



Inclusive Recreation:

Creating a culture of welcoming, participating, and belonging

LISA DRENNAN

Founder, MERGE Inclusion Consulting,
Author & Adjunct Professor

Family Conference April 11, 2025

9 am – 4:30 pm

Fantasyland Hotel, Edmonton

\$210/per person

Please call 1-800-252-7556 or email info@inclusionalbarta.org if you would like to take advantage of group pricing.

Inclusion
Alberta

WORKSHOP

Recreation is a vital activity necessary to the well-being and development of each and every one of us, and to our communities; often contributing to our sense of belonging and the possibility of friendships. Yet children and adults with an intellectual disability are too often excluded or perceived as not being able to meaningfully participate. The consequence is not only the lack of pleasure and personal growth experienced through recreation but the devastating impact of loneliness and exclusion.

In this dynamic and interactive workshop Lisa Drennan will share practical information, processes, and tools to advance authentic inclusive recreation that applies to recreation providers, families and individuals seeking inclusive experiences and those who support the inclusion of children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Lisa will share the 6 key principles that guide inclusive recreation and detail the foundation to inclusive recreation "IN ALL - FOR ALL - BY ALL". She will share inspiring stories of the difference created in the lives of children and adults with intellectual disabilities by their peers, coaches, and recreation leaders. Lisa will share a range of strategies that can be employed for inclusive recreation to be welcoming and successful.

This session is a must for all those engaged in organizing, leading, providing and participating in community recreational activities for the general public for children, adults and families including support staff who are engaged to facilitate inclusion in community life.

PRESENTER

Lisa Drennan's career has been centered on empowering individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to reach their wellness and enrichment goals and to meaningfully belong as valued members of their communities. She was one of the first Directors of Inclusion for a YMCA where through her innovative program development, and execution of comprehensive staff training, she was recognized as a leader in the field of social and recreational inclusion for persons with diverse abilities. This led to her being appointed as the National Co-Chairperson of the Y-USA Diverse Abilities Working Group providing a platform of learning and sharing of best practices for YMCAs across the country. Lisa was also a principal author of the Pathways to Friendship toolkit, The ARC, Massachusetts.

In 2018, she founded MERGE Inclusion Consulting, where she provides consultation, staff training, and systemic implementation of inclusion to a wide variety of community organizations — all with the goal of helping individuals with disabilities achieve greater societal participation and social value through inclusive environments. Her work has not only impacted the lives of individuals with disabilities but also influenced organizations and communities to adopt more inclusive practices. She supports and advises a wide variety of community organizations including YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs, sports teams, leagues, scouts, schools, etc.

Lisa is an Adjunct Professor in Adaptive Physical Education, University of Massachusetts. Her career reflects her commitment to helping people with disabilities not just participate but thrive in roles that foster their unique contributions and abilities.

For more information visit www.mergeconsulting.org.



Register at inclusionalbarta.org