

Meeting Summary

IAF GTA Chapter Celebrates International Facilitation Week



Canada
promoting the power
of facilitation worldwide

Facilitation Impact Awards and Facilitator/Client Perspectives – A World Café Discussion

Thursday, October 18, 2018, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Holiday Inn Yorkdale, William Room, 3450 Dufferin Street, Toronto

Ronit Andorn-Broza (Co-Chair and Treasurer) and Helen Break (Co-chair and Secretary) of the IAF Greater Toronto Area (GTA) Chapter welcomed everyone. Helen read a letter from Mayor John Tory of the City of Toronto, in recognition of International Facilitation Week, thanking IAF members for their contributions as facilitators to the well-being of our communities. The evenings activities are captured below.

Appreciation for Jo Nelson, CPF, CTF

Jo Nelson, a founding member of the IAF, member of the Hall of Fame, Chair of the IAF Toronto Chapter for many years, teacher, trainer, mentor, author and facilitator was recognized for her lifetime commitment and contribution to facilitation.

Congratulations, Jo!



Pictured: Helen Break, Jo Nelson and Ronit Andorn-Broza

Facts about International Facilitation Week

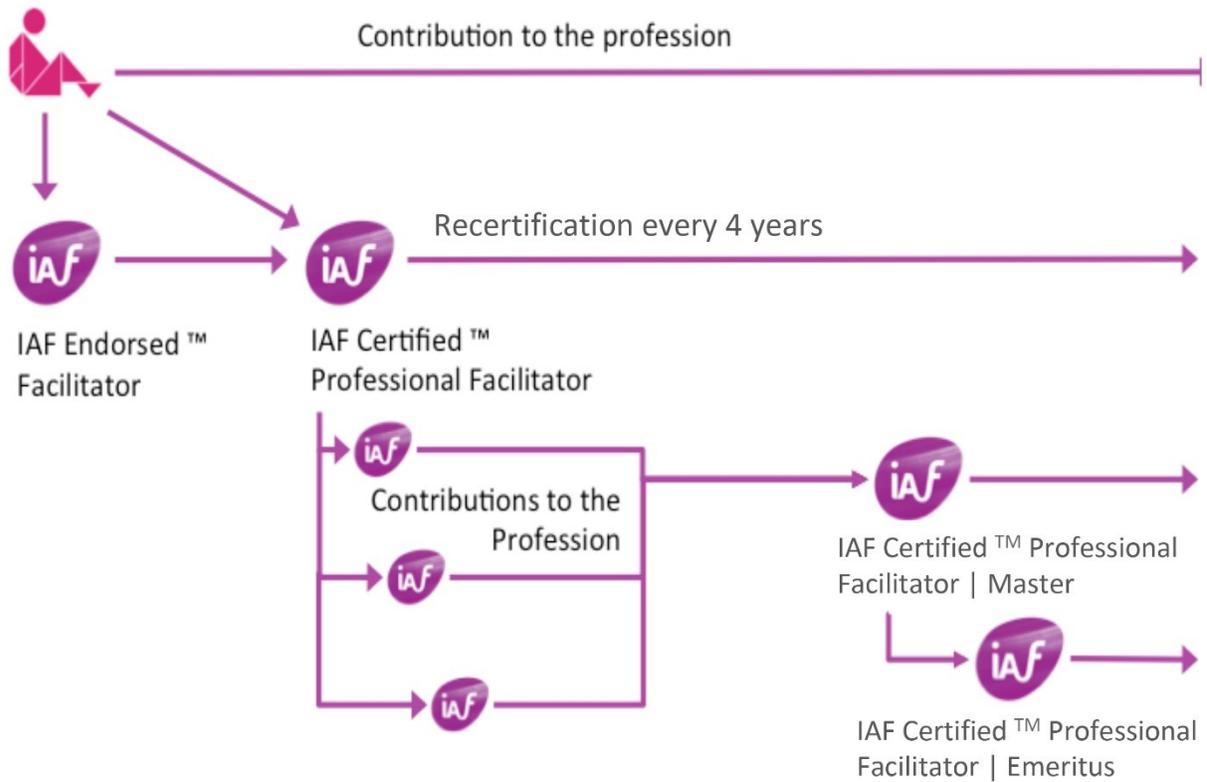
- Held during the third week of October since 2013.
- Purpose is to showcase the power of facilitation to both new and existing audiences and to build on the sense of community among facilitators worldwide.
- Events were held worldwide from Poland to India, Germany, Sweden, Italy, China, Indonesia, Taiwan, Japan, England and Canada.

