

**2024 Workplace Health & Safety Conference**  
**Workshop Leader Biographies**



**Tareq Hadhad - Founder and CEO of Peace by Chocolate**

Tareq Hadhad is telling his story. He was a Syrian refugee and now living his new life with his entrepreneurial family in Canada's east coast. He is the founder and CEO of Peace by Chocolate, headquartered in Nova Scotia.

Passionate about peace and entrepreneurship, his family relaunched the family business to recreate the chocolates they exported across the Middle East and their story turned into an international inspiring phenomenon.

Tareq has done over 500 interviews with news teams across the globe and is a keynote speaker who talks about his family's compelling story, the positive impact of Syrian newcomers and the spirit of entrepreneurship. Most recently, he was awarded the Atlantic Business Magazine's 30 under 30 Innovators.

**Lisa Dollar - Cultural Inclusion Trainer, Immigration & Refugee Services Association (IRSA PEI)**

Lisa Dollar has worked as a Cultural Inclusion Trainer with IRSA PEI for the past 15 years. Her work is to connect established and new Islanders through a deeper understanding of cultures, thereby cultivating opportunities, innovation and inclusion. Lisa holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from UPEI, as well as a diploma in International Trade. She resides in Charlottetown with her husband and three sons.

**Mitchell Jay – OHS Officer, WBC PEI**

Mitch serves as an OHS Officer with the OHS Division of Workers Compensation Board of PEI. He is dedicated in assisting employers making sure their workers and the public are safe. Mitch is a specialist of the OHS Act and its General Regulations. Before becoming part of the WCB, Mitch accumulated years of hands-on experience enforcing legislations and regulations with the Department of Environment and Justice and Public Safety as a Conservation Officer. In addition to his professional role, Mitch takes pride in being a father to three children, all under the age of five, and has a passion for golf.

### **Jeremy MacEachern – OHS Education Consultant, WCB PEI**

Jeremy is an OHS Educational Consultant with the OHS Division of the Workers Compensation Board of PEI. In his current role, he helps Island employers and workers with education about their responsibilities under the OHS Act. Jeremy has worked in adult education for over 10 years and has a passion for helping people and promoting safety in the workplace. Jeremy received his Bachelor of Arts and Education degrees from UPEI and also completed a Masters of Business Administration in 2020 at UPEI.

### **Brenda Picard, K.C. - Executive Director, PEI Human Rights Commission**

Brenda has been the Executive Director of the PEI Human Rights Commission since 2013. In that role, she is involved in investigating, resolving and litigating human rights complaints and conducting education about human rights. Brenda received a Bachelor of Arts and Laws Degree from Dalhousie University. Previously Brenda practiced law with private firms in Nova Scotia and PEI prior to joining PEI Legal Aid where she was a criminal defense lawyer for over 18 years.

### **Ryan Merry – Service Quality Coordinator, WCB PEI**

Ryan is the Service Quality Coordinator with the Workers Compensation Board of PEI. Ryan started with the WCB in 2014 as an Entitlement Officer and has relied on this hands-on claim experience to aid his current efforts in improving service quality across all stakeholders - workers, employers, service providers, team members, and more. Ryan holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the UPEI, works as a strength and conditioning coach at a small gym in Charlottetown, and has been a gigging musician for upwards of 15 years.

### **Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS)**

Prepare to learn what your workplace can do to help improve your programs through a presentation by the CCOHS. CCOHS is a national not-for-profit, federal departmental corporation, governed by a tripartite Council – representing government, employers and labour – to ensure a balanced approach to workplace health and safety issues.

### **Iyad Mansour - Director of Learning, St. John Ambulance Nova Scotia & PEI**

Iyad Mansour is the Director of Learning at St. John Ambulance Nova Scotia & PEI. Iyad has 15 years of experience in logistics, learning and development, project management and health and safety project development and implementation in the higher education sector. Iyad is responsible for all programs and delivery in Nova Scotia and PEI, from First Aid to Mental Health and Wellness training. Iyad and their team make sure the appropriate onboarding is provided to instructors with the latest best practices to teach and build curricula for the modern learner. Iyad is a health and safety advocate and strives to work with partners to deliver world-class programs to Atlantic Canadians.

**Erin Carver – Youth Education Consultant, WCB of PEI**

Erin is the Youth Education Consultant at the Workers Compensation Board of PEI. She has been serving Islanders in a consulting role since 2019. Erin is a UPEI graduate and hold a degree in Psychology and Education and has most recently received her Occupational Health and safety Certificate from the University of New Brunswick. Erin enjoys educating young workers and their employers about their OHS responsibilities, and spending time with her family and staying active outdoors.

