



# ASI 2026 Forum –Preliminary Program **May 26, 2026** August 18-20, 2026

**Please note: the program will be updated as speakers are confirmed**

Plenary sessions will be in-person and available online; workshops will be in person, with two workshops offered online.

August 18-20, 2026  
UPEI, Charlottetown, PEI – registration is open

August 17-20, 2026  
Youth Leadership Program – See asi-iea.ca for information

All times listed in Atlantic Daylight Time (ADT)



*Presentations will be made in both French and English, and simultaneous interpretation will be provided through Wordly for all plenary sessions, and selected workshops– Scan QR code above (not yet inserted)*

## Tuesday, August 18

Pre-Forum Workshops	
12:00 – 7:00	<p><b>Registration – 10:00</b></p> <p><b>Location: Mezzanine UPEI Performance Hall</b></p>
2:00 – 4:00	<p>Three pre-forum workshops are being offered to set the scene for participation in this forum. These workshops will be offered to address various levels of interest and knowledge in the topics to be addressed over the next two days.</p> <p>The three workshops are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Mental Health is More Than You Can Imagine – Orientation to Upstream concepts</b></li> </ol> <p>This workshop is designed for those who have not attended ASI previously and who wish to have a better sense of the upstream approach ASI applies to mental health promotion, resilient communities, and intersectoral, intergenerational collaboration.</p> <p>The workshop will establish the environment for learning and preparing participants for active participation by reviewing the program schedule, and engaging in discussion on the terms and phrases, and where can we go with these concepts in future. e.g., Mental Health</p>



in All Policies, the 7 generations principle. This will prepare participants for the Facilitator Training workshop during the concurrent sessions. (This workshop was offered at ASI 2024 and on PEI last year. Participation in these workshops would qualify for facilitator training.)

**Facilitators:** TBD

Location: TBD

## **2. Seven Generations Principle**

The concept of *seven generations* is a guiding principle in many Indigenous cultures across North America. It is often expressed in the idea that decisions made today should consider their impact on the next seven generations. This reflects a deep sense of responsibility, sustainability, and interconnectedness with both ancestors and future descendants. Drawing on the wisdom of the seven generations principle, two-eyed seeing, foundations of culture and tradition, x will speak to the significance of Indigenous knowledge in Building Resilient Communities for Well-being Across Generations and how it serves as a thread throughout the forum.

**Facilitator:** TBD

**Location:** TBD

## **2. Circle of Health: Celebrating 30 years and preparing for 30 more!**

At its core, The Circle of Health is a 'systems compass' that brings diverse users together to mobilize for upstream policy and programs to promote health and build a wellbeing society. It is a proven learning and collaboration tool that can be adapted by anyone, anywhere. It bridges the gaps between sectors, disciplines, and issues, and helps users identify and implement their strategic priorities by targeting three equity-focused and system-shifting areas of action (shared understanding, trusting and reciprocal relationships, and aligned action). Developed in Prince Edward Island in 1996 through a consultative process, the Circle of Health was adopted as the ASI Planning Framework in 2004. It has been used internationally and is available in 6 languages.

Join us to explore our ideas about how we might update and renew The Circle of Health so that it is ready to meet the challenges of our time! In this workshop we will be reviewing a revised framework and looking for your ideas about how to design and implement for impact and sustainability.

**Facilitators:** Patsy Beattie-Huggan and Lesley Dyck

**Location:** TBD

**6:30 – 8:30**

**OFFICIAL OPENING – Location: UPEI Performance Hall**

**Welcome and land acknowledgement –** Malcolm Shookner, ASI President

**Opening Announcements –** Patsy Beattie-Huggan; Nathalie Boivin, ASI Board

**Welcome Song –** Julie Pellissier-Lush, Mi'kmaq Storyteller

**Framing the Forum** – What foundational documents serve as a counter force to the Polycrisis? What principles can guide us over time? M. Schookner

**Greetings from officials and funders** – Susan Hartley, VP ASI Board of Directors

- Welcome - Government of Canada
- Welcome - Province of PEI
- Welcome - City of Charlottetown
- Greetings – Sponsors

