

About the Panelists



Sarah Kwan

Co-Founder of Lean in Canada

Sarah's background spans a decade of finance and marketing in the retail industry. Her contributions to Lean In Canada, a community of professional women empowering each other, reflect her deeply held beliefs that women and men should benefit from the same opportunities and be measured by the same standards.



Melissa Sarrifodeen

Co-Founder of Ladies Learning Code

Melissa is a fierce advocate for providing women and youth the critical skills, confidence and opportunities they need to become passionate builders – not just consumers of technology. She does so through Ladies Learning Code, a non-profit technology education provider.



Samra Zafar

Social Entrepreneur

Samra is Alumni Governor on the Governing Council of U of T and an award-winning speaker on women's rights. After arriving in Canada as a 16-year-old bride in an arranged marriage, she faced over a decade of opposition against her education. Refusing to give up, she completed two degrees as a single mother while working multiple jobs.



Jessica Pelchat

Chief Sustainability Officer & Executive Vice President at Office Coffee Solutions

Jessica is a passionate sustainability advocate, pursuing a specialized post-graduate certificate in Corporate Social Responsibility at the University of Toronto. A key attribute of her professional journey is her unique background: she was entirely homeschooled and self-taught in marketing, design and accounting, and is also a young single mother.



Thank you for your support.



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Bright Future for Young Mothers Canada

6 Lochlevel Drive
Toronto, ON M1M 3S1



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Agenda

9:00 am	Welcome & Check-In	20 min
9:20 am	Microsoft Excel Sandra Linton Avantix Learning	1.5 hrs
10:50 am	Break	10 min
11:00 am	Introduction to HTML/CSS Betty Li Bitmaker	2.0 hrs
1:00 pm	Lunch	30 min
1:30 pm	Speaking with Influence Marianne Gobeil Leading Communicators	1.5 hrs
3:00 pm	Break	10 min
3:10 pm	Bright Futures Panel Featuring: Sarah Kwan Melissa Sariffodeen Samra Zafar Jessica Pelchat	1.5 hrs
4:40 pm	Networking	20 min



About the Charity

Empowering young mothers to create their own brighter futures.

Bright Future for Young Mothers Canada (BFYMC) is a Canadian charity (#839852845RR0001) that aims to empower young, adolescent mothers in Tanzania. BFYMC provides shelter, food, and healthcare, as well as a nurturing environment to help these young girls create a brighter future for themselves and their families.

Founded by Rosemin Janmohamed, herself a Tanzanian native and a former beneficiary of the Aga Khan Foundation, BFYMC operates the Center for Young Mothers, a shelter for adolescent mothers located in Bagamoyo, Tanzania.

BFYMC holds weekly meetings with women and children in the local community. At these meetings, we determine who the most high-risk mothers and families are. These tend to be the poorest women, who are unable to afford food and other basic needs. We also work with young mothers who need help with childcare so that they can continue their education.



Tanzania's Young Mothers

Imagine being poor, homeless, and illiterate... with a child in your belly.

This is reality for many of the young women we work with. Economic and social marginalization, high illiteracy rates, chaotic family structures and sexual trafficking are among many challenges currently facing adolescent girls in Tanzania.

Limited economic opportunities lead young girls to leave school early and enter sex work in order to afford basic items for their families. Living in abject poverty, their attempts to make ends meet often lead to unwanted pregnancies. Poor, illiterate, and pregnant, these young girls face a dire future. BFYM provides a nurturing environment where young girls are empowered and taught skills to create a better future for themselves and their children.

Your contribution to this conference will help us provide healthcare kits to young mothers and their children. In addition to clothing, food, and medication, they also contain obstetrics kits for women who decide to have deliveries at home. These kits greatly reduce the risk of serious infections that can lead to child and maternal death.

