



October 3, 2026

HALTON NON-PROFIT CONGRESS

Program Schedule (as at September 16, 2026)

Registration & Light Breakfast	8:15am – 9:00am
Welcome	9:00am – 9:30am
Key-Note Speaker	9:30am – 10:30am
Sector Networking & Conversations	10:45am – 11:45am
Lunch	11:45am – 12:30pm
Afternoon Workshops	12:30pm – 2:30pm
Closing Plenary	2:45pm – 3:30pm
Closing & Thank You	3:30pm – 4:00pm

15 minute breaks: 10:30am & 2:30pm



Welcome to the Non-Profit Congress! Thank you for joining us for this transformative event tailored to non-profit leaders in arts, culture, heritage, recreation, and sports. Today we'll unlock Halton's non-profit sector's full potential!

KEY NOTE SPEAKER

9:30AM - 10:30AM

Auditorium

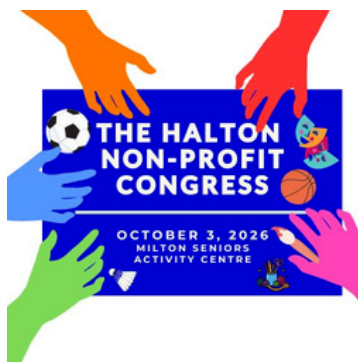
ERIN SPINK, MA

Global Factors Influencing Volunteer Engagement

Although it can feel like 'doing' volunteer engagement is a hyper-local activity, volunteerism is affected by what's happening at the local, provincial, national, and international levels. In her key note address, Erin Spink will share four global trends that influence volunteerism, including how the rise of artificial intelligence and/or technology influences our work in volunteer engagement. A dynamic and engaging speaker, what she'll share will shift your approach to working with volunteers going forward and you'll learn tactics to adjust, advocate, and anticipate these factors in the work you do with volunteers.

Erin Spink is an internationally recognized speaker, writer and trainer in Volunteer Engagement. Her research includes the first-ever academic work quantifying the concept of "volunteer engagement" as part of her Master's (Leadership) research project, and she conducted a study of the impact of the political landscape on volunteerism across North America in 2016 during the first Trump term. Beyond Volunteer Engagement, Erin is an experienced senior leader in the charitable sector, having served as Executive Director for multiple national organizations.





PLENARY SESSION

10:45AM - 11:45AM
Auditorium

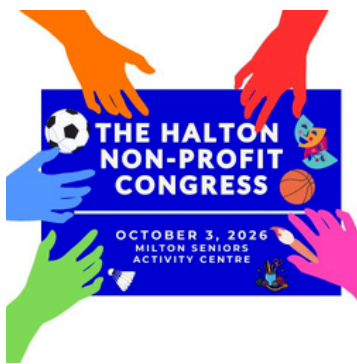
Shared Challenges, Shared Solutions: A Non-profit Peer Learning Exchange

Join colleagues from across the sector for an interactive networking and peer-learning session designed in response to Congress participants' requests for more connection time.

Facilitated small-group discussions will explore some of the most pressing issues facing non-profits today, including cybersecurity readiness, planning for organizational growth, and balancing decent volunteerism with decent work practices. Participants will have the opportunity to share experiences, learn from peers, and identify practical strategies that can be applied within their own organizations.

Key insights from each table will be captured and compiled into a post-Congress resource for attendees. Come ready to connect, contribute, and learn from others facing similar opportunities and challenges.





CLOSING PLENARY

2:45pm - 3:30pm

Auditorium

COMMUNITY BUILDING: Connections & Computers?

It may feel like technology - its benefits, its challenges and all the cautions and warnings - is dominating our lives. We need a password to access so many things, must create an account to do activities of daily living, and the phrase “download the app” is becoming as common as a Canadian saying “sorry”.

In this closing plenary, **Rishia Burke**, will lead attendees through a session focused on building community connections with intention using an Assets-Based Community Development (ABCD) approach. The sustainability of our communities and the foundation of our connections isn't dependent on technology. This session will highlight how employing an ABCD approach is a foundational framework for mapping and mobilizing our community strengths, capacities, and resources. Technology is an ‘outside resource’ with which we may engage, however, it cannot replace human connection or human ingenuity.

Rishia Burke has over 30 years of experience in the health and social services sectors, with experience working in neighbourhood associations, community health centres, developmental services, and social planning.

Rishia has extensive experience as a program evaluator, facilitator, and trainer. She has been using asset-based community development to guide her work for the past 20 years, working along community members, the non-profit sector, and municipal partners as a community builder.



EDUCATION SESSIONS

The Halton Non-Profit Congress is pleased to welcome subject-matter experts in the areas of fundraising, cybersecurity, and volunteer engagement to deliver in-depth and interactive two-hour education sessions.

Each session runs from 12:30pm - 2:30pm and is capped at 30 participants.

