



**Caregiver-
Centered Care**
Supporting Family
Caregivers in Healthcare



**NORQUEST
COLLEGE**

CAREGIVERS AT THE CENTER

A CONFERENCE ON INTEGRATING SUPPORT SYSTEMS FOR
FAMILY CAREGIVERS

SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

EVENT PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

The Caregivers at the Center Conference is a collaborative initiative led by the University of Alberta's Caregiver Centered Care program and NorQuest College's Family Caregiver Wellness Initiative. This one-day gathering creates a vital space for family caregivers, organizations, employers, educators, policymakers, and health and social/community providers to connect, share successes, and collectively advance toward more integrated support systems for caregivers.

Our mission is to foster collaborative partnerships and innovative solutions that recognize the essential role of caregivers in our health and community ecosystems. Through interactive sessions and collaborative activities, conference attendees will gain actionable knowledge and forge meaningful connections to advance caregiver support in their respective contexts.

Caregiver-Centered Care Health Workforce Education is a Program of Applied Research & Innovation in Health Services Delivery in Family Caregiving, Department of Family Medicine, University of Alberta.

This program is funded through a grant from the Government of Alberta.

A vertical blue bar on the left side of the page, featuring a faint, semi-transparent image of a building's dome and architectural details. The rest of the page has a white background.

SCHEDULE

8:00 AM - 8:50 AM

REGISTRATION & NETWORKING BREAKFAST

8:50 AM - 9:00 AM

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

9:00 AM - 9:10 AM

WELCOME REMARKS

9:10 AM - 9:40 AM

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

9:40 AM - 10:40 AM

PLENARY

10:40 AM - 11:00 AM

COFFEE BREAK & TRANSITION TIME

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

WORKSHOPS - 5 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

LUNCH, NETWORKING & COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE ANNOUNCEMENT

1:30 PM - 1:45 PM

FAMILY CAREGIVER PERSPECTIVE

1:45 PM - 2:45 PM

PLENARY

2:45 PM - 3:05 PM

COFFEE BREAK & TRANSITION TIME

3:05 PM - 4:35 PM

WORKSHOPS - 5 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

4:35 PM - 4:45 PM

TRANSITION TO MAIN ATRIUM

4:45 PM - 4:50 PM

CLOSING REMARKS



SESSIONS

Welcome Remarks 9:00 AM - 9:10 AM

Presented by: *Norma Schneider and Carmen Grabusic* **Location:** SCFL Atrium

Keynote Address 9:10 AM - 9:40 AM

Presented by: *Catherine Douglas* **Location:** SCFL Atrium

The value of collectively advancing toward more integrated support systems for family caregivers.

Plenary 9:40 AM - 10:40 AM

Spotlight on Embedding Caregiver-Centered Care Education and Practices in Continuing Care: Building a Caregiver-Ready Workforce **Location:** SCFL Atrium

Presented by: *Michelle Charlesworth, Heidi Hadubiak, Joelle Fawcett-Arsenault and Karla Wolsky*

Moderator: *Carleen Brenneis*

Alberta's Caregiver-Centered Care Education is shifting the conversation from caregivers as "invisible" to "partnering with caregivers as a core competency." This plenary showcases early outcomes, including measurable gains in staff confidence and caregiver-provider relationships, and outlines how collective impact partners are scaling the program across sectors.

Workshops 11:00 AM- 12:30 PM

Choose ONE of the following 5 concurrent sessions:

Option 1

Palliative and End-of-Life Care **Location:** CELT 4-213

Presented by: *Carolyn Weir*

This workshop equips family caregivers with essential knowledge about palliative and end-of-life care, grief management, and effective communication with healthcare providers to help them confidently and compassionately care for their loved ones during this challenging time.



SESSIONS

Option 2

Navigating Health & Community Services: What is out there? Location: SCFL Atrium

Presented by: *Jamie Stewart, Bobby-Jo Halton, Patricia Skagen-Emokpae, Wendy Duggleby and Johnna Lowther*

Navigating health and community services can be incredibly challenging for family caregivers. This interactive session features three stations where you'll discover navigation resources—211 Alberta, Nav-CARE, and Caregivers Alberta. You'll rotate through all stations and leave with practical tools you can use immediately in your daily role or practice.

Option 3

Assessing Caregiver Needs: From Conversation to Action Location: CELT 3-245

Presented by: *Alison Mckelvey-Jozsa, Tricia Bianchini, Michelle Kerr and Heather Grinde*

Join caregivers and care providers for a practical, conversation-focused session on uncovering caregiver needs from the caregiver's own perspective. We'll explore concise, evidence-informed caregiver needs assessment approaches and show how they let teams match caregiver's needs to the right support with confidence and compassion.

Option 4

Alberta Caregiver Strategy & Action Plan: Catalyzing Primary and Supporting Strategies Location: CELT 3-213

Presented by: *Sharon Anderson, Darrel Gregory, Fran Ross*

This interactive session explores the Strategy's four primary and four supporting pillars, then invites participants to share what work is already happening on the ground. Together we'll pinpoint gaps, spark ideas for collective action, and sketch the first projects we can tackle as a provincial community.

