

David Gouthro



As president of **The Consulting Edge**, David Gouthro possesses a rare talent for instilling inspiration, courage and innovation to audiences and individuals engaged in his programs and presentations. For over twenty years, David has been inspiring others to seize the day and take action towards greater personal effectiveness, regardless of the situation, occasion, event or function.

David has a knack for leading individuals and organizations in the pursuit of knowledge and awareness and for achieving effectiveness by exploring issues in a new light and perspective. His energetic and playful approach incorporates variety, humour and fun to all he undertakes and has earned him the reputation as facilitator and speaker of choice for numerous North American organizations.

Particularly commended for his outstanding human and relational skills, David is highly motivated to help others succeed – both personally and professionally. In addition to being sharp, stimulating, and engaging, he excels at maintaining sensitivity to the unique needs and circumstances of each distinct group he has the privilege of working with. His thought provoking sessions evoke participation and action and lead individuals and organizations towards greater satisfaction and prosperity.

An avid learner himself, David deeply values improving his own knowledge and performance by keeping abreast of the latest advancements in leadership and organizational developments. Clients benefit from his continuous learning with expert access to the best and brightest organizational change technologies and resources to aid in the learning process. As a keynote speaker, David delivers practical concepts that address real-life issues which impede growth and prosperity...and he does this through entertaining, educational sessions brimming with energy and fun.

David is a member of the Vancouver Board of Trade, BC Chamber of Commerce, Canadian Association of Professional Speakers, BC Biotechnology Alliance, International Society for Performance Improvement, International Association of Facilitators, and the BC Association of Facilitators.

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Client Comments

On behalf of BCIT I extend my most sincere thanks for your remarkable contribution to our first all-staff *Professional Development Day*.

As I'm sure you know, the role of plenary speaker in such an event is pivotal. Your presentation on *The Courage to Change* was thought provoking, pertinent to BCIT and entertaining. Despite the wide array of expertise in the audience, it seems your words had value for everyone. I have received notes from around the Institute expressing their appreciation for your session and for the way in which you conducted it. In particular, you set a very positive tone for the remainder of the program. Many speakers and participants made reference to your key ideas throughout the day.

You have a unique talent for instilling courage and inspiration. Congratulations on your success and thank you, again, for an exceptional plenary address.

*Tony Knowles, PhD, President
British Columbia Institute of Technology*

David took on the role of being Conference MC last year at the national *Health, Work & Wellness Conference 2000* in Toronto. This conference attracts 500-600 delegates from across the country each year. David was without a doubt, the best MC we have had in our five years of operation. His humour, personality and facilitation skills shine in this role.

He also provided the final, wrap-up keynote for Conference 2000, which is a difficult job – pulling together and synthesizing what has occurred during the conference. He found many innovative ways to effectively meet this need, by pulling together a panel of delegates to provide their views, by creating a videotape of other delegates' views during the wrap-up, and by providing his own inspiring messages on courage and leadership.

- “The positive, energizing presentation of David Gouthro positively rejuvenated us!”
- “David Gourthro was an excellent MC and I hope he returns to Calgary!”
- “I liked David’s enthusiasm and energy; great anecdotes”
- “Mr. Gouthro is fantastic – excellent choice! He truly lives up to his company’s name ‘Movers & Shakers!’ ”

Based on the overwhelming response from our delegates, we have asked David to join us again to MC this year’s “Health, Work & Wellness: Building Sound Investments” Conference in Calgary, Alberta.

*Deborah Jones, President, Well-Advised Consulting Inc.
Chair, Health, Work & Wellness Conference*

I would like to thank you for your significant contribution to our *2000 Annual Conference, Charting New Directions for Professional Growth*. As you no doubt noticed, it was indeed a very successful event, both in terms of turnout and response to the session offerings. Comments from conference participants indicated that they were very pleased with their experiences at the event.

*Wayne Gibson, P.Eng. Director, Communications
APEG Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC*

Speaking Topics

You Learn Faster If You're Willing To Blow It: *Reflections of a Nosefluting Troubadour!*

You can learn without growing but you can't grow without learning. For any person or organization wishing to grow, learning is simply not optional. Obvious? Perhaps. Easy? Definitely not! If it was, everyone would be learning as much and as fast as possible—yet this isn't the case. As adults, a premium is paid on “knowing”; “learning” is something done by lesser mortals in their time off. It is rarely encouraged and supported. So what's the problem? In this topic we explore and explode one of the main barriers to learning—our unwillingness to “blow it”, either publicly or privately. In this highly engaging (and marginally musical) presentation, the noseflute will be used as a unique metaphor to remind and encourage us to get back in touch with our joy of learning. Let's “blow it” faster and seize the gifts that mistakes offer us!



