

Highlights of the Thursday, 17 September, 2026, Weekly Meeting

President Maureen, welcomed all members and Guest Speaker Liz Gosse to this Thursday 17, September 2026 weekly meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Brantford.

President Maureen called Graham Schram to coordinate the 50/50 Draw with Liz Page, Susan Szczechura, Peter Liberati (X2) holding potential winning tickets. No one found the "Joker" and the "Pot" continues to grow.



President Maureen called on Dave Lewis to come forward as Funmaster.

Dave Lewis thanked President Maureen and, welcomed everyone. He had a short humourous story to offer as follows:

A FATHER'S FIRST DRINK WITH HIS SON

I was reading an article last night about fathers and sons, and memories came flooding back to the time I took my son out for his first drink.

Off we went to our local bar, which was only two blocks from the house.

I got him a beer. He didn't like it, so I drank it.

Then I got him another kind. He didn't like that one either, so I drank it.

We tried a couple more, with the same result.

By the time we got to the whiskey, I could hardly push the stroller back home!

Dave moved on by helping celebrate Birthdays' and anniversaries

Anniversaries:

Birthdays	September
Roger Smith	21
Linda Moyer	22
Stuart Parkinson	30

Anniversaries of joining Kiwanis (Yrs)

Crystal Godwaldt	25
Ross Pope	32



Dave called on members for Happy Stories

- Linda Moyer thanked everyone involved with the Grand Parade for helping out once again to make it such a success. She thanked many individuals specifically for their efforts
- Randy MacKenzie welcomed a new potential member Liz Page for joining in today's meeting.
- Ken MacNaughton confirmed that several members and partners had a great time at the Social this past weekend held at the Frisky Beaver celebrating, "The Hip Experience"

President Maureen thanked Funmaster Dave Lewis and called Susan Szczechura to the microphone to introduce our Guest Speaker.

Susan Szczechura bid a good afternoon to all and said that it was her pleasure to introduce Liz Gosse.

Liz is passionate about helping workplaces become more inclusive and welcoming for people of all abilities. As Director of Corporate Engagement and Training with the Ontario Disability Employment Network (ODEN), Liz works closely with businesses to strengthen disability-inclusive hiring and workplace practices.



With extensive experience in training, curriculum development, and supporting diverse populations, Liz brings a practical and engaging approach to her work. She helps employers better understand inclusion, remove barriers, and create workplaces where everyone has the opportunity to contribute and succeed.

Please join me in welcoming Liz to Kiwanis

Liz Gosse took the microphone welcoming everyone saying her presentation today was about **Ontario Corporate Training Centre (OCTC)**. What it is and how it works.

Briefly the **Ontario Corporate Training Centre**, is a province-wide project run by the Ontario Disability Employment Network, aimed to provide research-informed training, resources and services to businesses across Ontario.



Recruit

Hire

Onboard

Retain

This project is funded by
the Government of Canada.

Canada



Liz is the Director of Corporate Engagement & Training on the OCTC team supporting the team to bring the project to businesses across the province. She has:

- Over 10 years of experience working with adult learners.
- Experience teaching people who have a disability and providing resources for accommodations
- Community leader, activist and changemaker
- Responsible for growth and development of Jobs Ability Canada

Labour Market Challenges

 Economic Uncertainties

 Productivity

 Skills Shortage

 Invest in your people, talent and skilled workforce.

Disability In Canada - The Facts

 More than **1 in 4** Canadians identify as having a disability.

 An estimated **850,000** people who have a disability in Canada are unemployed despite being able and willing to work. Not included in this number are people who are underemployed.

 Only **3%** of leadership openly disclose or discuss their disability or primary caregiving role.

 **73%** of consumers will buy from a business that employs people who have a disability.

 Highly inclusive organizations are **120%** more likely to meet their financial targets.

Disability In The Workplace

 **3%** Of leaders openly disclose their disability or caregiver status in the workplace

 **46%** Of employers do not have reporting on the number of employees who have a disability

 **46%** Of organizations have an IDEA strategy in place.

 **41%** Of organizations have a formal mental health and wellbeing strategy



70% of job seekers want to work for a company that demonstrates its commitment to DEI.

4 Ways to Increase Disability Inclusion

There are a number of ways you can improve your DEI strategy.

 Build your business's internal knowledge of disability at all levels

 Build a recruitment relationship with a local ESP

 Conduct inclusive job posting audits often

 Schedule regular check-ins with your staff

OCTC Learning Modules

OCTC offers (5) online self-directed Disability Awareness & Confidence Training modules designed to increase capacity at all levels of business. Learning content and materials educate employees and employers on disability awareness, inclusion, and accessibility promising practices.

General Learning

Coworkers & Staff Teams

Managers Supervisors

Human Resources

Executive Leaders

Steps for Collaboration

1
Connect
Connect with one of our trainers to discover your options.

2
Discuss
Work with your trainer to select which learning modules you want your staff to complete.

3
Commit
Sign the engagement letter and logo consent form to commit to the project.

4
Check In
Check-in monthly with your trainer to discuss impact of the learning modules and discuss additional services.

Let's Stay Connected



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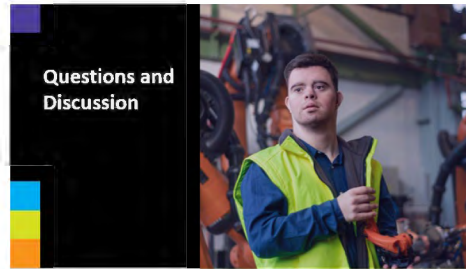
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 Scan to Book Meeting



Liz Gosse opened a Q & A session that resulted in several members question which were answered with a depth of understanding and knowledge that was readily appreciated.

Liz was presented with the formal thanks for her presentation by Karen Adams who stated that, in recognition of Liz's presentation, we have made a donation to a charity we like to support. That Charity is: Lansdowne Children's Centre Foundation. Liz was thanked with a rousing round of applause.



President Maureen called for Committee Reports and Announcements:

- Nelson McClinchey advertised an Interclub Duck Dinner, at Belwood Lodge & Camp 322 3rd Street Private, Belwood, N0B1J0 on October 3, Social 2-4pm, dinner 4pm. Cost: \$50/person. Payment can be made to guelphkiwanis@outlook.com. Please contact Nelson if you are interested in attending or have any questions
- Maureen Henry noted that the Kiwanis Youth Writers Contest is open as of September 8, 2026 submission Deadlines is October 26, 2026. The Prizes will be awarded at the Brantford Public Main Library on Saturday November 21, 2026.
- Maureen noted that there were still a few blank shifts still available for the Staples Back to School Drive in September. Please fill them in if you can.
- Leo Vos told everyone that the registration for the Trivia Challenge for Thursday 19 November 2026 "on-line" is now open, so be sure to get your teams in early.

President Maureen, thanked all members and Guests and Guest speaker Liz Gosse for attending.

Final Thought for the day: "Learning is the only thing the mind never exhausts, never fears, and never regrets." Leonardo da Vinci

President Maureen asked If there was anything else for the good of Kiwanis, seeing none, she adjourned the meeting with the ringing of the Bell.