



# Welcome to the 2026 Intentional Community Consortium Conference

May 14<sup>th</sup> 2026

Toby and Henry Battle Developmental Centre

<https://intentionalcommunity.org/>

[Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#)

# Opening Remarks

- Opening Remarks
- Land Acknowledgement
- Agenda
- ICC Updates

**Gary Gladstone**

Chair

Intentional Community Consortium

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# ICC Conference Agenda

Time (EST)	Agenda Item
11:00 AM - 11:10 AM	Opening of the Intentional Community Conference by Gary Gladstone
11:10 AM - 11:30 AM	Opening Comments from Deputy Minister Daniele Zanotti
11:30 AM - 12:10 PM	Presentation by Mercedeh Madani, Build Canada Homes
12:10 PM - 12:20 PM	Conference Photo
12:20 PM - 01:00 PM	Lunch Break
01:00 PM - 01:15 PM	L'Arche Toronto Builds by Raphael Arens
01:15 PM - 01:45 PM	Briefing from Simon April, Chair of the NHC's Review Panel
01:45 PM - 02:05 PM	B3 Fire Code and Care Occupancy, Bryan Keshen, Reena CEO
02:05 PM - 02:15 PM	Reena New Builds, Bryan Keshen CEO
02:15 PM - 02:30 PM	Break
02:30 PM - 03:00 PM	Operation Springboard (Lidia Monaco) and KW Habilitation (Ann Bilodeau) New Builds
03:00 PM - 03:50 PM	Open Forum – Q & A of Members for Members
03:50 PM - 04:00 PM	Closing of the Intentional Community Conference

# Intentional Community Consortium

Finding solutions to the affordable housing crisis faced by individuals with diverse abilities, focusing on housing, support services and community engagement

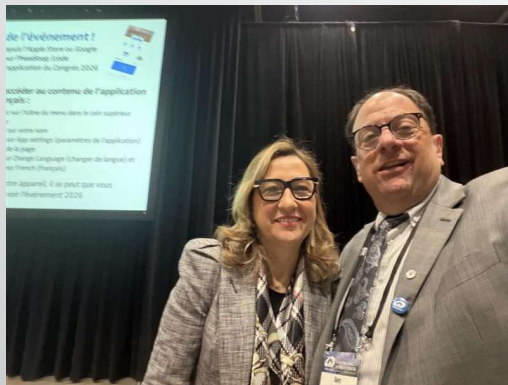
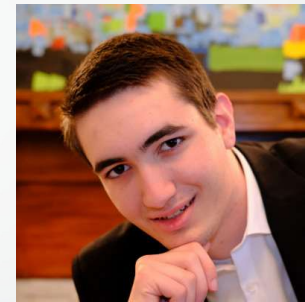


# Intentional Community Consortium 2026 Board of Directors

Name	Role	Organization
Gary Gladstone	Chair of the Board	Reena
David Petkau	Vice-Chair of the Board	Karis Disability Services
Norma Wisbling	Treasurer of the Board	New Age Support Services
Patricia Franks	Member of the Board	CAFFI
Ann Bilodeau	Member of the Board	KW Habilitation
Jonathan Bradshaw	Member of the Board	Community Living Toronto

# The ICC's Activities over the last few Months

In February 2026 we hired Joseph Katchen as our new Coordinator



In April 2026 an ICC delegation attended the CHRA Congress → ICC Chair Gary Gladstone connected with Ana Bailão (CEO of Build Canada Homes) and Valesa Faria (Senior Vice-President, Partnership and Development at Build Canada Homes).

The ICC has had meetings with: the National Housing Council, Build Canada Homes, the Community Housing Transformation Centre, and United Way of Greater Toronto, to name a few.

**70+ Members Across Canada**



# House of Commons' Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities (HUMA)

- The Chair of the ICC, Gary Gladstone, was invited to be a witness on HUMA's study of Bill C-20, an Act respecting the establishment of Build Canada Homes in April 2026.



## Gary's submitted statement to HUMA had three calls to action:

- First, people with developmental disabilities must be explicitly included as a priority in Build Canada Homes.
- Second, all housing funded through Build Canada Homes should meet Care Occupancy and Fire Code requirements so that housing is safe, accessible, and appropriate for people who require support.
- Third, Build Canada Homes must be structured to work with organizations like ICC to deliver housing at scale. This includes enabling national or regional portfolios of projects and providing resources to help smaller agencies get to a point where they can successfully apply.

# Deputy Minister Daniele Zanotti

- Daniele Zanotti assumed the role of Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services and Office of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity on November 4, 2024.
- His extensive experience in the non-profit and public sectors began at Rexdale Community Health Centre then the Region of York, with increasing senior responsibilities as the Chief Executive Officer of Family Day Care Services, Villa Charities Foundation, United Way York Region and most recently, President and CEO of United Way Greater Toronto.
- His commitment to community, collaboration and innovation have been recognized locally, provincially, and nationally by municipal governments, business, labour, and the non-profit sector.
- Over his three decades of service, Daniele has volunteered as a Board of Director, most recently for CivicAction and the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.
- He holds a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Toronto and a Bachelor degree from York University.



**Ontario** 

**Ministry of Children,  
Community and  
Social Services**

# Mercedeh Madani

- Mercedeh Madani is the Director of Partnerships for the Ontario Region at Build Canada Homes, where she is advancing high-impact opportunities to build and finance affordable housing at scale. She brings a strategic, cross sector perspective to her work and focuses on advancing community based, scalable solutions to Canada's housing and homelessness challenges.
- Prior to joining Build Canada Homes, she served as Director of Housing Policy and Strategy at the City of Toronto, developing and implementing policies and programs that delivered thousands of affordable and supportive homes.
- A graduate of the Master of Urban Planning program at the University of Toronto, Mercedeh believes stable housing is the foundation for healing and prosperity. She continues to champion system level strategies that place people and partnerships at the centre of Canada's housing future.



# Simon April

- Simon April, Chair of the Review Panel on the Lack of Accessible Housing in Canada
- Simon April has lived in Québec since 2000. Originally from Témiscouata in the Bas-Saint-Laurent region, Simon has used a wheelchair since childhood—the result of a genetic disease called osteogenesis imperfecta (brittle bone disease). Simon learned to integrate early on and to fight for the rights of people with disabilities—including the right for universal accessibility—in all areas of his life.
- He studied social services at university and worked for Quebec's Chief Electoral Officer for 8 years. In his role, Simon was responsible for serving specific client groups: newcomers, Indigenous people and people with disabilities. He has a 6-year-old child and is the proud owner of a lovely home in the suburbs, which he purchased with his spouse 5 years ago.
- He currently works in the community sector, advocating for people with disabilities and coordinating the home support referral database for the Comité d'action des personnes vivant des situations de handicap. He also works as a trainer for Kéroul, a tourism and culture organization for people with restricted physical ability. Finally, Simon is a member of Québec's Commission consultative pour une ville inclusive.
- Simon loves to travel and is curious by nature. He has a strong background in housing, particularly in accessibility and adaptation needs for people with disabilities, both for housing units and residential buildings in general.
- Deeply rooted in his community, Simon loves people and has a talent for bringing them together. His goal is to help make the world more accessible and inclusive.



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**Save the Date**  
**Day on the Hill**  
**November 2, 3 2026**