Option 5

Caregiver-Centered Care Foundational Education to recognize, partner with and support family caregivers Location: CELT 4-237

Presented by: *Dr. Jasneet Parmar*

Receive a certificate of training when you take this evidence-based workshop designed for all health and social care providers and students who might interact with family caregivers in their roles. This workshop, with interactive exercises, will increase your comfort and confidence and equip you with competencies that will serve your practice across the continuum of care.



SESSIONS

Lunch, Networking & Community of Practice Announcement 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

Location: SCFL Atrium

The Caregiver-Centered Care (CCC) team is excited to launch a province-wide Champions Community of Practice (CoP)—a space to collaborate, share, and sustain CCC practices that support family caregivers as essential partners in care. Join us to connect with like-minded champions, hear from inspiring speakers, and continue your learning journey.

Family Caregiver Perspective “Walking with Me” 1:30 PM - 1:45 PM

Presented by: Laurie Caforio **Location:** SCFL Atrium

Laurie traces the moments in her caregiving journey that left her unseen and shares her perspective on a possible path toward being a true partner in care. Her story makes a powerful case for engaging caregivers in the design of every Alberta Caregiver Strategy pillar.

Plenary 1:45 PM - 2:45 PM

Building a Better System to Support Family Caregivers: Integrating Health, Social and Community Solutions **Location:** SCFL Atrium

Presented by: Arlene Huhn, Barbara Siebel, Karen MacDonald, Marlene Raasok, Isabel Henderson

Moderated by: Darrel Gregory

Building on the Alberta Caregiver Strategy & Action Plan, this working session brings together health, social care, community and caregiver leaders to co-design pathways for integrated support. We will imagine what a truly integrated support system could, and should, look like and invite you to identify the areas that resonate with you which you would like to adopt and implement. Together, we'll make our collective vision a reality.



SESSIONS

Workshops 3:05 PM- 4:35 PM

Choose ONE of the following 5 concurrent sessions:

Option 1

Effective Communication: Guidance for the Caregiver Location: **CELT 4-213**

Presented by: Jaclyn England

This workshop teaches caregivers essential communication strategies to better connect with the person they are caring for while reducing conflict and stress. Participants will learn to identify and apply communication-based methods to their own caregiving situations and develop skills to more effectively communicate with healthcare professionals who are part of the care recipient's healthcare team.

Option 2

Navigating Health & Community Services: What is out there? Location: **SCFL Atrium (repeat session)**

Option 3

Assessing Caregiver Needs: From Conversation to Action Location: **CELT 3-245 (repeat session)**

Option 4

Alberta Caregiver Strategy & Action Plan: Catalyzing Primary and Supporting Strategies Location: **CELT 3-213 (repeat session)**

Option 5

Caregiver-Centered Care Foundational Education to recognize, partner with and support family caregivers Location - **CELT 4-237 (repeat session)**

Closing Remarks & Wrap-Up 4:45 PM - 4:50 PM

Presented by: Dr. Jasneet Parmar Location: **SCFL Atrium**

SPEAKERS

Welcome Remarks



Norma Schneider, Vice-President Academic, NorQuest College

Norma joined NorQuest College in 2004 as the Dean of Academics for Careers and Employment and transitioned to the Dean of Business and Community Studies in 2005. She became NorQuest's Vice President, Academic in 2011. She is passionate about learning and believes the power of learning transforms lives. In her time at NorQuest, she has been successful in significantly increasing student satisfaction and employee engagement, growing the number and breadth of programs available for learners, quality improvement, and promoting staff and faculty development



Carmen Grabusic, Executive Director, Assisted Living and Social Services, Government of Alberta

Carmen Grabusic takes great pride in serving as the Executive Director of the Continuing Care Branch, working alongside policy, clinical and business support professional staff as they develop and implement continuing care legislation, strategic and program policy and transformation related initiatives and investments. She will be celebrating her 25 year work anniversary with government later this year. She enjoys collaborating with community based groups that include and/or represent the views of clients, residents, their families, friends and staff.

Keynote Address



Catherine Douglas, Health Advocate, Government of Alberta

Catherine Douglas is the Health Advocate and Mental Health Patient Advocate. She has over 40 years of experience working in health care, with persons with disabilities, and in seniors housing across four different provinces. Catherine's passion for and dedication to person-centred care combined with her extensive experience help to support Albertans as they navigate the complicated and ever changing health system. She has been and continues to be a caregiver. A lover of song, dance and almost anything Scottish, Catherine lives in Edmonton with her husband and two big, spoiled dogs!

SPEAKERS

Plenary

Spotlight on Embedding Caregiver-Centered Care Education and Practices in Continuing Care: Building a Caregiver-Ready Workforce



Michelle Charlesworth, Senior Director of Operations, Covenant Care & Covenant Living

Michelle oversees Supportive Living, Long-Term Care, Hospice, and Retirement Senior Housing communities, concentrating on building team capacity and driving dynamic growth. With over 26 years of experience in nursing and administration, Michelle has worked in the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Alberta. Before joining Covenant in 2019, she held various leadership roles in senior care services. Committed to service excellence, she actively contributes to professional organizations and continues to champion innovative care solutions.