THEME	WORKSHOP	PRESENTER	STARTS AT:
Cybersecurity	Human-Centred Cybersecurity for Non-Profits: Protecting People, Data, and Trust in the Age of AI	Varsha Vaishali Founder & President Cyber Harassment Support (CHS)	12:30pm Craft Room
Fundraising	Community Inclusive Philanthropy in Real Life	Melissa Cameron, CFRE Community Engagement & Business Development Officer Acclaim Health	12:30pm Multi-purpose room
Volunteer Engagement & Technology	Ethical AI for Leaders of Volunteers	Jessica Pang-Parks, CVA Principal Learn with JPP	12:30pm Library/Lounge



EDUCATION SESSION OUTLINES & SPEAKER BIOS

HUMAN-CENTRED CYBERSECURITY FOR NON-PROFITS

Protecting People, Data, and Trust in the Age of AI

Varsha Vaishali, Founder & President
Cyber Harassment Support (CHS)

Description & learning objectives: **Non-profits hold more than data** - they hold community trust and often manage donor, volunteer, participant, outreach, payment, social media, and sensitive community information. This interactive workshop will help non-profit leaders, board members, staff, and volunteers understand cybersecurity and AI-related risks in a simple, practical, human-centred way. This session will focus on real situations such as phishing, fake donor scams, payment redirection fraud, social media account takeover, AI voice/video impersonation, volunteer data mishandling, and accidental data leakage.

This workshop will **cover practical safeguards** such as collecting only necessary information, limiting access, using secure storage, avoiding informal sharing, enabling multi-factor authentication, training volunteers on confidentiality, and keeping sensitive data only as long as needed.

About the Presenter: **Varsha Vaishali** is the Founder and President of Cyber Harassment (CHS), a Canada-based nonprofit focused on cyber awareness, digital dignity, and support for people affected by online harm. With a background in technology delivery, project management, cybersecurity awareness, responsible AI awareness, and non-profit leadership, Varsha Vaishali brings a practical, human-centred approach to digital safety.



EDUCATION SESSION OUTLINES & SPEAKER BIOS

COMMUNITY INCLUSIVE PHILANTHROPY IN REAL LIFE

Melissa Cameron, CFRE

Community Engagement & Business Development Director
Acclaim Health

Description & learning objectives: The power dynamics baked into traditional fundraising practices put donors on a pedestal, often reinforcing systemic oppression and barriers to inclusion. **How can non-profit organizations evolve** their fundraising practices and work toward community inclusive philanthropy, while still ensuring the funding keeps flowing and growing?

This session will cover what is community inclusive philanthropy and how it is different from trust-based philanthropy. Melissa will also address the role of **ethical storytelling**, educating your community including your donors, as well as **tools and tactics** to bring community inclusive philanthropy to life in your organization.

About the Presenter: A leader in the non-profit sector with over two decades of experience, Melissa Cameron holds her CFRE (Canadian Fundraising Executive) designation and has earned the Lifetime Achievement Award in Philanthropic Leadership from the Association of Fundraising Professionals Golden Horseshoe Chapter. Her passion is building inclusivity through ethical storytelling and community-based fundraising practices. Currently the Community Engagement and Business Development Director for Acclaim Health, she recently led a \$9M capital campaign to build Patty's Place, a dementia care centre in Oakville.



EDUCATION SESSION OUTLINES & SPEAKER BIOS

Ethical AI for Leaders of Volunteers

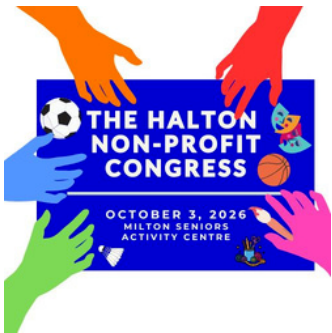
Jessica Pang-Parks (she/her)-Principal, Learn with JPP

Description & learning objectives: Do you notice how artificial intelligence is changing the way we work, create, and connect? Are you worried about **how to apply AI ethically** as a leader of volunteers. With time and resources already stretched thin at non-profit organizations, the world of AI can feel both exciting and uncertain.

This interactive workshop, developed with **ethical AI expert Meena Das**, will explore the human side of AI and apply it to volunteer engagement work. Using Mentimeter for ideation and reflection, you will explore the hopes, fears, and real-world dilemmas that leaders of volunteers face when using AI tools.

Together we will explore practical, low-cost examples for recruitment, screening, recognition, and content creation, along with simple checklists and conversation prompts to help you get started or move forward more ethically.

About the Presenter: Jessica Pang-Parks, CVA, Trauma of Money Certified,TM is an award-winning volunteer engagement thought leader who teaches in Fleming College’s Volunteer Management Program and was named one of the Top 10 Volunteer Leadership Voices in 2025. She has held professional volunteer engagement roles at Crohn’s and Colitis Canada, Pathways to Education Canada, the Heart & Stroke Foundation, Volunteer Toronto, and WWF-Canada.





SELECT YOUR EDUCATION SESSION

Choose your education session! As a Congress attendee, you choose your session to attend in the afternoon from 12:30pm-2:30pm. *Make your selection on your registration form.*

Choose from:

- **Human-Centred Cybersecurity for Non-profits** with Varsha Vaishali
- **Community Inclusive Philanthropy in Real Life** with Melissa Cameron, CFRE
- **Ethical AI for Leaders of Volunteers** with Jessica Pang-Parks, CVA

See the session outlines and speaker bios starting on page 6.

