

ANDY THIBODEAU

CREATING CARING COMMUNITY SINCE 1992

London, Ontario, Canada
andypresentations.com



ANDY'S IMPACT PRESENTATIONS FOR YOUTH CONFERENCES

My name is Andy Thibodeau, and I am a professional IMPACT speaker specializing in school assemblies, conference programs, school staff appreciation and student leadership programs. I am based in my hometown of London, Ontario (a two hour drive east of Detroit) in my old neighbourhood.

I was called "Mr. School Spirit" in the King's College at Western University (London) magazine when I was named alumni of the year in 2014. This passion for leadership and school spirit started in late 7th grade when I became student council vice president at my elementary school. This led to becoming student council president at Laurier High School and the orientation coordinator for my university. I am blessed that my enthusiasm to improve youth leadership translated into a full-time career of inspiring students and staff across the continent.

Since 1992 I have delivered thousands of fun inspirational presentations to schools and conferences across North America. It has been a privilege to share my message of "Make Care Contagious" to over two million people in all 10 provinces, the Yukon and 40 US states.

My hilarious and high energy IMPACT presentations remind students that school is about balancing "learning, fun and community service". My leadership programs empower young leaders to be an example of care and good decisions for others to follow.

My conference programs are completely different than my school assemblies. Students that have seen me at a school will be inspired by a different program at your conference!

I would be thrilled to bring my IMPACT presentations to your Youth Leadership conference!

I have my USA Work VISA, which I just recently renewed to the summer of 2028, allowing me to work in your country since the mid-90s!

With my 30+ years of experience I can adjust all my presentations in length and focus to meet the goals of your event and the schedule that you create. I enjoy being busy when I am at a conference so please book me to do as many sessions as you can!

ANDY'S IMPACT PRESENTATIONS FOR CONFERENCES

ANDY'S BACKGROUND

"Making Care Contagious" is the mission of Andy's student leadership programs. Combining motivational comedy, powerful stories, pep rally energy, and insights for classroom & leadership success, Andy will make an IMPACT at your conference!

Andy was an active student leader who also excelled at academics throughout his school career. In elementary school, Andy was Student Council VP and the Top Academic Male Graduate. As Student Council President in high school, Andy led his school to win "Most Spirited in Canada" in MOGA (Most Outrageous Group Activity), an annual contest run by Much Music (Canada's MTV). He was also valedictorian of his graduating class. At King's College, Western University, Andy was Orientation Week coordinator, "Most School-Spirited Graduate" of 1993 and on the Dean's honour list for four years, while completing his degree in History & Geography.

Since graduating, Andy has been recognized by both his high school and university for his contributions. Laurier High School in London named him its "Inspiring Excellence" award winner as one of its most outstanding graduates since it was founded in 1966. King's University College chose Andy as its Alumni of Distinction in 2014, an annual award given to only 26 people as of 2024. Andy was also honoured by the Rotary Club of London as a "Paul Harris Fellow" in 2012 for his work as a community leader. Andy has keynoted Rotary's youth leadership conference for the area of southwestern Ontario and eastern Michigan every year since 2003.

Andy still lives in his old neighbourhood in London, Ontario with his 2 teen daughters. Each year he shares several free presentations at his former schools to spread his lifelong commitment to leadership and community service. This includes being an outrageous fan of Western University football where he has been leading the school spirit in the stands as a season ticket holder since 2000!

ANDY'S EXPERIENCE:

Andy has been professionally speaking since 1992, appearing at over 2000 different schools and conferences in 10 provinces and 40 states.

- Over 100 schools every year in every province across Canada including:
 - Ontario: over 600 of the approximately 1000 high schools. 500+ have had him speak 3 or more times.
 - Ontario: over 300 different elementary and middle schools.
 - New Brunswick: 52 of 53 English high schools
 - Saskatchewan: over 120 different schools, including almost 70 K to 12 schools.
 - British Columbia: over 80 different schools
- Over 35 conferences of all sizes every year across North America.
- Canadian National student leadership conference keynote 5 times
- Every provincial student leadership conference keynote at least three times
 - The Ontario Student Leadership Conference (OSLC), workshops every year since 1992
 - Nova Scotia Provincial keynote 13 times
 - New Brunswick Provincial keynote 7 times
 - BC Provincial keynote 8 times, including 2018 and 2023
 - Saskatchewan Provincial keynote 6 times, including 2015

- Alberta Provincial keynote - 2016 was his 6th appearance here
- Newfoundland Provincial keynote 6 times, including 2017
- USA National Student leadership conference and keynoted 34 different US state student council conventions
- Over 350 different American schools from California to Maine, including over 80 Michigan schools.
- Andy has inspired at a wide range of conference settings: Junior and Senior High School Student Councils, USA National Honor Society, Key Club, Rotary Youth, Future Business Leaders of America, 4 H, Ontario Students Against Impaired Driving, Students Against Destructive Decisions, Hugh O'Brien Youth Foundation, DECA, Relay for Life, Safe Schools Programs, Yearbook, Youth Athletics, Parks & Recreation Employees, Teachers, Administrators and College & University Leadership events.

