

# Elevating the Quality of Work for Everyone

Future Skills Centre Virtual Event  
February 28, 2023



## Agenda

### Day 1 / February 28, 2023

#### 1:00 p.m. [Welcome & plenary panel](#)

##### **Shaping the Quality of Work in Canada**

Moderator:

**Pedro Barata**, Executive Director, Future Skills Centre

Panellists:

**Gladys Ahovi**, President & CEO, Foundation for Black Communities

**Anton Solomon**, Director, Labour Market Development, Yukon Government

**Armine Yalnizyan**, Atkinson Foundation's Fellow, Future of Workers

The future of work should be based on the principle that everyone has an opportunity to thrive in a changing economy and share in Canada's prosperity. And shared, inclusive prosperity is key: the belief that all members of society should have the chance to participate, belong, and contribute in their best ways, reaping rewards and benefits that also strengthen our economic bottom line.

This panel will focus on exploring Canada's labour market policies and how they shape the quality of work. Panelists in this session will discuss what is needed, and what conditions are required to succeed, in elevating the quality of work for more people.

#### 2:05 p.m. [Concurrent session A1](#)

##### **Partnering with Employers to Address Workplace Challenges in Long-Term Care**

**Tyler Downey**, Secretary Treasurer, SEIU Healthcare ON

**Afaf Zaheer**, Director, Human Resources, The Rekai Centres

By working together, unions and health care providers can develop solutions that better meet the needs of patients, caregivers, and businesses, and improve the overall quality of care.

Learn how SEIU Healthcare ON and long-term care employer Rekai Centres are partnering to strategically assist with working conditions, such as addressing concerns around employee safety, scheduling, training, and support, and addressing the unique needs of patients and caregivers in long-term care. This session reflects on a recently established, ongoing partnership between SEIU and Rekai Centres to leverage their strengths and common goals to co-design sustainable solutions that address their needs and challenges related to staffing and long-term care.

#### 2:05 p.m. [Concurrent session A2](#)

##### **Industry Partnerships Building Pathways Into Quality Jobs in the Tech Sector**

**Talitha Pegus**, Senior Manager of Employment Engagement, NPower Canada

NPower Canada designs training programs to empower job seekers with the skills and knowledge needed to excel in sought-after technical roles within the tech industry. Through partnerships with employers, the program ensures that participants are placed in meaningful, sustainable careers with good wages, benefits, and opportunities for advancement. This session will explore the unique approach NPower Canada takes to building advancement pathways for underserved job seekers and collaborating with employer partners that prioritize and place value on offering quality jobs.

# Agenda

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Day 1 / February 28, 2023 (cont'd)

2:05 p.m. [Concurrent session A3](#)

**Instituting a Successful Employee Ownership Program: Insights From a Real-World Example**

**Dr. Patience Adamu**, Director, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, Aecon Group Inc.

Employee ownership is linked with driving innovation and productivity, improving employee satisfaction, and enhancing long-term business success. Additionally, employees who participate in an ownership program often have the opportunity to share in the company's financial success and are given a voice to influence decisions that affect them. This session features a real-life example of an existing employee ownership program and discusses the associated benefits and challenges. Learn about their experience and gain valuable and practical insights into the key factors that contributed to the success of their program.

2:05 p.m. [Concurrent session A4](#)

**Inclusive Workplace Practices to Help SMEs Access and Retain a Diverse Workforce**

**Wessam Ayad**, Learning and Development-EDI Manager, KEYS Job Centre

**Phyllis MacCallum**, Manager AgriLMI, CAHRC (Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council)

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are a vital part of the economy, yet they often face unique challenges in attracting and retaining a diverse workforce. It is becoming increasingly critical for employers to adapt to the changing experiences and needs of the workforce. This session will explore the importance of inclusive workplace practices for SMEs and the role they can play in developing policies and practices that support the recruitment, retention, and advancement of a diverse workforce. The panel will share examples, best practices, and key considerations for creating a worker-centred inclusive workplace culture as a solution to address prevailing labour challenges.

