

The Southern Ontario Training Group &
Extend-A-Family Toronto
are pleased to present

The Ask: Invitation to Engagement

Promoting freely given relationships for and with people with disabilities

Workshop description: This two session workshop engages participants with our fundamental, shared need for freely-given friendships. People with disabilities usually have most of their relationships through human service programs and with their families. While such relationships are important, the hard reality is that most disabled people have few, or even no, freely-given friendships outside of these groups. For such relationships to begin and grow, someone needs to take the initiative to issue an invitation. For several reasons, disabled people themselves and community members who are not involved in service provision rarely make this invitation. To address this reality, others need to become the “askers”—the inviters—into relationship. This workshop will provide potential inviters with a deeper understanding of the opportunities and challenges in the current situation—including in this time of pandemic. It will also provide guidance and practice on effectively fulfilling the role of inviter.

Who should attend this workshop: This workshop will be of interest to direct service workers, managers, family members, friends, etc. - to anyone who appreciates that having freely given relationships is an integral part of a good life for everyone.

Format: The workshop consists of two sessions, each of 3 1/2 hours, including a break. The two sessions are very interconnected with the second building on the material presented in the first. Each session will include both lectures and discussion. During the second session, a substantial amount of time will be spent in small break out groups where participants will discuss specific issues and work on developing and/or enhancing their skill as an “asker”. Handouts for each session will be sent to participants the day before that session. **Please note that if you have not attended the first session, you will not receive the handouts for the second session.**

**Tuesday, December 7, 2021 and
Thursday, December 9, 2021.
9:30 am to 1:00 pm
Via Zoom**

Workshop fee: \$75 CAD. Limited subsidies available. Contact Judith Sandys at jsandys@ryerson.ca

Register Here!

Presenters

Tom Doody is an experienced presenter who has been involved with disabled people for fifty years in a variety of personal, direct service, management, and consultative roles. For many years, his primary work was as coordinator of North Quabbin Citizen Advocacy, an organization exclusively focused on recruiting and supporting freely-given relationships between disabled people and their non-disabled neighbors. Tom will be joined by **Kelley Auclair, Katie Driscoll, Phoebe Goodman, Nate Johnson, and Jack Yates** who, together, have had extensive experience initiating and supporting freely-given relationships and providing consultation and training to others who wish to expand their knowledge and skills in this area.