Heidi Hadubiak, BN MBA CEC PCC, Chief Executive Officer, Canterbury Foundation

Heidi Hadubiak is the CEO of Canterbury Foundation, a non-profit senior's housing organization. Since 2018, Heidi has been leading Canterbury's efforts to provide exceptional care for seniors. With a Bachelor of Nursing, an executive MBA, and credentials as a Certified Executive Coach, Heidi brings a unique blend of clinical expertise, strategic thinking, and heartfelt compassion to everything she does. Driven by her passion for human connection, Heidi is a tireless advocate for enhancing seniors' care services and ensuring that all residents, regardless of where they are on their journey of aging, continue to live with dignity, joy, and purpose. Under her leadership, Canterbury is more than just a seniors' residence — it's a community where every person matters and every story is honored.



Karla Wolsky, MN, RN, PhD, College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta

Dr. Karla Wolsky serves as the Health Care Aide (HCA) Curriculum Project Team Lead at the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta (CLPNA). A registered nurse with over 20 years in post-secondary education, she has taught across a broad spectrum of healthcare programs from certificate to graduate levels. Dr. Wolsky is leading the comprehensive revision of the Alberta HCA Provincial Curriculum, ensuring it remains responsive, evidence-informed, and reflective of best practices in healthcare education. Now an empty nester, Karla enjoys warm sunny days and spending time with her dog (and husband), embracing a more relaxed pace outside of work.

SPEAKERS



Joelle Fawcett-Arsenault, Simulation Coordinator, College of Health Sciences, University of Alberta

Joelle Fawcett-Arsenault, PHEC, is dedicated to supporting the well-being of healthcare professionals through simulation. Combining her personal and professional experience, Joelle is forging a new path in health sciences education primarily focused on durable skills; by supporting and guiding healthcare staff to improve their resilience, wellness and interpersonal capacities, patient and family experience also improves. Joelle's current research explores co-designing simulations with "experience experts" - patients and families. She is committed to creating safe, trauma-informed spaces and programming where knowledge is co-constructed, learning is collaborative, and reflective practice develop self-awareness that promotes lifelong learning and wellness.



Carleen Brenneis, Lead, Embedding Caregiver-Centred Care Education

Carleen Brenneis is currently working part time as Lead, Embedding Caregiver-Centred Care Education for the Alberta Health grant "Leading the Way: Innovative Supports for Alberta Caregivers". Carleen has a background in nursing, palliative care and continuing care, which has assisted her in her work for the grant.

Plenary

Building a Better System to Support Family Caregivers: Integrating Health, Social and Community Solutions



Isabel Henderson, Executive Director, Special Projects, Alberta Health Services

Isabel is a healthcare executive with over 25 years of leadership experience in integrated care, rehabilitation, and continuing care. She currently serves as Executive Director, Special Projects at Alberta Health Services and chairs the CapitalCare Management Advisory Committee. Isabel is an advocate for family caregivers and aging populations, and a strong proponent of integrated care. She is also an Executive Coach with the University of Ottawa and Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Alberta. A national/international surveyor with Accreditation Canada, Isabel has received multiple awards for leadership and holds degrees from Mount Allison and the University of Toronto.

SPEAKERS



Karen MacDonald, Provincial Director, Healthy Aging Alberta

Karen is Executive Director of Sage Seniors Association in Edmonton, providing social services and life enrichment programs for older adults. Karen also chairs the Community Leadership Council and is Provincial Director with Healthy Aging Alberta, supporting community-based seniors' serving organizations province-wide, and co-chairs the National Community-Based Seniors Services Interim Leadership Council, advancing services for older adults and caregivers across Canada. She was recently appointed to the Assisted Living Alberta Transition Committee, serves on the Primary Care Alberta Special Advisory Team, and volunteers as Treasurer with the Muttart Foundation.



Marlene Raasok, BSP Pharm, MHSA. Retired Healthcare and Post-Secondary Education Leader

Leadership for continuing care in Alberta, BC and Saskatchewan and post-secondary education in Alberta and Ontario. Marlene has a lifelong passion (personally & professionally) to enhance quality of living for older persons, living well in community, based on experience as a family caregiver. She volunteers to advance systems and services for healthy aging for older Albertans:

- On the Board of Alberta Association on Gerontology, chairing the Futures Policy Forum, AAG's cross-sector engagement and advocacy strategy.
- Chairs the Board for the Good Samaritan Society with its continuing care services in Alberta and British Columbia.
- Volunteers in Airdrie where she lives.

Marlene was recognized by the Alberta Association on Gerontology with the Mary Morrison Lifetime Achievement Award June 2024.