IAF Professional Pathways

Rosanna von Sacken, Director, Canada Region, spoke about the IAF Professional Pathways to becoming a certified professional facilitator.

IAF sets the international standard for facilitation and therefore the credibility of the facilitation profession.

The IAF currently offers a Certified Professional Facilitator certification. Plans are in the works to offer an entry level certification referred to as an “IAF Endorsed Facilitator”, as well as a “CPF Master” (you will be eligible if you have been certified at least twice by IAF) and a “CPF Emeritus” designation. In addition, it is proposed that re-certification with IAF be every four years instead of the current every three years.



Stay tuned to the IAF website at www.iaf-world.org for details!

IAF Facilitation Impact Awards (FIA)

The evening also honoured two organizations and their facilitators that have used facilitation to achieve a measurable and positive impact on the challenges they faced. The Facilitation Impact Awards are awarded based on the following criteria:

- Organizational impact
- Facilitation quality
- Organization culture
- Facilitation use
- Facilitator's professional standing

Gold FIAs were awarded to:

Emay Cowx, CPF, C2C Strategies for her work with Andres Mand and the Ontario Energy Board (shown right, with Rosanna von Sacken and Mara Svenne, IAF Vice-Chair) on protecting privacy of personal information and the reliable operation of the smart grid in Ontario.



Jerry Mings, CPF, The Desk Consulting Group Inc. for his work with Gord Gunning, CEO of Canes Community Care on Canes' Vision 2025 (shown right with Rosanna and Mara).



Congratulations to all!

Client/Facilitator World Café Discussion

Mara Svenne facilitated a world café discussion starting with three questions to the Gold FIA client/facilitators, as follows:



1. What made their project successful/effective?
2. What prompts you as a client to turn to a professional facilitator?
3. What is involved in building a long-term relationship with a facilitator?

Clients and the winning facilitators then joined in **three rounds of conversation** focused on the following questions:

Round 1	Round 2	Round 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What stands out for you from the client comments? • What surprised you? • What do you want to learn more about? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What themes are emerging? • What would you like to experiment with after tonight? • What would be an exciting new discovery in your relationships with your clients? • What would success look like? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the key points that have come up today? • What suggestions do you have to develop a lasting client-facilitator relationship? • What will you do differently?

Key take-aways captured at the end of the discussion include:

- Proposal needs to be written in the language of the client
- Be flexible and listen to the client
- Big risk for client if facilitation does not go well
- A client needs to trust that the facilitator is bringing the right process to the table and the facilitator needs to trust a client to provide the necessary technical information
- To build a client/facilitator relationship, start with what you have in common



- A good client/facilitator relationship needs to have personality, style and values that fit together
- The facilitation process should help a group grow
- Follow-up and follow through with the client after the event and between events – move past the one/two days and connect with the client’s interests
- Facilitators can also play the role of an advisor/consultant by asking questions “Have you thought about...?”

IAF GTA Chapter Annual General Meeting

The evening ended with a Chapter AGM. The Chapter By-laws, a year-end 2018 plan and financial statement were overviewed and adopted by the members present.

The Chapter By-laws can be found on the Chapter webpage on the IAF website at www.iaf-world.org/site/chapters/greater-toronto-area.

Similar to 2018, the Chapter will be hosting a spring professional development afternoon and a fall event to celebrate International Facilitation Week in 2019.



Stay tuned for more information coming your way in early 2019!

In the meantime, **please send us your ideas** for either the spring or fall event or if you are willing to lead a topic e.g. Lego Serious Play activity has been suggested as a potential spring PD topic.



You can reach us by email at iafgta@gmail.com.

Spread the Word...

Whether you are new to facilitation and want to learn more, a seasoned practitioner who wants to test out a latest facilitation technique or somewhere in between, our IAF GTA Chapter events offer you a place to share your experience.

Spread the word to coworkers, peers and friends who may want to develop their facilitation skills, practice, network or career.

Facilitation, by its nature, is inclusive!

Purpose of the GTA Chapter

- Give credibility to and further the work of the field of professional group facilitation.
- Provide a network to foster interchange between professional practitioners in the field.
- Develop appropriate opportunities, methodologies, models, tools and modes that support the practice of exemplary participatory facilitation.
- Promote international support and interchange among professional facilitators.