**David Collins - Operations Manager with CU Financial Management and Volunteer with Threads of Life**

David boasts over 15 years of experience in the financial services industry and presently serves as an Operations Manager with CU Financial Management. David has spent much of his adulthood advocating for enhanced occupational health and safety knowledge for young workers. In 2003, at the age of 16, David experienced a devastating workplace tragedy. David is a volunteer with Threads of Life, a Canadian registered charity dedicated to supporting families after a workplace fatality, life-altering injury or occupational disease.

**Constable Tim Keizer - Charlottetown Police Service**

A Charlottetown native, Tim attended UPEI and Holland College before joining the Charlottetown Police Service in 1995. Renowned for his unwavering commitment to community service, Tim has been honored with numerous prestigious awards. Serving as the President of the PEI Police Association, he was the first law enforcement officer on Prince Edward Island assigned to the role of a dedicated school resources officer. Tim's 28-year career underscores his specialized expertise in de-escalation techniques, consistently ensuring safety by adeptly defusing potentially volatile situations and prioritizing peaceful resolutions.

**Amy MacQuarrie - Health and Safety Advisor, FIGR**

Amy MacQuarrie, a dynamic professional with a Business Administration Diploma, BA and a Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety Technology, brings extensive experience in health, safety, and environmental practices. Since 2016, they've contributed significantly to health, safety and environment (HSE) in various sectors, including manufacturing for pharmaceuticals, food and consumables, and government projects. Amy currently excels in ensuring safety at a cannabis facility for FIGR and Piper's Punch brands. Passionate about wellness, snowboarding, and gym activities, Amy also cherishes time with their partner and two cats.

**Jim Power - Store Manager, Charlottetown Kent Building Supplies**

Jim Power serves as the Store Manager at the Charlottetown Kent Building Supplies. With 40 years of extensive retail management expertise, Jim has successfully navigated various sectors, including fashion, mass merchandising, discount, and box store operations across Atlantic Canada. His passion for the job is evident, with a particular fondness for interacting with people. Jim firmly believes in the philosophy that "we are all customers and know how we want to be treated." Beyond his professional role, Jim is a significant figure in the local music community, dedicating his time to volunteer for local events and helping wherever possible.

**Greg Mackenzie – Owner, Mackenzie Produce Inc.**

Greg, proud owner of Mackenzie Produce Inc., began his vegetable farming journey in 1992 at Balderston Produce. In 2003, seizing an opportunity, Greg and spouse Tania acquired a 50-acre vegetable farm, now expanded to an impressive 115 acres. In 2018, they abandoned 1 million lbs. of crops due to their inability to secure fall labor. Determined to fortify their business, they hired six farm workers from Mexico in the following year, stabilizing operations. In 2020, amid the COVID-19 Pandemic, Greg built a residence for nine returning Mexican workers. Guided by Greg, the farm crew is more than just a team: they are a close-knit family. Greg expresses enduring gratitude for the exceptional team's dedication and hard work.

**Laura Johnson - Vice-President Management Consulting, Transformation Strategy and Indigenous Services Lead at BDO Canada, and UPEI Instructor**

Laura's work experience includes over 20 years of Executive Management positions both in the public and private sector. Prior to joining BDO, Laura worked as the Director General for Katimavik Atlantic, the Atlantic Director for the Canadian Red Cross and as a business faculty professor at UPEI. Her areas of expertise include interpersonal communication, strategic planning, change and transformation, adult education and leadership development. Consistent themes throughout her career have been building positive relationships and safer workspaces where all employees can thrive. Laura can often be seen around Charlottetown with her three daughters enjoying family time.

**Grant Matheson - Devoted Father, Speaker, Author, and Non-Practicing Physician**

Grant Matheson, the son of a Presbyterian minister, is a devoted father of three, a non-practicing physician, and a recovering drug addict. Grant has been drug-free since 2005, yet the stigma of his past addiction continues to shadow him in his small home province of Prince Edward Island. He aspires for his story to provide support and understanding to both individuals grappling with addiction and those who care for someone battling the disease.

**Janice Whalen – OHS Manager, WCB of PEI**

Janice is the Manager of Occupational Health and Safety at the Workers Compensation Board of PEI. Over the past eighteen years at the WCB, Janice has played a key role in promoting safety to Island employers and workers first as the Farm Safety Specialist and OHS Officer. Janice has a degree in Agricultural Science from the University of Guelph, obtaining her CRSP in 2012 and completing a Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety from Ryerson University in 2013. At home, she and her husband, Jamie, operate a farm caring for Standardbred racehorses.

**Joe MacAulay – OHS Officer, WCB of PEI**

Joe is currently employed as an OHS Officer with the Workers Compensation Board of PEI. Joe has been serving the workers and employers of PEI since 2007. His responsibilities include conducting workplace inspections related to the enforcement of the OHS Act and its various regulations. Joe has completed UNB certification programs related to Occupational Health and Safety and has participated in a number of community boards and as a member of the CSSE chapter of PEI.