Barbara Siebel BScN, MN - Program Manager, Specialized Geriatrics Services, Calgary Zone

Barb is the Program Manager of Specialized Geriatric Services with 28 years of nursing and progressive leadership in healthcare. Barb brings a deep commitment to mentorship, ongoing learning, and community advocacy. As a healthcare leader, she focuses on building communities of practice among interdisciplinary teams and guiding individuals through the complexities of healthcare support systems. Barb is a passionate advocate for caregiver-centered care and was able to secure grant funding through the University of Alberta to implement and spread this education. She is dedicated to raising awareness and capacity among healthcare leaders to strengthen support for caregivers and families across the continuum of care. She has led multidisciplinary teams in diverse settings ranging from Neonatal/Pediatric intensive care to geriatric care. Throughout her career Barb has been dedicated to collaborative approaches that improve patient outcomes and strengthen teams.

SPEAKERS



Arlene Huhn, Vice President, Programs & Partnerships, Alzheimer Society of Alberta & NWT

Arlene works for the Alzheimer Society of Alberta and Northwest Territories and has been with the society for over 23 years. Arlene is the Vice President, Programs and Partnerships & Chief Service Officer and works with 23 navigators, 2 coordinators, and 2 managers, who provide direct support to families and people living with dementia. Arlene is passionate about supporting people living with dementia and their care partners to live well, but recognizes that without the proper supports in place, it is difficult to do this. In her time at the society has worked directly with thousands of family care partners, has facilitated hundreds of support groups; information sessions; and education sessions. Arlene was part of the very first planning group in Westview.

Workshops

Palliative and End-of-Life Care



Carolyn Weir, BARLS, RecT, Instructor, NorQuest College

Carolyn is a NorQuest instructor for the Therapeutic Recreation Diploma Program. Since 2018, she has been engaged in a range of committees dedicated to research and the advancement of education, with a particular focus on supporting Family Caregivers and enhancing the competencies of health professionals who interact with them at various stages of the caregiving journey. Carolyn has been supporting the Family Caregiver Wellness Initiative at NorQuest since February 2022.

Navigating Health & Community Services: What is out there?



Jamie Stewart, Learning Designer, Faculty of Dentistry & Medicine University of Alberta

Jamie is the Design Lead for the Caregiver-Centered Care initiative. For the past 6 years, he has been intensely involved in the design and development of the Caregiver-Centered Care courses available at caregivercare.ca and the issues related to supporting family caregivers in health, social, and community support systems.

SPEAKERS



Wendy Duggleby, PhD, Co-Founder, Nav-CARE

Dr. Wendy Duggleby is a Professor Emerita in the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Alberta where she was an Endowed Research Chair in Aging and Quality of life. As well she has held leadership positions such as Associate Dean of Research and Vice Dean. Wendy and her research teams, working with communities, have developed and evaluated several interventions to foster hope and quality of life in older persons and their family caregivers with national and international funding support. She is also the co-founder of the Nav-CARE program which is implemented in 50 communities across Canada and internationally.



Bobby-Jo Halton, Portfolio Manager, Community Engagement, 211 Alberta

Bobby-Jo Halton (she/her) has dedicated herself to supporting underserved communities in different capacities over her working life and considers community social work practice a deep passion.

Bobby-Jo works at the United Way as the 211 Alberta Manager of Community Engagement, supervising the Gender Based Violence Portfolio, Indigenous Relations Portfolio, and Community Engagement and Resource Specialists along with leading the 211 Alberta provincial strategy to engage communities across Alberta, particularly focuses on rural and remote communities.



Patricia Skagen-Emokpae, Portfolio Manager, Impact & Knowledge Mobilization, 211 Alberta

Patricia is the Portfolio Manager of Impact & Knowledge Mobilization with 211 Alberta. Since joining 211 in 2016, she has worked in roles ranging from frontline community resource specialist to program lead. Today, she focuses on turning 211's data and insights into stories that help communities and decision-makers better understand local needs and resources. focuses on rural and remote communities.



Johnna Lowther, Director of Programs & Services, Caregivers Alberta

Johnna is the Director of Programs & Services with Caregivers Alberta, a charitable organization providing support to the over one million family caregivers across Alberta. With a 25-year career in human services, she believes strongly in the power of education and collaboration to improve caregiver health and well-being. Apart from being a published author of the book "Through the Eyes of Dementia" she also speaks at national and global conferences and was the host of the Life With Dementia podcast. As a mother of two young children, she defines herself as a woman of action unless you put a glass of good wine in hand and the perfect sunset to drink it to, in which case you'll find her soaking up the leisure life for as long as the moment lasts.

SPEAKERS

Assessing Caregiver Needs: From Conversation to Action



Alison McKelvey-Jozsa, BSW, MSW, RSW, Specialized Geriatric Services, AHS - Calgary Zone

Alison is a professional Social Worker with over 30 years' experience currently working for Alberta Health Services in Specialized Geriatric Services. Most recently Alison and her team have joined forces through the Caregiver-Centered Care Initiative where they were successful in receiving a grant to facilitate Caregiver Centered Care education across the larger Seniors Palliative Continuing Care portfolio in the Calgary Zone. This project addresses a crucial gap by focusing on a system level approach to caregiver support. Alison and her team aim to foster a culture of caregiver partnership, by promoting awareness, education and support within the health care system.