NOT YET REGISTERED? REGISTER NOW!

Register for The Halton Non-Profit Congress by [clicking here](#) to be taken to the online registration form.

\$60 Early Bird Single Rate (ends September 24)

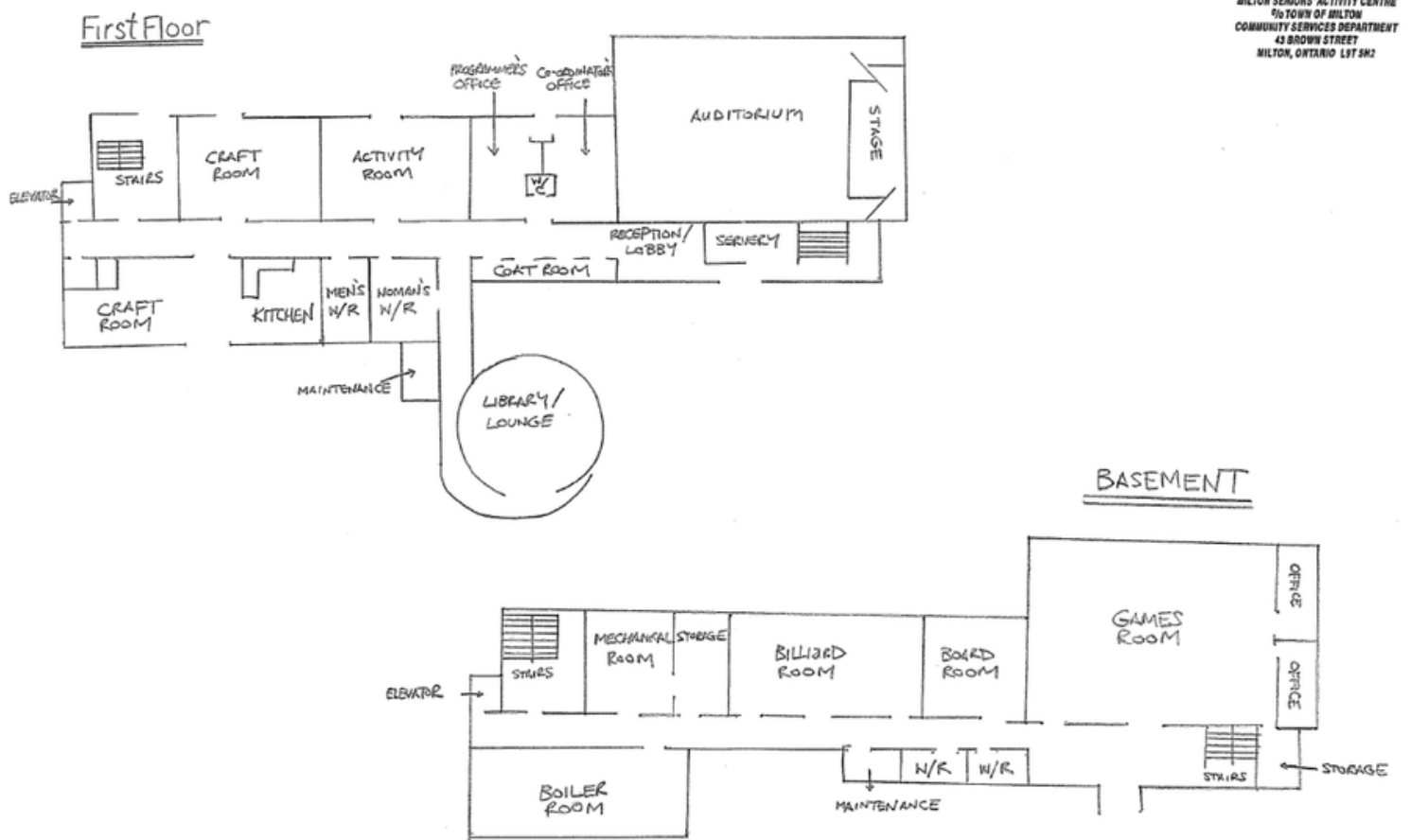
After September 25, price goes up \$100 per person

MILTON SENIORS ACTIVITY CENTRE

500 Childs Drive, Milton, ON

Plenty of on-site parking (overflow parking at Milton Mall)

Fully accessible space; everything takes place on the First Floor





THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Events like these do not happen by themselves! Many thanks to our sponsors, committee members, and community!

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THANK YOU TO THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

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2026 Congress Committee

Rishia Burke, Community Development Halton
Elizabeth Gordon, Town of Halton Hills
Heather Johnson, Volunteer Halton
Heather Kaufmann, Town of Halton Hills
Crispin Martin, Town of Milton
Karen Mayer, Volunteer Halton
Molly McCoubrey, Town of Milton
Scott O'Donnell, Town of Oakville
Jennifer Spence, City of Burlington
Deirdre Taylor, Town of Oakville

