

Meet the Speakers of the 8th Annual EARN Conference

Anna-Karina Tabuñar, Award-Winning Broadcast Journalist, Communications Strategist and Community Advocate



Anna-Karina Tabuñar is an award-winning broadcast journalist, communications strategist and community advocate. She uses the power of storytelling to build more inclusive workplaces. Her company **Talent Untapped Group** helps organizations leverage inclusion to drive business results. Anna-Karina is the creator and host of *More Talent Untapped*, a new podcast about strength and innovation that come from difference and diversity. That podcast is proudly

sponsored by EARN and RBC. www.TalentUntappedGroup.com

Brent Moore, Employer Relations and Job Development Specialist, University of Ottawa

Brent started his career in the private sector and developed a knack for creating new business and partnership opportunities. He later moved into the world of post-secondary education where he has spent the past 7 years focusing on job development for co-op students and new graduates across multiple post-secondary institutions in Ottawa (University of Ottawa, Carleton University and Algonquin College).



Brent is a proud member of EARN's Leadership group, the Ottawa Board of Trade's Talent Committee and the PSYE's (Partnering for Success in Youth Employment) Steering Committee.



Julia Moran, Consultant, CODA Media Consulting

Julia is an Ottawa-based communications and multimedia consultant. She started her consulting company in November of 2019 and has since contributed to some amazing teams and learned some amazing lessons in both small local start-ups and big four firms. She

has a passion for creating inclusive and informed work environments where everyone can be their best, unique selves.

Michael Allen, President/CEO, United Way East Ontario

Following a career practicing law and then working on Parliament Hill, Michael was drawn to United Way by the opportunity to help others. As the President and CEO of United Way East Ontario for more than 20 years now, Michael has evolved United Way to be a leader in innovation and collaboration in the local social services sector. “I want United Way to be the place the community can turn to in different times of need. More and more often, that’s happening today.”



Michael gets involved in other ways in his community, a committed soccer dad, he has also been a fundraiser for his children’s hockey teams.

**Natacha Lemay-Reaume, Regional Vice President,
Ottawa West & Valley, RBC Royal Bank**

Originally from Sherbrooke, Quebec, Natacha earned a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Ottawa as well as a Masters of Business Administration (M.B.A.) from Queens University.

Prior to her role as Regional Vice-President, Natacha has built strong experiences in Canadian Banking over the last 18 years, having held a number of roles with increasing responsibility across Ontario in both personal and commercial financial services with RBC.



**Paula Quig, Senior Counsel with the
Aboriginal Law Centre of the Federal
Department of Justice**

Paula Quig is Senior Counsel with the Aboriginal Law Centre of the federal Department of Justice, where she mainly specializes in Aboriginal and treaty rights issues. Paula's experience within the Department of Justice also includes working as Legal Counsel with the Human Rights Law Section and with Health Canada Legal Services. More recently Paula was on loan to United Way Eastern Ottawa, where she worked as a Loaned Representative doing social policy research and advocacy work on a wide variety of issues, including on disability and accessibility issues.



Shannon Bruce, Director of Employment Initiatives, United Way East Ontario

Shannon Bruce started with the United Way as a volunteer in 2016 and as an employee in 2017. After managing EARN (Employment Accessibility Resource Network) for almost 3 years, she is now the Director of Employment Initiatives leading work to help better understand the labour market issues for vulnerable populations in East Ontario. Ottawa has always been home to Shannon and now she is raising her two boys in this wonderful City with her husband Jeremy.

Tara Connolly, M.A., RP, Assistant Director, Research and Development for the Research Education Accessibility Design (READ) Initiative, Carleton University



Tara Connolly, M.A., RP, is the Assistant Director- Research and Development for the Research Education Accessibility Design (READ) Initiative at Carleton University. She is a Transitions Specialist with over 20 years' experience consulting on the use of inclusive practices to support accessibility in a variety of settings. She has worked in school boards, post-secondary institutions, government agencies and healthcare settings as a content expert, to build capacity in accessible practices. In her counselling practice, Tara supports a neurodiversity of thinkers, in particular adults and youth on the Spectrum.