Tricia Bianchini, MSW, RCSW, Specialized Geriatric Services, AHS - Calgary Zone

Tricia is a dedicated Clinical Social Worker with 27 years' of experience at Alberta Health Services, where she has focussed her career on supporting older adults and their families with compassion and care. Passionate about delivering exceptional service, she draws on a wide range of counselling modalities and brings both expertise and heart to her work. As a sessional instructor at Mount Royal University, she finds deep fulfillment in learning from the students she teaches – believing that growth is always a two way street.



Michelle Kerr, BSW, RSW, Specialized Geriatric Services, AHS - Calgary Zone

Michelle is a Social Worker with nearly 30 years of experience. She has worked in the areas of Child Protection, Disability Services, Home Care, and currently works in Specialized Geriatric Services. She supports older adults and their families with a range of needs. A key part of her role involves providing caregiver support—helping families navigate the challenges of caregiving by providing guidance, resources, and compassion. Michelle served as the project lead for the RN/SW Pilot at Bridgeland Seniors Health Centre, a program launched to support family caregivers, and their loved ones newly diagnosed with dementia. In her spare time, Michelle enjoys spending time with her two “vintage” puppies, Betty and Lulu.



Heather Grinde, RN, BN, Bridgeland Seniors Health Clinic

Heather Grinde began her career in the mining and geotechnical engineering field, where she enjoyed working with small teams in remote locations. Driven by a desire to make a more positive direct impact on people's lives, she transitioned into healthcare and completed a nursing degree. She has experience in a diverse range of nursing specialties, including general surgery and labour and delivery which provided an appreciation for holistic patient and family centered care. She has since found her way to Specialized Geriatric Services, where she has been fortunate to work within the Fracture Liaison Service and currently with the Seniors Health Clinic team. Outside of work, Heather values time with family and enjoys being outdoors.

SPEAKERS

Alberta Caregiver Strategy & Action Plan: Catalyzing Primary and Supporting Strategies



Dr. Sharon Anderson, Research Coordinator Family Medicine, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Alberta

Dr. Sharon Anderson has a Master of Education in Community Rehabilitation and Disability Studies from the University of Calgary, a Master of Science in Public Health and PhD in Family Gerontology in the Department of Human Ecology from the University of Alberta. She has worked with Dr. Jasneet Parmar in the Caregiver-Centered Care Health Workforce Education Program of Applied Research & Innovation in Health Services Delivery in Family Caregiving in Department of Family Medicine, University of Alberta since 2018.



Darrel Gregory, Executive Director, Caregivers Alberta

Darrel Gregory has over 25 years of senior leadership experience in the nonprofit sector. Prior to joining Caregivers Alberta in 2022, he was a Director with MS Canada for 15 years. His communications and strategic skills helped navigate MS Canada – Alberta & NWT Division – through significant change management challenges. Based in Calgary for the last five years of his tenure with MS Canada, Darrel led the Society's Southern Alberta Division through a challenging economic environment. He is an innovator, a relationship builder, connector, and, above all, fiercely committed driving positive change for Alberta's family caregivers.



Fran Ross, Strategy Advisor, Caregiver-Centered Care

Building on 30+ years in senior leadership roles and consultancy, Fran is driven to help teams and organizations see farther, go further, and have a greater impact through clear thinking, astute planning, and effective communications and engagement. She is passionate about supporting the one in four Albertans who are family caregivers and currently serves as strategic advisor in the development of the Innovating Integrated Supports for Alberta's Family Caregivers Strategy and Action Plan. Fran's diverse background includes health, post-secondary education, social services, advocacy and public policy. Always seeking to bring the wealth of local knowledge and diverse perspectives and experiences into decision-making, she has designed and led strategic communication and stakeholder engagement for provincial and national strategies and projects.

SPEAKERS

Caregiver-Centered Care Foundational Education to recognize, partner with and support family caregivers



Dr. Jasneet Parmar, MBBS, M.Sc., MCFP (COE) Care of the Elderly Physician. Specialized Geriatrics Program, Edmonton zone

Dr. Jasneet Parmar is a Care of the Elderly physician and has worked for the Specialized Geriatrics Program, in Edmonton, since 1992. She is a Professor, Department of Family Medicine, University of Alberta. She currently works in the Home Living Care of the Elderly Service and provides assessments to homebound seniors. Her research is focused on supporting family caregivers by the healthcare system.

Effective Communication - Guidance for the Caregiver



Jaclyn England, BARST, RecT, Instructor, NorQuest College

Jaclyn England is an educator at NorQuest College who shares her passion for connection and person-centered care with Therapeutic Recreation and Interdisciplinary Therapy Assistant learners. Throughout her career as a Recreation Therapist, she has seen first-hand the incredible positive impact care partners have on the lives of those around them as well as the crucial role they play within the healthcare system. Jaclyn has been a Family Caregiver Wellness Initiative facilitator since 2023 and has enjoyed connecting with care partners from across Alberta both in-person and virtually.

