

**Karen L Rebeiro Gruhl** obtained her Bachelor of Science and her Masters of Science in Occupational Therapy from the University of Western Ontario. She is currently enrolled in the PhD Program in Rural and Northern Health at Laurentian University in Sudbury. Karen has worked at the Northeast Mental Health Centre since 1989 and has spent the last decade researching and developing a successful consumer-run, occupation-based program known as NISA/Northern Initiative for Social Action. Her current research interests are in collaborative partnerships with consumers and non-providers as a means to enhance community participation for persons with serious mental illness and to better understand how participation in occupation impacts recovery outcomes. Karen lives with her husband and four children in Sudbury, Ontario. Today, she will address the challenges and opportunities of a paradigm shift towards recovery in northeastern Ontario.