WHY HIRE ANDY AS YOUR CONFERENCE SPEAKER?

1. Andy's unique mix of professional speaking talent and actual student leadership experience helps elevate the energy, impact, and success of your event. He was a student leader at every school he attended. Andy provides hands-on leadership training with humour, inspiration, and energy.
2. Andy personalizes each speech to reflect your conference's school participants and your conference theme. He will work with you to ensure his message matches the goals of your event.
3. Andy's conference keynote and workshops are completely different from his school assembly options. Delegates who have seen him at their school will hear different material during his conference program.
4. No Numb Bum! Andy's specialty is getting audiences of all ages up several times during his programs to cheer, play and participate. It's part pep rally, part leadership workshop, and part inspirational talk!
5. Andy's programs are adaptable for students from ages 11 to 25 and their staff advisors.
6. Conference organizers love Andy's 100%-time commitment to their event. He arrives early to greet delegates, and spends time getting to know them, both students and teacher advisors, throughout the conference. He is available to help wherever needed – with icebreakers, fun trivia contests, cheers, and as MC. He offers powerful workshops for both the student and adult delegates.

His latest 6-minute video that summarizes the energy Andy brings to student leadership conferences and retreats ... ENJOY!

[Video on YouTube - Andy's Energy and Impact at 2023 Youth Leadership Conferences](#)

July 13, 2021

Thank you so much for your virtual program last night for our peer leaders. I had a blast and I LOVE your message. I wish I could have you present that session to every student I work with! The students had a great time and the supervisors all were singing your praises.

Darcee Carnes, Student Engagement Coordinator, Conestoga College, Kitchener, ON

Dcarnes@conestogac.on.ca In 2021 Darcee booked Andy three times Virtually, in addition to in-person programs in 2018 and early 2020. She also worked with him at Wilfrid Laurier University, Brantford, as a student leader and saw Andy speak on her first day of university!

ANDY'S IMPACTING CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

1. **"The Look Bounces off me! Dealing Positively with Negativity" - Andy's Student Leadership Conference Keynote**

We have all seen it when we are in a leadership role ... someone gives us the "look" of disapproval and we feel our enthusiasm for leadership fade a little. In this hilarious and life-changing keynote, Andy gives you effective strategies on dealing with negativity while inspiring care. Andy reminds leaders that, *"Care is contagious, but as a leader, it has to start with ME!"* From his own school and community leadership experiences, he offers realistic, easy-to-implement insights that will motivate you and your team!

Andy's presentations always include a mix of cheers, icebreakers, and group games. He will keep you laughing and moving while teaching engaging activities that you can use at your next event! He will keep the delegates active while giving them leadership skills that will inspire them to improve school spirit and increase participation.

With fantastic online resources and videos, you will come away from Andy's sessions with many tools to help you in your leadership journey!

"The Look – bounces off me!" This statement will resonate for years with your leaders. It reminds leaders that staying true to themselves, maintaining spirit, fun, & enthusiasm, and asking questions and truly listening are powerful examples of care for others to follow.

Andy's keynote presentation runs 45 to 120 minutes in length, based on your needs.

2. **"Mix & Mingle" – An Icebreaker and Interaction Session**

Andy can deliver 15 to 60-minute Icebreaker Sessions that will get your delegates on their feet to mix and mingle, meet and greet, laugh and cheer! Delegates will learn activities that can be shared with their school.

Many conferences have used Andy as an MC, where his stage presence and energizers assist with the smooth operation of the event.

3. **"Initiate Inclusion by Invitation" – Andy's Three "I's" of Building Community. KEYNOTE OR WORKSHOP**

Inclusion is at the forefront of our goal as school leaders. Our schools have come so far in the past 20 years, from Anti-Bullying programs to Black History Month activities to a greater awareness of Mental Health. As leaders, we Initiate Inclusion by being an example of Invitation.

"Inclusion is seeing differences, without seeing the difference." – Andy Thibodeau, 2020

For 10 months in 2018-19, Andy's family had three young women from Congo live with them until their housing situation was settled. The ongoing experience of being "Uncle Andrew" to new Canadians from Africa is hilarious, powerful, and insightful. When you initiate inclusion by invitation, his family's experience shows that the rewards go both ways – blessing the giver and receiver! From this experience, his work at the King's College Peace Camp (a children's program promoting understanding between the Christian, Jewish and

Muslim faiths), and working for 9 months in 2020 at Costco, Andy offers perspective to the following challenges:

How can you initiate inclusion? What limits our courage to invite? How can one maintain enthusiasm for invitation and leadership when negative experiences and rejection challenge us in our schools and community? Include, invite, and lead by initiating!