Family Caregiver Perspective

“Walking with Me”



Laurie Caforio, B. Comm, University of Alberta, Family Caregiver

Prior to retirement Laurie was a part time family caregiver, for her husband. He had completed 3 ½ years of dialysis and had a successful kidney transplant, a year prior. A few days after her retirement, her husband had a below the knee amputation and Laurie became a full-time caregiver. After the initial adjustment period both Laurie and her husband refined their roles and while her husband doesn't need her 24/7, she is on call 24/7. In addition to her degree Laurie holds certificates in benefit administration and investment management. Laurie is a grateful member of the Caregiver Centered Care Education, co-design team.

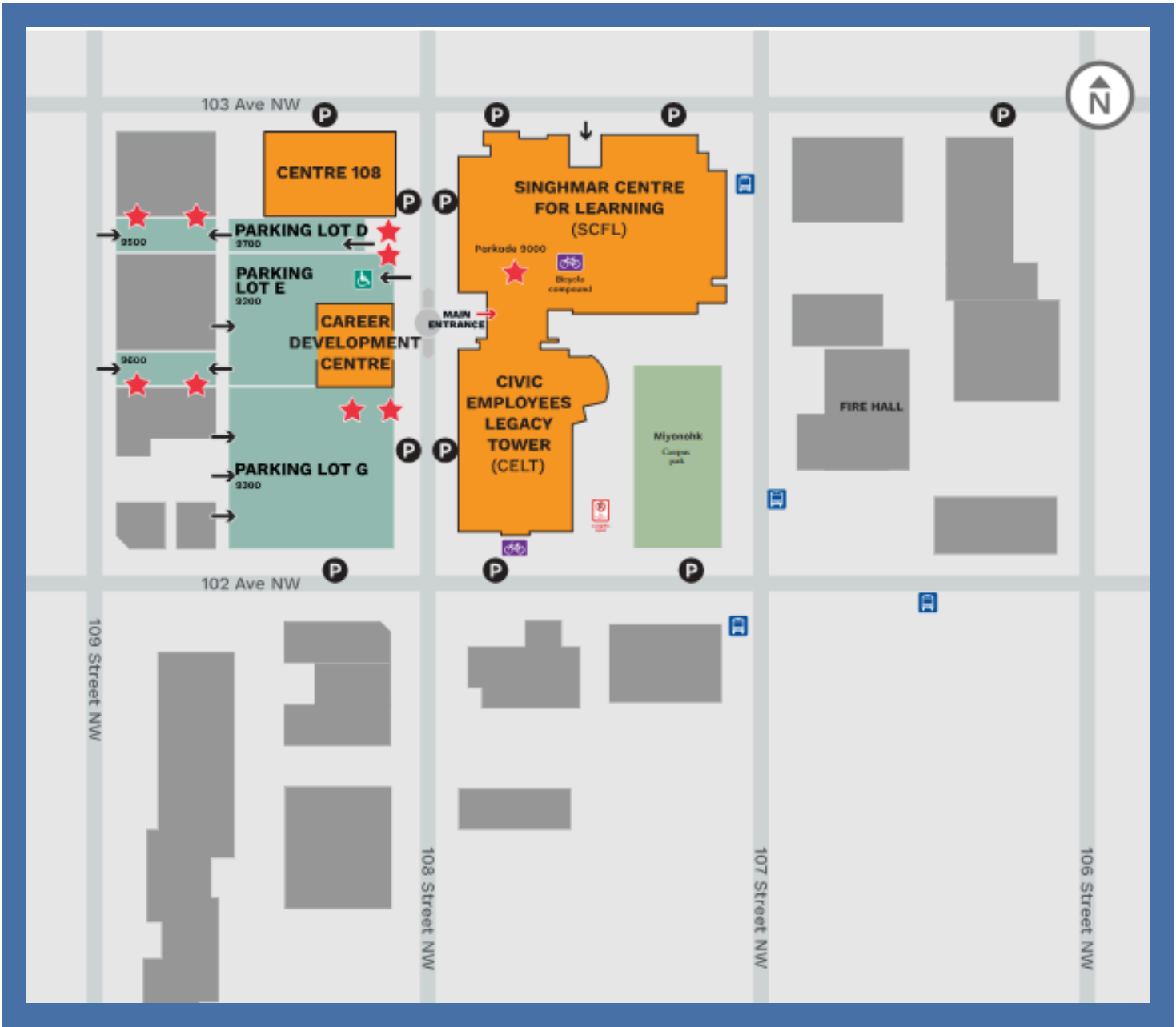


LOCATION

NorQuest College - Atrium, Singhmar Center for Learning (SCFL)
10215 108 street, Edmonton AB

