



## **Changing the Discourse from *Risk Equals Loss* To *Risk is an Opportunity for Gain***

***"As long as we wish for safety, we will have difficulty pursuing what matters."***

Peter Block

### **Workshop Description**

Today's risk management landscape can be challenging to navigate. Being aware of current best practices is the first step to sustaining long-term commitment to experiential education and protecting program depth and integrity.

This workshop is a timely refresher to help Administrators, Faculty, Programmers and Governing Board Members responsible for risk management decisions to change the discourse from risk equals loss, to risk as an opportunity for gain. Re-conceptualizing risk allows educators to focus on strong programming plans, better student engagement, stronger communities, and increased learning outcomes for the 21st century learner.

This one day workshop aims to empower participants with the knowledge to confront the pressures of risk auditors, internal and external skeptics and fearful parents. Discussion will focus on the importance of matching program outcomes with each institution's risk appetite, risk assessments and risk communication strategies. Schools that can find the balance between loss and gain are more apt to offer more authentic experiential learning activities with valuable real world outcomes.

This workshop will provide participants with a road map to help balance learning outcomes with risk management. Discussions and activities will include the following topics:

- The current state of risk management within experiential education
- Clarifying your institutional risk appetite, and ensuring alignment across school divisions
- Mapping your risk management framework
- An overview of current risk data in the field of outdoor education - Perceived vs. Actual Risks
- Re-thinking risk assessments
- Creating better risk communication deliverables
- Areas for growth and gaps within experiential education



- How to choose a third-party provider & how to review their risk assessments

Participants are asked to bring any promotional material that highlights their experiential learning programs offered at their school. This can include residential Outdoor Centre programs, wilderness and expedition based programs such as canoe tripping and hiking, international service trips, etc.

**Lead Presenter: Dr. Ryan Howard**  
**ALIVE Outdoors Director Research, Risk & Innovation**

Throughout his career, Ryan has shown dedication to advancing the practices of outdoor education through both his field based practices and his time conducting and disseminating research in experiential education. Ryan holds bachelor degrees in Outdoor Recreation and Geography from Lakehead University. He has a Master's degree from Brock University which focused on commercial risk management and government regulations within the outdoor industry. He holds a Ph.D. in Applied Health Science, also from Brock University, and is currently completing the requirements for his Canadian Risk Management (CRM) designation through the Risk and Insurance Management Society (RIMS) and the Global Risk Management Institute (GRMI).

Ryan came to ALIVE Outdoors after working in higher education for the past eight years, he has lectured at Brock University, was a faculty member at the University of Northern British Columbia, and most recently was a tenure track faculty member in the School of Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Tourism at Lakehead University. Ryan started in outdoor education as a canoe tripper, white water canoe, kayak, and raft guide, a swift water rescue instructor, and operations director with various companies in Ontario and Quebec.

Highlights from Ryan's professional background in the fields of outdoor and experiential education includes: publishing research in numerous national and internationally recognized journals, and books; sharing research and workshops on risk management and experiential education at over 50 scholarly conferences and symposia; conducting government sponsored research with school boards; and consulting for Environment Canada on developing their risk management practices. He actively contributes to several outdoor and experiential education associations and continues to be a reviewer for numerous education and outdoor recreation journals.



Ryan's expertise allows ALIVE to offer risk consulting, outcome and longitudinal research for those schools who are interested in looking to assess the value and impact of their experiential programs. If you have any questions about this workshop, Ryan can be reached at: [ryanhoward@aliveoutdoors.com](mailto:ryanhoward@aliveoutdoors.com)

**Jalynn Bosley**  
**ALIVE Outdoors Founder & Executive Director**

Jalynn founded ALIVE Outdoors as a canoe expedition company focused on personal leadership development in 2000. Over the last 17 years, ALIVE has grown into an outdoor and experiential education company that works with approximately 5500 young people from over 20 independent schools annually. Through her tenure as Executive Director, Jalynn has developed strong relationships with school administrators, teachers, and board members within the independent school sector. Jalynn brings with her a demonstrated history of working in the primary/secondary education industry, and is devoted to helping schools deepen their experiential education curriculum (scope & sequence development), environmental education, service expeditions and mentorship programs. Under Jalynn's guidance, ALIVE Outdoors strives to help young people deepen their sense of self-efficacy, self-awareness and self-compassion, as well as enhancing community, building leadership skills and other key life competencies.

Jalynn uses her diverse skillset in experiential program development to help guide schools through their individualized process of building meaningful experiential programming. Jalynn actively consults with schools on program development, risk management, and scope and sequence planning both nationally and internationally. She has just recently completed a *Certificate in Positive Psychology* through the Flourishing Center, based out of New York City. While much of ALIVE's programming is already currently rooted in many positive psychology principles, the goal is to continue to expand this element of ALIVE Outdoors' curriculum. Jalynn can be reached at: [jal@aliveoutdoors.com](mailto:jal@aliveoutdoors.com)

**Cost per participant:** \$185 per participant \*Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

**Date:** November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Location:** Royal St. George's College, 120 Howland Avenue, Toronto M5R 3B5

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

***Risk has a double-edged nature. Risk can cut and risk can heal.*** James Neill

[www.aliveaoutdoors.com](http://www.aliveaoutdoors.com)