This Leadership Version of the program divides the training into these modules:

COURAGE – Action and Energy. Barriers to Inclusion. Share Your Barrier. Share Your Story. Set the Example
COMPASSIONATE CHANGE – Patience. Inclusion. Service. Being Approachable. Initiating Change.
CONNECTION – Creating Community. Names. Small Talk to Smart Talk. Common Threads. Teamwork

Leadership themes: Inclusion, Appreciation of Differences, Self-confidence, Communication Skills, Team Building, Community Service.

INVITE, INCLUDE, but as leaders, we must be the example of courage to INITIATE!

4. "The Impact of Educators" – Inspiration for School Staff. KEYNOTE OR WORKSHOP

In October of grade 9, Andy received a letter from his high school's track and field coach "recruiting" him to be part of the team. That letter changed his life. Expect laughter and powerful reflection as Andy shares the lessons he learned from Coach Young and his efforts to connect with students. Coach Young was a leader in invitation and inclusion because he had the COURAGE to INITIATE.

Andy is the teaching profession's #1 fan because of the difference teachers have made in his life. It also helps that the mother of his children is a high school French & Computers teacher and that in 2022 he was a Supply teacher for all grades! This program is an empowering reminder to school staff about the difference they make with youth.

Designed to be enjoyed by all school professionals, this presentation can run from 30 to 60 minutes to a half-day staff professional development session! This program can be a keynote for educators or as a workshop. It can be combined with his educator workshops on "Reliability" and "Making Care Contagious" outlined below.

After a school staff professional development day, Andy received this email:

November 22, 2022

Thank you so much for sharing your time and talent with us on Friday morning. Our staff left the session feeling uplifted and ready to take on the world. It was exactly what they needed, thank you! We look forward to booking you to come speak to all of our students in the new year!

Erin Debicki, VP, St. Nicholas Catholic School, London 519-675-4409 edebicki@ldcsb.ca

She arranged a 90 minute program for the school staff of five elementary schools. It included this phenomenal energizer activity with the 300+ staff, called "Ohh Ahh Orchestra."

[Andy on YouTube: Ohh Ahh Orchestra with School Staff at a Nov 2022 Event](#)

ANDY'S INSPIRING WORKSHOPS FOR CONFERENCES

1. "Making Care Contagious" – Andy's Student Leadership Workshop

School Spirit is caring, but how do leaders make this care contagious? This presentation draws from Andy's experiences as a student leader and as a speaker traveling North America. He has developed 5 Habits that form the core of all successful student leadership activities. This hilarious and high-energy workshop gives hands-on advice on handling negativity; dealing with rejection; having the courage to be an example of good decisions; effective appreciation; communicating care; and improving event promotion and attendance. Follow Andy's 5 Habits to "get your care, out there!"

The session includes games and activities that can be shared with your school at your next meeting or assembly.

Workshop format is completely flexible. Andy can perform a 30 to 60-minute version as part of a workshop rotation or do a 2 to 4-hour version which includes group discussions, a question/answer sheet, and more icebreaker games.

Andy has a version of this program for school professionals designed as a "Train the Trainer" workshop for student council advisors and leadership teachers.

2. "Can I Count on You?" – Improving Your Reliability to Lead Yourself and Others

Execution of ideas is the number one challenge for leaders. This session will immediately improve the ability of your students to work together, improve their organization and time management skills, and execute ideas into action and activities! With all students, student leaders and staff balancing their time between school, family and work commitments, this program can transform how you and your team organizes their priorities!

This session addresses the concepts of time management from a unique perspective. Trust is the foundation for loving families, fun friendships, spirited students' councils, successful businesses, impressive customer service and effective leaders. Yet people earn the trust of another by being reliable. In "Can I Count You", Andy offers useful and immediately applicable advice for improving reliability. Through his insights, Andy demonstrates how increased reliability improves one's time management, creates successful events, prepares students for success in class and the workplace, and inspires TRUST in you as a leader!

The workshop format is completely flexible. Andy can perform a 30 to 60-minute version as part of a workshop rotation or do a 2 to 4-hour version which includes increased interaction, a question/answer sheet, and more icebreaker games.

Andy has a version of this program for school professionals designed as a "Train the Trainer" workshop for student council advisors and leadership teachers.

I personally love your work. I saw you at the Ontario Student Leadership Conference (fall 2023) and I haven't stopped thinking about your presentation since. I brought up your name to our board's student senators and how I thought that you would be the perfect speaker for our symposium. We are very keen on leadership and School Spirit and we want a speaker like you who is very passionate and interactive with the audience.

Email, January, 2024, from Stella from Notre Dame High School, Welland, Ontario.