**Atlantic Community Showcase** –

This is an opportunity to celebrate innovative initiatives that relate to this year’s theme. The stories and exhibits will be available throughout the Forum on the online exhibit page and onsite exhibits. **Call for Proposals closed – May 25**

**Keynote Introduction: Nathalie Boivin, ASI Board Member**

**Keynote: *It Takes a Community: Shaping a wellbeing society for all generations***

Liane Comeau, PhD

At a time when many world leaders are leaning away from investment in wellbeing societies, how can the principles of the Ottawa Charter on Health Promotion guide and mobilize collective action? I will argue that one of the Charter’s core ideas, community engagement, remains as relevant as ever to shape our communities and institutions to our vision of promoting health, social justice, peace and sustainability. We know this will require transformative system change, collaborative leadership and governance at all levels to create and maintain a culture of wellbeing for children, youth and all generations - now and into the future. The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ottawa Charter this year offers an opportunity to examine how health promotion has evolved as a field, as a practice, and as a global movement. As we celebrate meaningful anniversaries at ASI, let us also honour the efforts that brought us here and re-commit to engaging how we can, from where we stand.

**Q&A Moderator:** Emyrn Hayden, ASI Board Member (NL)

To engage both online participants and in person attendees, we will use Mentimeter to ask “What are the questions you would want to pose to the panel in the morning? What key message are you taking away?”.

**Thank you: Nathalie Boivin, ASI Board Member**

*Note:* Q&A is followed by a Closing Reception.

## Wednesday, August 19

**9:00 – 10:00**

**Registration for late arrivals, Coffee and networking** – All participants will connect in person for coffee and networking, visit showcases, exhibits.

Location: Mezzanine - UPEI Performance Hall


**10:00 - 10:15**

**Morning Welcome – Announcements – Location:** UPEI Performance Hall

	Today's Focus: Understanding the local impact of the polycrisis <sup>1</sup> and how we can respond
10:15–11:45	<p><b>Opening Plenary: How do we respond to the Polycrisis at the local level?</b> A whole of Community Approach</p> <p><b>Location:</b> UPEI Performance Hall</p> <p>The opening plenary session is intended to respond to and localize the themes in the keynote address - strengthening community engagement, mobilizing networks and connections, using new evidence, and considering emerging trends in a Future Generation Approach. This plenary will shift from global framing to concrete community-level responses in Atlantic Canada. It will help participants connect large concepts to their own work, with an emphasis on transformative change at the community level.</p> <p>An opening address will be provided by the session moderator who will explain what the polycrisis is and examples of a community response, with a multi-speaker panel that highlights diverse regional and cultural perspectives and practical examples of community-driven transformation.</p> <p><b>Opening Speaker and Moderator:</b> Chief Chris George, Eel River Bar (NB)  <b>Panelists:</b> Examples of communities taking charge – taking action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Panelists to be confirmed</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>
11:45-12:45	<p><b>Lunch Break – Location - Cafeteria</b></p> <p><b>At your table - Share community stories of response to the ‘polycrisis’</b></p> <p>Visit Showcases &amp; exhibits, posting on social media – and movement!</p>
12:45-2:00	<p><b>Policy Panel: <i>Shaping the Culture of Wellbeing – A whole of government approach</i></b></p> <p>The Policy Panel is intended to expand our thinking to consider the power of policy in addressing the polycrisis and shaping the culture of wellbeing. The session moderator will introduce the topic and facilitate discussion amongst the panelists such as: What are examples of efforts underway now to shape a culture of wellbeing through policy? What is the capacity of governments to take on and create structures and processes for Health in All Policies? What are the tensions that exist in implementing policies? How can we foster a whole of government approach?</p> <p><b>Moderator and panelists – To be confirmed</b></p>
2:00–3:00	<p><b>Facilitated Provincial Discussions: <i>A Whole of Society Approach</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is happening in my community? region? province?</li> </ul>

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<sup>1</sup> A **polycrisis** is the simultaneous occurrence of several interconnected, cascading crises (such as economic, environmental, and geopolitical shocks) that interact to produce a total impact far greater than the sum of their parts

