaabe kwe, of the Fish Clan. I am from Mnidoo Mmissing, (Manitoulin Island), and am a member of the Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory.

I am a mother of three children, Cheryl, Lynda and Ray, and grandmother to four grandsons, Devin, Seth, Joel and Drake.

I am a former Spanish Residential School student. I graduated in 2015 from Laurentian University with a Bachelor of Arts degree with a combined specialization in Gerontology/Indigenous Studies.

I had retired from the United Chiefs & Councils of Manitoulin Tribal Council after 35 years of employment, beginning in 1974 to 2009. Several seats I presently hold are:

- Elders Advisory Council, Indigenous Justice Division, MAG;
- Elders Council, Chiefs of Ontario;
- Getzjig Elders Advisory Council, Anishinabek Nation;
- Anishinabek Nation KweWuk Council, representing the Lake Huron Region;
- Chiefs of Ontario First Nations Womens' Council, representing Anishinabek Nation;
- Manitoulin Anishinabek Research Review Committee;
- Chiefs of Ontario Data Governance Committee;
- Elder, Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation.

I am a fluent speaker of my original language, Odawa, and am a member of the Rain Dance Lodge.

Rachelle Bensoussan, MA, CT, OAMHP

Rachelle is the original co-founder and former managing director of Being Here, Human, an organization that provides grief literacy, education and support to BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, disabled and chronically ill communities. She holds a master's degree in Thanatology and has spent the last fourteen years building community-based bereavement programs for hospices across Southern Ontario. Rachelle is a former faculty member at McMaster University's Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine, in the department of family medicine, division of palliative care, as well as a former faculty member at King's College, Western University in the department of Thanatology. Rachelle is a two-time nominee for the Association of Death Education and Counselling's Clinical Educator Award and Community Educator Award. Rachelle is a queer-identified woman of North-African & Middle Eastern descent.



Andrea Warnick, RP, RN

Andrea is a Registered Psychotherapist, Registered Nurse, and thanatologist with over 20 years of experience supporting grieving children and families and communities. Her caring and unique approach to dying, death, grief and healing has helped thousands of people, from toddlers to the elderly, across North America and internationally. Recognizing the provision of support for grieving children and youth as a social justice issue, Andrea brings the topics of dying, death, and grief into the necessary realm of discussion, education, and advocacy.