



TESL Toronto

is pleased to present our **Keynote Speaker** -

Dr. Lionel Laroche

Culture and Relationships in the Workplace

Sometimes commonsense is not so common when the workplace consists of people from many diverse cultures. What can be misunderstood as personality issues are often culturally-base differences in attitudes toward management, teamwork, decision-making, feedback, humour and a host of other human interactions. Disappointment, confusion, and even rancour can occur when people with different expectations around the importance of hierarchy, individualism, and risk tolerance attempt to work together to achieve the same goals. By providing numerous concrete examples and vivid anecdotes, to which we all can relate, Dr. Laroche enables the audience to identify the cultural dimensions in various workplace behaviours.

Born in France, Lionel obtained his Engineering Degree from the Ecole Polytechnique de Paris, France and his Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, California, USA. Over the past 10 years, Lionel Laroche has provided cross-cultural training, coaching and consulting services to over 15,000 people in 9 different countries. Lionel specializes in helping organizations and professionals reap the benefits of cultural diversity in the workplace.

Dr. Laroche is a dynamic, entertaining, and educational speaker who has presented at over 150 conferences for a wide range of professional, academic, business, government, and non-profit organizations. Recently, he was the keynote speaker at the Internationally Educated Professionals Conference in Toronto.

He is the author of over 100 publications, including two books:

- Recruiting, Retaining and Promoting Culturally Different Employees
- Managing Cultural Diversity in Technical Professions