

Meet the Speakers

From lived experience to innovative solutions, our speakers share bold ideas and practical strategies to create affordable, resilient, and inclusive communities across Canada.

Kyle White

Director of Education at Co-operatives First



Co-operatives First has supported the creation of more than 140 new co-op businesses across Canada. This session will explore the federal government's new Co-operative Housing Development Program—the largest investment in co-op housing in over 40 years—offering insights into how co-ops can deliver affordability, stability, and stronger communities.

Ed Peterson

Founder, Tiny Town Association



With over 40 years of experience spanning construction, renewable energy, technology, and business development, Ed Peterson brings a lifetime of expertise to the housing conversation. As the founder of the Tiny Town Association, Ed has shifted from profit-driven ventures to building a social enterprise that directly tackles Canada's housing crisis. His session will highlight why traditional housing development is too slow to meet demand—and how scalable, climate-resilient tiny home communities can offer bold, affordable alternatives for Canadians seeking flexible housing options.

Al Wiebe

No Fixed Address



Al Wiebe brings powerful lived experience to the housing conversation. After spending 29 months homeless and overcoming significant mental health challenges, Al became the first person with lived experience to serve as a case manager in a Canadian Housing First program. He now leads a privately funded initiative operating in three cities, housing over 800 people with a 90% retention rate. His session will explore how lived experience and private support can drive innovative, high-impact Housing First models.



ROHE HOMES



PARTNERS FOR
AFFORDABLE
HOUSING

Salik Khan

Co-Founder and CXO of Rohe Homes

Salik will showcase how prefabrication is transforming housing in rural Canada. With a background in technology and innovation, Salik brings a fresh perspective on how off-site construction can lower costs, address labour shortages, and deliver durable, high-quality homes where they're needed most.

Suzanne Faiza

Knowledge Lead, Tapestry Community Capital

Representing Tapestry Community Capital, Suzanne will discuss how community bonds can unlock new funding opportunities for affordable housing and community-led initiatives, empowering organizations to finance projects through local investment and shared ownership.

Hermione Green

Director of Development at Partners for Affordable Housing

Hermione has over 14 years of experience driving positive social impact across real estate, investment, and philanthropy. Her session will focus on innovative funding models, inclusive housing design, and building values-aligned partnerships that expand access to affordable housing nationwide. With expertise in ESG, accessibility, and governance, Hermione brings a collaborative, systems-level perspective—grounded in social equity and community-led change.