The Ordinary Hero: *Be One Today!*

Nelson Mandela, Joan of Arc, Terry Fox, Mother Theresa, Sir Edmond Hillary and Amelia Earhart. Heroes every one. Known and respected by millions. What makes them heroes? Why do we look up to them? Does a person have to risk life and limb or demonstrate superhuman abilities to be one? And what about you? Do you think of yourself as a hero? I bet some of the children in your life think of you as one (or did at one time)! I want to be a hero to my daughter—she's not quite two years old. Not because I want her to love or respect me more, but because I want her to see in me the values I believe will help her live as fulfilling a life as possible. We all have the potential to be heroes to someone if we're clear on what's important to us and are prepared to act accordingly. This lighthearted look at ordinary heroes will leave you with the tantalizing possibility of becoming a hero yourself, each and every day.

A Passion to Lead: *Creating Our Future!*

Why would anyone in his or her right mind want a passion to lead? After all, “passion” comes from the Latin word “passio”, meaning “to suffer”. Perhaps because the worlds we live in are not quite perfect yet and there are limitless opportunities to make them better! If you're a living, breathing human being, seeing an opportunity to make a difference and choosing to do nothing is where suffering often begins. So we suffer if we *don't* lead when there's an opportunity or need to do so. What does it take to develop passion? What does it cost to live without it? Seeking or creating opportunities to lead is an amazing path of growth and satisfaction for those who choose it—so let's start building our passion to lead today!



Fun Without Guilt: *Putting Joy Back in Your Work!*

So, are you having fun or are you getting your work done? Wait! Don't answer—it's a trap! It isn't one or the other and don't be tricked into thinking it is! It's a rather unfortunate consequence of our productivity-focused society that so many people think “if you're having a good time, you can't be doing a good job”. Given the choice of working with someone who is effective, efficient and having fun, or someone who is effective, efficient and miserable, whom would YOU rather work with? In this fast-paced exploration of having fun at work, we'll burst through some of the barriers that keep us from enjoying ourselves while keeping our organizations happy (sorry, make that productive . . . or profitable)!

Creative Executives, Unicorns & Other Mythical Creatures

The Creative Executive. Yet another oxymoron in today's business lexicon? A term with inherent contradiction? Please say "it ain't so", because in these complex and unpredictable times, creativity has become an essential quality for today's executives. Fast changing business environments and ever more demanding customers render traditional ways of responding obsolete. New approaches are essential—and since they are new and untested, there can be no guarantees of success. Yet what seems to be demanded and rewarded by stakeholders are the right decisions at the right time for the right reasons and at the right cost. Not that there's anything wrong with that—if you wish to put on a set of impossibly restrictive mental handcuffs. The pressure to do things "right" generates an environment of judgment that at best discourages creativity, and at worst is downright constipating.

Everyone is creative. You don't need to become more creative; you just need to become more comfortable with being creative. The challenge is to augment good solid traditional business skills with the ability to recognize when creativity is essential and then to be able to tap into it. This session will serve as a mental laxative, to loosen up fixed positions, perspectives and perceptions. It will allow the creativity within to be recognized and dragged from the depths of your mind to the surface where it can be refreshed and nourished by light of day and fresh air. Fun and challenging, this session will encourage everyone to release their inherent creativity and seek exciting opportunities to use it!



Building the Courage to Win!

There's no doubt we're in the midst of one of the most challenging, complex and confusing times in recorded history. Regardless of our job or occupation, what used to work either no longer works or works differently than it used to. Predictability is virtually non-existent. This puts an incredible strain on all of us, with a particular burden falling upon those who are looked to for leadership in a variety of organizations. These organizations range from huge multi-nationals all the way down to an individual family unit—the challenges are the same—they just play themselves out differently.

At the same time, there are literally hundreds (perhaps thousands) of books written on how to be an effective manager or leader, each offering some very useful advice on how to build the personal skills necessary to guide others. The focus of this workshop is on what I believe is one of the most critical of these personal traits—courage. There is little written specifically on this topic, so the purpose of our time together is to examine courage in depth and explore the areas where exercising personal courage will have the greatest potential impact.

What is courage? When and why do we exercise it? What conditions are required for us to act courageously? How does courage provide a foundation for our curiosity, creativity and commitment? How can we encourage others to act

with courage, too? These questions and others will be part of our exploration. There are no "right" answers, however there'll be plenty of "possible" ones! Be prepared to explore in this delightfully personal and highly engaging offering.

Each of these keynotes is:

Insightful;

Engaging;

Relevant;

And as playful as you can stand!