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does a whole of society approach look like?</li> <li>• What is the role of policy to support this work?</li> </ul> <p><b>Consider the actions you can take and identify one you can take when you leave ASI</b></p>
<b>3:00 – 3:30</b>	<p><b>Networking - COW's Ice-cream</b> Location: TBD</p>
<b>3:30-5:00</b>	<p><b>Concurrent Skill Development Workshops</b> - Location: Assigned Classrooms</p> <p>Workshops will enhance skills that support advancement of the ASI Policy Brief and address the theme and objectives of ASI 2026. Participants will learn from real life experiences and evidence informed approaches, to foster resilient well-being societies; promoting infant, child and youth mental health across generations. Most workshops will be offered in person; two will be offered with a hybrid option.</p> <p><b>Call for Workshops Closes June 1</b></p> <p><b>Hybrid Session (Online and In-person) with Interpretation:</b> Location: UPEI Performance Hall</p> <p><b>1. Atlantic Canada Community Research Panel</b> – Research that demonstrates how we measure progress toward a wellbeing society Moderator: Nathalie Boivin</p> <p><b>Experiential Learning: Creating Community through Song – to be confirmed</b></p> <p>Based on feedback from 2025, we are introducing a session each day that introduces activities participants can build upon in their own communities to shape a culture of wellbeing across generations. This session will engage voices of singers and “want to be” singers in workshoping and recording a song. Perhaps they will perform at dinner or the ASI closing? Time will tell. This engaging activity demonstrates how a <i>wellbeing culture in a community can be enriched through the arts</i></p>  
<b>5:30 – 8:00</b>	<p><b>Multicultural Meal – Location TBD</b> – No cost for registrants and children. Tickets for guests available at the registration desk.</p> <p><b>Refreshments &amp; Cash bar at 5:30</b> – Dinner served by local vendors at 6:00</p>
<b>Thursday, August 20</b>	
<b>9:00 – 9:30</b>	<p><b>Coffee, Networking, Exhibits, Announcements through Pheedloop</b> Location: TBD</p>
<b>9:30 –10:45</b>	<p><b>Intergenerational Panel:</b> Impact of Digital Transformation on Present and Future Generations - challenges and opportunities with technology and AI – critical analysis Location: UPEI Performance Hall</p>

	<p><b>Panel description</b></p> <p>In this increasingly digital world, people are exposed to a wide range of online tools that can both support and impact their well being. Amidst this incredible progress, digital media offer social connection, but present risks related to manipulative design features. There are questions of damage to the brain development and mental health of our youth while there are also segments of the population being left behind. While AI also has many benefits, it also threatens our very future. Young people may experience the greatest impact. The speed of change is challenging organizations, governments, as well as the people they serve. There is an urgent need to distinguish between the benefits and challenges.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Maureen Abbott, Mental Health Commission of Canada  <b>Panelists:</b> To be confirmed</p> <p>-</p>
<p><b>10:45-11:00</b></p>	<p><b>Coffee, Networking, Exhibits</b> <b>Location:</b> PAC Mezzanine - Visit exhibits &amp; posterboards, networking on Pheedloop, posting on social media – and movement!</p>
<p><b>11:15 – 12:45</b></p>	<p><b>Call for workshops closes June 1</b></p>
<p><b>12:45 -1:00</b></p>	<p><b>Closing Plenary – Reflections –</b></p> <p>Location: UPEI Performance Hall  What did we learn? Mentimeter will be used to gather perspectives  <b>Introduce the evaluation –</b> Nishka Smith, Evaluator – To be completed online.</p>
<p><b>1:00 – 1:30</b></p>	<p><b>Closing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Youth Message</b></li> <li>• <b>Children’s Message</b></li> <li>• <b>Closing Song</b> - Julie Pellissier-Lush, Mi'kmaq Storyteller and Knowledge Keeper</li> </ul>
<p><b>1:30-2:15</b></p>	<p><b>Lunch Together – Cafeteria</b> - Draw for a prize for those who complete the evaluation.  <b>Final chats, networking. Thank you and safe travels!</b></p>