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# ACDS 2017 Annual Spring Conference

## Call for Participation

**When:** April 24 - 26, 2017

**Where:** Calgary, Alberta

### The Door is Open...Awakening our Collective Power!

The ACDS Conference Planning Committee invites you to submit a proposal to present at our 31st Annual Spring Conference in Calgary April 24-26, 2017.

The purpose of Spring Conference 2017 is to raise an appreciation of the true complexity of our work, create a culture of incremental learning and strengthen our collective power to succeed, as we face our future with confidence. Everyone has something to contribute to the movement.

This year's planning committee is especially interested in a more interactive event, with opportunities for having generative discussions, sharing inspirational stories, and epic failures and lessons learned. Presentations are to be tailored to maximize interest for executive leadership, middle management and/or direct support professionals.

- Peer-to-peer learning opportunities that draw on the collective wisdom of the participants.
- Use tools like wicked questions and upside down thinking as a way of breaking out of our conventional thoughts.
- Encourage a sense of playfulness, fun and networking as part of the criteria.



#### Conference themes include:

1. Rejuvenation and self-care
2. Collective and collaborative community impact
3. Filling the gaps: innovative practices for inclusion and the increasing complexity of our work
4. Strategies for creating a culture of learning and sharing within and across organizations
5. Stuck in the middle: sessions focused on the challenging positions of working from the middle
6. Executive leadership stream focused on current challenges, barriers and future leadership needs

#### Please consider the following as you develop your proposal(s):

- We need to receive your proposal by **January 17**; we will notify you by February 17, 2017.
- Keep a forward-thinking focus and a positive pro-active attitude.
- Encourage discussions and action steps as part of the presentation.
- Participants should leave each session with specific ideas they can adapt and apply when they return to their organizations.
- Presenters who plan to take in other sessions at the event will be required to register and pay for their Conference Registration. One presenter for each session will receive their registration at half price.

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If you have any questions please connect with [doreen@acds.ca](mailto:doreen@acds.ca)

For more information and a template to apply: [www.acds.ca](http://www.acds.ca) and click on the blue training and events button!