Click [here](#) to get a street view of the college entrance

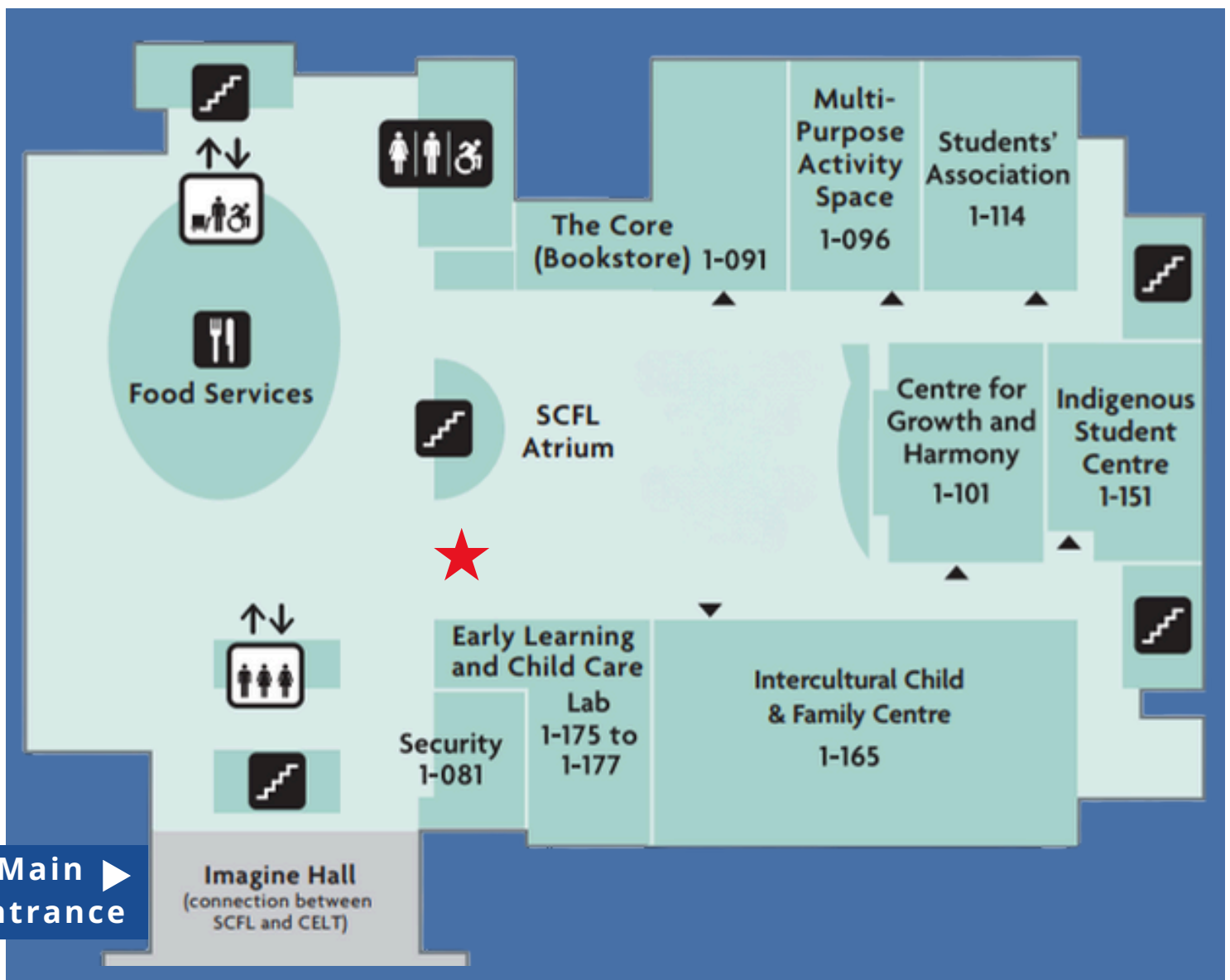
Click [here](#) to get a street view of the college entrance



