

June 4-6, 2025 – 31st annual Education Symposium and Vendor Showcase

Theme: Our Story – Shaping the Next Chapter Together

Our theme, "Our Story - Shaping the Next Chapter Together," invites you to be part of a collective narrative, where every voice and idea contributes to the unfolding of the future of NISCL and our future as supply chain professionals. This conference is not just about reflecting on past achievements; it's about actively crafting the path forward. Through innovative thinking, dynamic collaboration, and a shared commitment to progress, we'll uncover new opportunities and address challenges as one united community.

Join us in shaping the future by drawing on our collective wisdom, embracing diverse perspectives, and fostering meaningful connections. Together, we'll turn our story into a powerful confirmation of our collective strength and vision.

Symposium Schedule

Wednesday, June 4	Pre-Symposium Seminar and Vendor Showcase (separate registration required)
7:00 am – 8:00 am Callaghan Room	Hot continental Breakfast for attendees of the pre-symposium seminar
8:00 am – 4:00 pm Callaghan Room	<p>Pre-Symposium Seminar - Thrive Under Pressure: Strategies for Procurement Professionals</p> <p>Procurement has never been more challenging. With shifting regulations, new tariffs disrupting supply chains, and increasing pressure to deliver results fast, you're constantly balancing deadlines, compliance, and relationships. The stakes are high, and stress levels are rising—especially when you're pulled into a project late in the game.</p> <p>In this full-day hands-on workshop, you'll gain powerful tools to stay clear-headed, confident, and resilient—even in the toughest situations.</p> <p>What You'll Learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ How to stay calm and think clearly under pressure—even with last-minute changes. ✓ Identify what throws you off track—and how to reset fast. ✓ Simple techniques to increase your focus, decision-making, and energy. ✓ Strengthen emotional intelligence to handle tough conversations. ✓ Practical, daily habits that keep you at the top of your game. <p>This isn't just theory—it's a game-changing approach that will help you navigate uncertainty, perform better at work, and feel better in life. Get ready to walk away with immediate, practical strategies you can use right away!</p> <p>Speaker: Monica Chang</p>
4:00 pm – 8:00 pm Alpine Foyer	Vendor Showcase and Networking Reception (registration desk open)

Thursday, June 5		Education Symposium – Agenda	
7:15 am – 8:15 am	Alpine ABCDE	Hot Buffet breakfast (registration desk open)	
8:15 am – 8:45 am		Welcome and Opening Remarks	
8:45 am – 9:00 am		Ice Breaker / Networking Activity	
9:00 am – 10:00 am		<p>Opening Keynote Speaker – Mike Downie</p> <p>What’s Your Story</p> <p>From growing up in a small town outside Kingston, Mike Downie — the older brother to Tragically Hip frontman, Gord Downie — draws on his rich family history to show the unique ways stories define our lives, connect us with our past, and impact our future.</p> <p>Although Downie and his younger brother Gord had very different careers, their work both intersected with storytelling. Both criss-crossed Canada, and circled the globe, meeting new people wherever they went and hearing their unique stories, while adding to their own. For Downie, those tales became part of his documentaries; for his brother, some of those stories became songs.</p> <p>In his multimedia keynote, Downie shares his unique life story, as well as four other profound stories in which ordinary people do extraordinary things, to inspire his audiences with the message that everyone, including those from humble origins, can have a profound impact on the world.</p> <p>“You may not know it yet,” Downie says, “but when you realize that your life is a story that you consciously choose to write and tell everyday, you empower yourself to positively influence the lives of the people you cross paths with at work, home, and play.”</p> <p>Audience members will leave motivated to develop the skills to tell their own unique story, their organization’s story, and perhaps even a previously overlooked piece of our country’s story.</p>	
10:00 am – 10:30 am		Coffee and Snacks	
10:30 am – 11:30 am		NISCL Group Discussions	
11:30 am – 12:00 pm		Ice Breaker / Networking Activity	
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm		Lunch	
1:00 pm – 1:40 pm		NISCL Awards of Distinction	
1:40 pm – 2:00 pm		Transition to Breakout Session	
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm		Breakout Session 1	
		<p>Session Option 1 (Alpine Room ABC)</p> <p>Building Collaborative Project Teams</p> <p>This workshop will equip you with the essential skills to build collaborative project teams. We'll delve into using a collaborative interview process as a critical procurement tool for assessing potential team members' suitability and their ability to work effectively together and as part of a project team.</p> <p>Speaker: Crystal Vandermeulen – VDM Consulting</p>	<p>Session Option 2 (Alpine Room DE)</p> <p>Effective Category Management</p> <p>Category management involves a systematic approach to managing procurement and sourcing activities to enhance efficiency, reduce costs, and improve service delivery. This workshop offers a step by step guide, covering essential concepts, processes, challenges, and future trends. By adopting a category management approach, organizations can optimize their procurement</p>



