



## Provincial Outreach Program for Students with Deafblindness

POPDB is pleased to announce our **2019-2020 Conference** Speaker and Presentation:

### ***Trauma and Attachment in Individuals Experiencing Deafblindness*** ***with Kim Barthel***

In this two day conference, Kim will help us gain an appreciation of what is trauma and its effect on the whole person. The dual sensory loss of deafblindness can be viewed as contributing to a profound impact on overall human development affecting social, emotional, spiritual, behavioural, physical and cognitive functioning. Kim will help us learn how to understand and support our students who have deafblindness and have experienced trauma so that we have a positive impact on their lives.

#### **About Kim Barthel:**

**Kim Barthel, OTR** is a mental health occupational therapist and co-author of the book "Conversations with a Rattlesnake." Kim has a gift of putting complex information into normal-speak, making sense of neurobiology, attachment, developmental disorders and healing. Theo Fleury calls her "the Wayne Gretzky of Therapy and probably the best speaker I've ever heard," and she is passionate about this topic because of the impact this information has on creating change. For more on Kim, please see her website: <https://www.kimbarthel.ca>

#### **Location:**

Radisson Hotel Vancouver Airport  
8181 Cambie Rd  
Richmond BC V6X 3X9  
Tel: 604-276-8181

*\*Complimentary Shuttle access from YVR Airport*

#### **Dates:**

March 9 & 10, 2020

#### **Registration Cost:**

\$300 covers both days \*

*\*Includes speaker fees, meeting space costs*

*\*No price reduction for one day attendance*

*\*Includes breakfast, snacks, and lunch for 2 days*

*\*Complimentary parking at Radisson Hotel Vancouver Airport for overnight guests and meeting attendees. Register vehicle on arrival or use registration link that will be provided near conference date*

**\*\* CART or ASL Interpreter Service is available on request**

**To reserve your space, click to register through:**

**[Richmond Continuing Education](#)**

**Registration closes Feb 3, 2020**

Limited space!  
Register now!

## Presentation Details for the POPDB Conference – March 9 & 10, 2020

**Day 1:** Trauma is a universal experience yet generally speaking, it is an uncommon part of people's daily conversation. Thankfully, and appropriately, trauma informed practice is becoming an increasingly common topic within forward-thinking organizations world-wide. This is essential if we want the people we serve to be receiving the most effective levels of support needed for them to thrive.

An individual's experience of their life's trauma impacts every area of human functioning: physical, mental, behavioural, social and spiritual. Circumstances such as domestic violence, abuse, neglect and addiction are examples of what is happening within families that dramatically affects a child's development, and it significantly impedes their capacity to function in adulthood. But the understanding of "trauma" is frequently misinterpreted, misunderstood and minimized - leaving people responding repeatedly from wounded places, without awareness. When combined together with developmental disability or substance abuse, the challenges are compounded enormously.

We are most effective in supporting others when we understand how personal trauma experiences influence overall function and healing processes. Regardless of our day-to-day work responsibilities, this mental health workshop will help us develop new skills in working mindfully and effectively with other people. For any of us participating in this workshop, the upside is that we'll become a more effective supporter to the people we care for, and the spin-off is that we're highly likely to understand ourselves more too.

### Learning Objectives for Day 1:

- Gain an appreciation for the deep impact that trauma has upon brain development, relational skills, coping strategies and behaviour
- Identification of the red flags in behaviour that are suggestive of relational trauma, and complexities when coupled with developmental disability
- Develop skills of attunement and "holding space" as a force for regulation, healthy brain rewiring, reflection, self-esteem and learning
- Develop practical scripts and skills related to compassionate communication
- How to support others with trauma in any setting
- Understand how, as a professional, your awareness and mindfulness can open the door for improved connection with clients who live with these challenges

**Day 2:** Day 2 is intended for teachers and professionals supporting individuals with deafblindness. In-depth conversation will enhance the understanding of the relationship between deafblindness, attachment and trauma. Supports and Intervention strategies will be highlighted.

### Learning Objectives for Day 2:

- Develop an appreciation of the experience of attachment deprivation that can accompany loss of vision and hearing
- Develop an appreciation of the impact of communication limitations upon attachment and regulation
- Develop an understanding of the attachment challenges experienced by parents and families when there is a loss of vision and hearing
- Develop an understanding of implicit memory and body memory of trauma as it pertains to deafblindness
- Develop a repertoire of strategies to support families of children who experience deafblindness (including social isolation, issues related to immigrants/ refugees, and a range of family stressors)