



# Autism Awareness Centre Inc. *believe in change*

## Vancouver, BC – February 17 & 18, 2017 Featuring Speakers Andrew McDonnell and Kerry Mataya

Marriott Vancouver Airport Hotel, 7571 Westminster Highway, Richmond, BC

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### Friday, February 17

#### Andrew McDonnell

##### *Non-Aversive Strategies to Assist Individuals with Autism and Challenging Behaviours*

Working with individuals who have challenging behaviours can be stressful and can produce a great deal of anxiety for both the educator/caregiver/support person and the individual. Although many advances have been made in supporting people with autism, the management of behaviours is not as well understood.

This presentation will focus on how to manage behaviours using the Low Arousal Approach.

What is the Low Arousal Approach to behaviour?

- Practical strategies to help educators/caregivers/support workers support “highly agitated” and stressed individuals.
- Verbal and nonverbal strategies to de-escalate crisis situations.
- The approach involves ‘reflective practice’ – that is, “What is my own contribution to the situation?”

Low Arousal Approaches include:

- Interaction, diffusion and distraction strategies
- Coping with challenging behaviours including debriefing
- The why’s and how’s
- Managing vs. changing behaviours
- Physical avoidance skills and physical intervention strategies

**Dr. Andrew McDonnell** is a Clinical Psychologist and Director of Studio3 Training Systems located in Warwickshire, UK. He has a special interest in arousal mechanisms in people with autism and the management of severe challenging behaviours. Other areas of interest are stress management, person centred approaches to behaviour management, arousal mechanisms and their application to human behaviour, and sensory perceptual processing differences. Andrew’s doctoral thesis evaluated the impact of staff training in low arousal approaches and has been the subject of his book *Managing Aggressive Behaviour in Care Settings: Understanding and Applying Low Arousal Approaches*.

The low arousal approach was first developed by Dr. McDonnell. He has lectured on this subject in Europe, Africa and Asia.

### Saturday, February 18

#### Kerry Mataya

##### *Problem Solving: A Step-by-Step Process for Success*

Problem solving is a skill that we all need, and one that many of us take for granted. Most of us do not even realize that we are scanning our surroundings, considering all of our options, or moving on to the Plan B if Plan A did not work. If you work with a high functioning individual with ASD, this workshop is for you.

This presentation will offer ideas to help teachers, counselors, service providers, and parents identify the need for increased collaboration and teamwork to provide a step-by-step framework for the development of problem solving skills across all contexts, including home, school, and community. Furthermore this presentation will include topics such as how to correctly identify the root cause of outward behavior and how to understand the role of problem solving in the development of social skills and the prevention of bullying and meltdowns. Because executive functioning skills are involved in development of problem solving skills, goals for development in this area will be discussed as well.

**Kerry Mataya, M.S.Ed.** is the creator and visionary behind Bridgeway Services providing intervention-based services including school consultations, summer camps, after-school social groups, and individualized programming for high functioning individuals with ASD. With a Master’s in Education with emphasis in Autism and Asperger Syndrome from the University of Kansas, Mrs. Mataya holds many contracts with school systems for individualized teaching, social skills programming, executive functioning skill development, behavior support, and academic support. Most recently, Mrs. Mataya authored *Successful Problem-Solving for High-Functioning Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders* and is currently working on additional projects that systemize learning for students with ASD. Mrs. Mataya has presented at numerous conferences and workshops around the United States. She is also involved with Asperger Connection, a small non-profit organization that provides funding to improve the quality of life for high functioning individuals with ASD.

**Register Online or Call:**

**[www.autismawarenesscentre.com](http://www.autismawarenesscentre.com)**

**Toll Free: 1-866-724-2224**

**Autism Awareness Centre Conference February 17 & 18, 2017 with Andrew McDonnell & Kerry Mataya**

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**REGISTRATION FEE SCHEDULE**

**DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATIONS February 10, 2017**

**PROFESSIONAL**

**BEFORE February 3, 2017**

**AFTER February 3, 2017**

2 Days

\$315.00 + \$15.75 GST = \$330.75

\$345.00 + \$17.25 GST = \$362.25

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

1 Day Only

\$240.00 + \$12.00 GST = \$252.00

\$270.00 + \$13.50 GST = \$283.50

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Day Attending**

Friday \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday \_\_\_\_\_

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**BEFORE February 3, 2017**

**AFTER February 3, 2017**

2 Days

\$275.00 + \$13.75 GST = \$288.75

\$305.00 + \$15.25 GST = \$320.25

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

1 Day Only

\$175.00 + \$8.75 GST = \$183.75

\$205.00 + \$10.25 GST = \$215.25

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**Day Attending**

Friday \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION INCLUDES:** Sessions, session materials, refreshment breaks. If you do not receive a confirmation seven business days prior to the conference please contact Autism Awareness Centre. Registrations received after the deadline may not be sent a confirmation before the conference.

**METHOD OF PAYMENT**

**FEES MUST BE PAID PRIOR TO EVENT**

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