		processes, achieve cost savings, and enhance the delivery of services. Speaker: Gerald Ford – QCsolver Inc.
3:00 pm – 3:15 pm	Coffee and Snacks	
3:15 pm – 4:15 pm	Breakout Session 2	
	<p>Session Option 1 (Alpine Room ABC) Implementing ESGI Procurement: Practical Tools & Strategies This interactive session will walk attendees through the opportunities and challenges of implementing ESGI procurement. Including practical tips to develop and implement a program and strategy. Speaker: Jenny Miles – BCLC</p>	<p>Session Option 2 (Alpine Room DE) Procurement 101 Panel Discussion This panel discussion invites attendees new to a supply chain role or those looking to advance their career in supply chain to learn from experts in the industry. Have the opportunity to ask questions, seek advice and learn how to conquer supply chain challenges. Panelists: Lisa Pryce – Pryce Advisory Services Wende Kinch – Sunrise Farms Csaba Knezy - TELUS Brian Mielke – Mielke Industries</p>
4:15 pm – 5:30 pm	FREE TIME	
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Scavenger Hunt	
6:30 pm – 7:00 pm	Pre-Dinner Reception	
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Dinner	
8:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Evening Entertainment and Prizes	

Friday, June 6		Education Symposium - Agenda	
7:30 am – 8:30 am		Hot Buffet Breakfast and Opening Remarks (8:20am)	
8:30 am – 9:30 am		Breakout Session 3	
		<div>Session Option 1 (Alpine Room ABC) Human Rights and Ethical Sourcing: A Key Consideration for Sustainable Procurement Gain insights into the pressing issue of modern slavery and human rights risks within supply chains. This session will provide an overview of Canada’ s Bill S-211 (Fighting Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains Act), highlighting key compliance requirements and guidance on building an effective Human Rights Due Diligence System. Learn practical strategies for ethical sourcing that protect worker rights and align with fair labor practices, empowering you to make responsible procurement decisions. Speaker: Namrita Lamba – Reeve Consulting</div>	<div>Session Option 2 (Alpine Room DE) Overcoming Recruitment Challenges within the Supply Chain Sector In this engaging presentation, we will explore the unique recruitment challenges faced within the supply chain sector, including talent shortages, skill gaps, and the impact of evolving technologies. Through real-world case studies and interactive discussions, attendees will gain insights into effective strategies for attracting and retaining top talent in this critical industry. Speakers: Vivian Ramos – TRS Staffing Solutions Mark Gendy – TRS Staffing Solutions</div>
9:30 am – 9:45 am		Transition time for breakout session	
9:45 am – 10:45 am		Breakout Session 4	
		<div>Session Option 1 (Alpine Room ABC) Procurement & Risk Management</div>	<div>Session Option 2 (Alpine Room DE)</div>



	<p>The speaker will discuss project procurement & planning, contract type selection and discuss alternatives to Public Owner's status quo risk management. This focused session is tailored to those involved in public projects, offering practical knowledge and real-world examples to enhance participants' consideration of risk. This will be an interactive session with audience members encouraged to ask questions, challenge ideas, and consider informed risk mitigation strategies.</p> <p>Chris Sheel – Pryce Advisory Services</p>	<p>Beyond Compliance: The Power of Inclusive Procurement</p> <p>What if your supply chain could be your greatest driver of innovation, resilience, and impact? In this engaging and thought-provoking session learn about why certification matters, how it opens doors, and the tangible business benefits of an inclusive supply chain. Don't miss this opportunity to gain a competitive edge and help shape the next chapter of procurement.</p> <p>Speakers: Kailey Gilchrist - Canada's 2SLGBTQI+ Chamber of Commerce Darrell Schuurman – Canada's 2SLGBTQI+ Chamber of Commerce</p>
10:45 am – 11:15 am	Coffee and Snacks (includes potential 15 minutes for Gold or Platinum Speaker)	
11:15 am – 12:15 pm	<p>Closing Keynote Speaker – Michelle Ray</p> <p>Our Story Starts with You!</p> <p>Ignite the Power of Personal Leadership in a Radically Changing World</p> <p>When change and uncertainty strike, we must be ready to take the lead, even when the answers aren't immediately at their fingertips. Leadership used to be more about the "long view" – looking out on the horizon to chart the future. But, as recent events have reminded us, we no longer live in that world. And the future remains outside of our control. Now, you're facing a host of pressures. Trade wars, escalating costs, talent shortages, ongoing digital transformation...to name a few. These and other challenges compel you to lead yourself, bolster your resilience and continue to showcase your story as a positive influencer. Get ready to embrace challenges, and create new outcomes – in your business and your life – long after the event ends.</p>	
12:15 pm – 12:30 pm	Closing Remarks and Prize Giveaways	
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch (Bagged) – End of Symposium	