LOCATION

Main Entrance and Conference Registration Table

Singhmar Centre For Learning (SCFL) - Floor 1
★ Registration Table

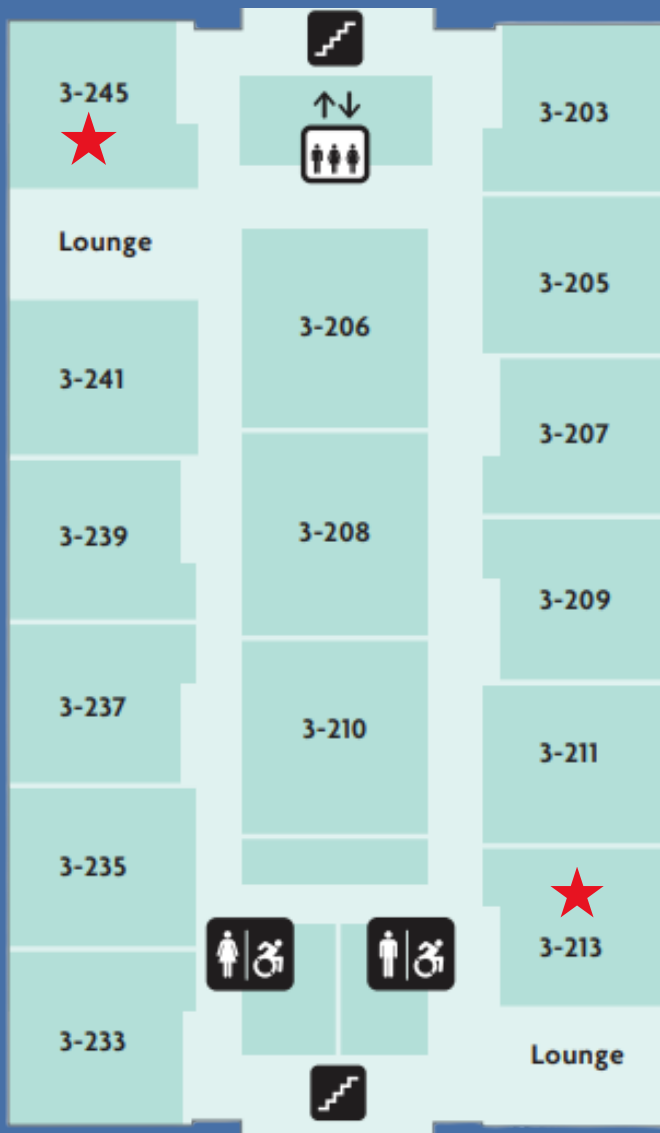


LOCATION

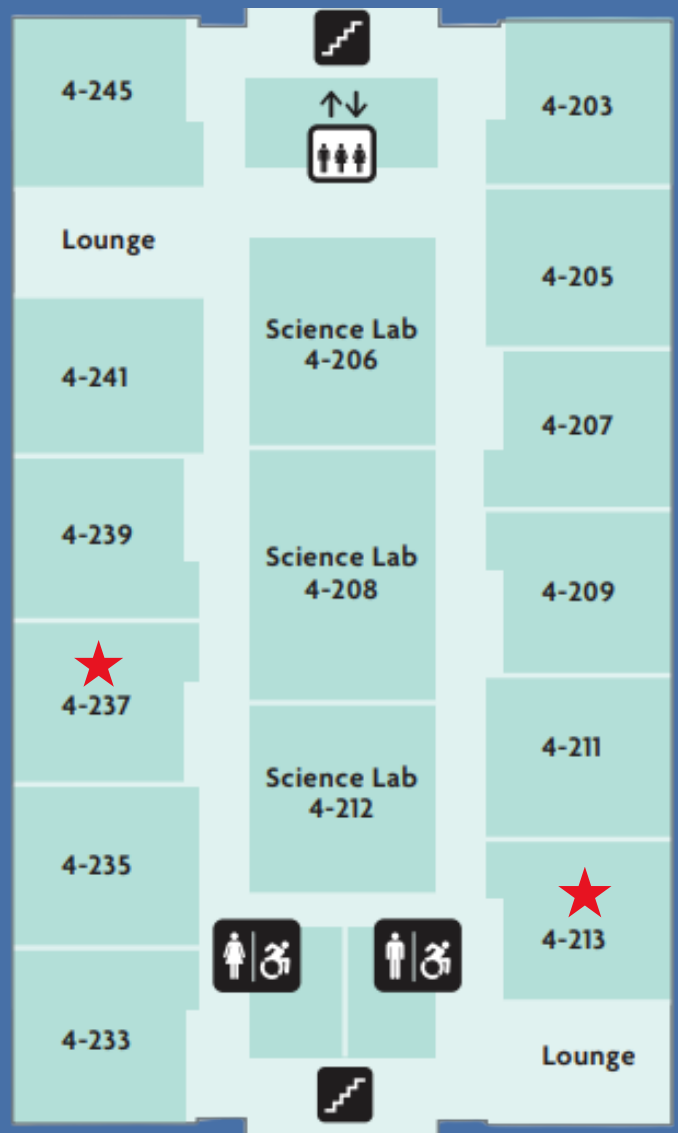
Breakout Session Rooms

Civic Employee Legacy Tower (CELT) ★ Breakout Rooms

Floor 3



Floor 4



INTERACTIVE CONFERENCE EXPERIENCES

While this conference addresses many important topics, we have thoughtfully incorporated engaging elements to enhance your experience and foster connections throughout the day.

We encourage you to participate in these interactive activities designed to complement your conference experience.

LIVE PAINTER

Join artist Vasudha Tiwari as she creates artwork in real-time during our event, painting a piece that captures the essence of the day. This dynamic visual element emerges as Vasudha listens to our sessions and your stories, translating her inspiration onto canvas.

BUTTON-MAKING STATION

Visit our button-making station for a fun, hands-on activity that adds a creative touch to your conference experience. Choose from a variety of whimsical images related to cheerful, inspiring, or hobby-themed designs, or select conference-related graphics to create your own personalized button as a memorable keepsake from the day.



CONNECT WITH US!

We're here to support you! If you have questions about the conference, need additional resources, or want to learn more about getting involved, our planning team is ready to help.

Ginger Bitzer

bitzer@ualberta.ca

Dominique Bailey

dominique.bailey@norquest.ca

Stay Connected & Continue the Conversation

Join Our Community of Practice

Caregiver-Centered Care Champions Community of Practice
Continue your learning journey and connect with fellow champions across Alberta. Send us an email!

Dr. Jasneet Parmar: jasneet.parmar@albertahealthservices.ca

Dr. Sharon Anderson: sdanders@ualberta.ca

Ginger Bitzer: bitzer@ualberta.ca

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Conference Hashtag: #CaregiversAtTheCenter2025

Thank you for joining us at Caregivers at the Center. Together, we're building a province where family caregivers are valued, supported, and empowered as essential partners in care.