3. **“Initiate Inclusion by Invitation” – Andy’s Three “I’s” of Building Community.**

WORKSHOP

This is the workshop program version of my Initiate Inclusion by Invitation. It can run from 30 minutes to 2 hours. See above for a summary.

Andy has a version of this program for school professionals designed as a “Train the Trainer” workshop for student council advisors and leadership teachers.

4. **“Let’s Talk!” - Effective Communication Skills for Youth Leaders**

Get "excited" about your next speaking opportunity! This session draws on Andy’s massive speaking experience, ranging from high school pep rallies and university orientation weeks to adult programs across North America. He offers realistic insights on: overcoming the fear (and how it is linked to self-esteem), putting more "you" into all of your communication, using the power of the positive, and how to visualize your improved speaking performances. Andy’s ideas are applicable whether you're communicating with one person or one thousand.

Workshop format is completely flexible and can run from 30 to 90 minutes.

JUNE 1, 2021

Andy spoke at our Nova Scotia province-wide online conference for high school students, Refresh 2021, which is usually held in person. The NSSSA has a long-standing relationship with Andy and we were so excited to welcome him back this year! (It was his 15th time keynoting the conference since 1992!) His keynote was catered perfectly to our theme and included wonderful stories that everyone could relate to in part. He is an invigorating speaker with the ability to make anyone smile and was the perfect closer for our conference. The presentation also included time to get our blood flowing so our attendees didn’t have to sit and stare at a screen the whole conference which was a nice added feature.

Angus Kennedy (attendee): “I found Andy's talk was both interesting and motivating, after hearing it I felt I could act in my community more positively having heard his experiences.” We look forward to continuing to build this strong relationship!

Katie MacLennon & Ella Stacey, Conference Co-Chairs 2021, VIRTUAL Nova Scotia Provincial Leadership Conference (for Secondary Students) nsssa.cc.cochair@gmail.com

RECENT USA CONFERENCE REFERENCES

December, 2023, Andy keynoted the Oakland County (Suburban Detroit, Michigan) student leadership retreat for 15 schools. It was the fourth time he was booked for this annual event, arranged by Lora Hogan and Shawn DeFresne, both of whom have booked him 10 or more times in the past. Shawn G DuFresne, SDuFresne@troy.k12.mi.us and 'Lora Hogan' Lora.Hogan@lok12.org

2019 I delivered TWO full day student leadership conferences in suburban Cleveland.

St. Albert School hosted an event for Catholic middle schools, arranged by Superintendent Ed Vittardi, evittardi@saint-albert.org, the 5th time he has booked me for a leadership program. I am returning in 2025!

North Royalton MS booked me for 3rd time for their school and their middle school conference, arranged for a second time by Principal Jeff Cicerchi.

February 10, 2006

You were fantastic in your presentation to our student body, faculty, and to my MSASC Advisers at the two-day workshop. Your message is so meaningful, and you truly practice and live what you "preach" in your program "Caring is Contagious." This is such an important message for all of us in today's society and is particularly significant to those of us impacted by Hurricane Katrina. We have been blessed by many volunteers who have been so caring and are doing so much to help people rebuild their lives after the devastation. We are so thankful for all of these wonderful people, like you and your fellow church members, who have given so unselfishly of themselves in this time of great need.

Gayle Ladner Bentz, Director, Mississippi State Assoc. of Student Councils, lglbentz@yahoo.com, Asstn. Principal, Biloxi HS

Gayle has booked me twice for her state conference, PLUS once for her school, and once for her advisors conference. She is referencing my three mission trips to her state with friends from my church to rebuild after Hurricane Katrina.

Andy practices what he preaches! He actually does care about the students and teachers that he deals with. His enthusiasm is overwhelming and his ability to connect with his audience is amazing!

Tony Tylenda, retired Director, Western NY Activity Advisor's Association, and advisor at Lancaster HS, NY. ttylenda@lancaster.wnyric.org 716-686-3277

Tony has booked Andy once for their NY state conference, eight times for his school, and five times for his Western NY Regional student leadership conference. He hosted the National NASC conference in 2003 in Buffalo. His school still has me visit annually to speak to their freshmen.

July 20, 2010

"Andy, your message at CADA was the greatest thing I have ever heard for student leaders. I am hoping to infect my school with your contagion."

Pete Sheaff, Student Leader, participating at the California Association of Directors of Activities summer camp.

I will also tell you that of all the presenters at the Florida State Student Council Convention in 2005, my students remembered and followed through with your message most of all, if not exclusively. Now that those students are gone, I want the current "leaders" to hear what you have to say. I know that they will enjoy it tremendously and they and the school will benefit from it. So, I will be working on getting you down here.

Joseph Gushanas, Student Council Advisor, Boca Raton HS, Florida gushanasj@palmbeach.k12.fl.us