

The Life You Can Create

Roles, Relationships and Belonging

JANET KLEES

Executive Director, Durham Association for Family Resources and Support, Ontario

Family Conference April 17, 2026

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 invites families, FMS staff, professionals, and others working in the field of developmental disabilities and related fields to hear from this distinguished speaker.

WORKSHOP

This is a practical hands-on day where families will have the opportunity to learn to think in surprisingly ordinary ways to imagine and plan for an inclusive, good life in community for, and with, their family member with an intellectual disability. Janet will be joined by a family who is on this journey themselves, and together they will use relatable stories from childhood to adulthood, share tried and true strategies and provide participants with the means to imagine and practice new ideas and ways forward.

In this day-long workshop, you will learn:

- The essential building blocks for a vision that will sustain you and your family member.
- Strategies to bring about the things that really matter – roles, relationships, and places of belonging, by focusing on these key questions:
 - Where do their passions and interests lie?
 - Who might they truly be?
 - What can they contribute to others?
 - Who will be in their life?
- How to see and use the abundance of resources you may not even know are at your fingertips by looking at what is right in front of us in a different way.
- What to do while life is not moving forward as quickly as desired – or how to ‘pick the low hanging fruit’ which awaits you with minimum effort, resources, and stress.
- The power of staying in touch with like-minded others.

PRESENTER

Janet Klees has worked in the field of developmental disabilities for nearly 40 years. She is currently the Executive Director for Durham Association for Family Resources and Support which is a values-based family resource organization that works in partnership with families to design and implement good lives in their neighbourhoods and communities for and with their family members with intellectual disabilities.

Janet has worked with many hundreds of families and individuals with a deep interest in the abiding role of mutual relationships in the opportunities for contribution, life enrichment, and safeguarding that relationships provide for us all. Being a practitioner brings many practical and implementable elements, augmented by stories, to show what it looks like in real life. This work ranges from helping the families, allies and their paid supports understand how change happens, and then teaching the foundations to bring about valued roles, relationships and places of belonging, that carve out identity, purpose and contribution in a person's life. These days Janet has her focus on changing the heart and mind of our communities, one (family) story at a time.

Formerly, she was with the family-governed Deohaeko Support Network in Ontario, helping families to design and build a 105-unit inclusive housing co-operative creating homes in the truest sense of the word from which they live typical and full lives in community. This community thrives, now over 30 years later.



Inclusion
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