



Keynote addresses ~ Opening Reception:

Shauna Parks and Charlene Wilson are identical twins born and raised in Calgary, Alberta. At the age of eleven years old, they came into the care of Child and Family Services and were placed into foster care where they were raised apart for the following 6 years. Both have very different experiences of their time in the child welfare system and transition out of care. They have overcome many challenges to experience resiliency and success as adults working in the field. Hear Shauna and Charlene's story of perseverance and overcoming the odds as they account what it was like to be raised apart from each other in foster care and experience healing and reconnection as young adults.

Presenter's Biographies:

Shauna Parks is social worker who has worked at a number of organizations in Calgary including Enviro, the Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter, Momentum, the City of Calgary, and the Alberta Youth in Care and Custody Network. Shauna has over 10 years of experience as a social worker both in Calgary and in Winnipeg for Child and Family Services.

Shauna is a former youth in care who completed her Master of Social Work Degree through the University of Calgary in November 2011 and has a Bachelor of Social Work Degree, as well as a diploma in Child and Youth Care Counseling. Shauna is passionate about advocacy and issues effecting young people in government care and funnels this passion into local, national, and international conference speaking opportunities. She currently serves as Vice President on the Board of Directors for the National Youth in Care Network. Shauna is the proud mother of a two year old son, Caleb.

Charlene Wilson is Shauna's identical twin sister who has a diploma in Child and Youth Care Counselling from Mount Royal University. She works as a Child and Youth Care Counsellor in the Youth Voluntary Detox Program with Hull Child and Family Services. Charlene was a business owner for 8 years and is currently a certified St. John Ambulance First Aid Instructor. She is currently working on her Addictions Diploma through McMaster University. Charlene also grew up in care of Child and Family Services separate from her twin.