



# Biography

M I C H A E L   K E R R

***“You left the audience in stitches and with a lot of food for thought on how they approach their everyday worklife.”***

Kathy Reimer  
Canadian Business Travel  
Association



**MICHAEL KERR - INTERNATIONAL SPEAKER, PRESENTATIONS COACH and AUTHOR** of *You Can't Be Serious! Putting Humor to Work*—is one of Canada's leading authorities on the vital role that humor, heart and passion play in today's changing work environment. Michael's programs are known for their powerful combination of humor, high energy and insightful content that audiences can immediately put to use to combat stress, build stronger teams, spark creative thinking skills and improve workplace morale. Based in Canmore, Alberta, Michael also welcomes groups to the Canadian Rockies with his hilarious program, *When Do You Let the Animals Out?*



## **MICHAEL'S SPEAKING EXPERIENCE**

A former communications manager, Michael has been speaking to audiences of all backgrounds since 1986. As an experienced presentation skills training coach, Michael practices what he preaches. His programs demonstrate his enthusiasm for the topic and his commitment to his audiences. “Inspiring,” “Hilarious,” “Action Packed,” and “Valuable Content” are phrases often used to describe Michael's programs.

## **MICHAEL'S HUMOR AND MANAGEMENT BACKGROUND**

Michael takes his humor seriously. His book, *You Can't Be Serious!*, has been described as the “bible for humor in the workplace.” He is a certified Laughter Leader for the World Laughter Tour, theatre improviser and a member of the Association of Applied and Therapeutic Humor, the Canadian Association of Therapeutic Humor and the International Group for Humor Studies. Michael writes a regular humor column for *Home Business Report*, while his articles on

the benefits and use of humor have appeared in numerous publications.

Michael is much more, however, than just a “fun date.” His extensive background as a manager means that Michael understands the realities of running a business, managing a team and surviving in today's challenging work environment. Michael's messages are insightful, practical and applicable.

## **MICHAEL'S CANADIAN ROCKIES EXPERIENCE**

As the former communications manager for Banff National Park, Michael knows the Rockies like few other people. He has delivered more than 1,000 talks on the Rockies and guided more than 400 groups into the mountains. He is the author of two books of the Rockies, including the best selling, *When Do You Let the Animals Out? A Field Guide to Rocky Mountain Humor* and the *Canadian Rockies Guide to Wildlife Watching*. His wildlife anecdotes were recently featured on a 12 part C.B.C. radio series. Michael also hosts a regular segment on the Banff Park FM Radio station. Michael's Rockies presentations are an ideal way to launch any conference on a true “Rocky Mountain High” note.





# Partial Client List

**M I C H A E L   K E R R**

## **CORPORATIONS**

Compaq Computers  
Nova Corporation  
Telus Canada (x2)  
C.B.C. Radio & Television  
G.E. Harris Energy  
Harvard Developments  
Ambest Truck Stops  
Peterson Company Investments  
Gooder Financial Services (x2)  
BDO Dunwoody L.L.P.  
Bumper to Bumper  
Alberta Treasury Branch  
Canada Post  
Backroads Tour Company  
Saskatchewan Credit Union  
Nippon Express Travel  
Enbridge  
Japan Travel Corporation

## **GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS**

Public Works and Government Services Canada (x4)  
Indian Oil and Gas Canada  
Alberta Agriculture  
Parks Canada, Hot Springs Enterprise Unit (x5)  
Parks Canada, Warden Service (x5)  
Town of Banff, Community Services  
Industry Canada (x2)  
Virginia County Parks  
Parks Canada, Atlantic Region Communications  
Directors of Alberta Family & Social Services

## **ASSOCIATIONS**

Association of Manitoba Human Resources  
Canadian Association of Professional Speakers  
Pipeline Contractors Association of Canada  
Canadian Business Travel Association  
Alberta Human Resources Association  
Canadian Parks and Recreation  
Alberta Veterinary Association  
Meeting Planners International  
Society for Manitobans With Disabilities  
Association for Canadian Safety Professionals  
National Electrical Contractors Association  
Alberta Association of Radiology Managers  
Institute of Alberta Chartered Accountants (x8)  
Canadian Construction Association  
Institute of Industrial Engineering  
Canadian Association of Pharmacy Technicians  
Canadian Institute of Metallurgy  
Canadian Produce Association  
Alberta Assessors Association  
Woman in Business Enterprise Group  
Master Brewers Association  
Western Canadian Tire Dealers  
United Farmers of Alberta  
Canadian Institute of Forestry

## **HEALTH FIELD**

Calgary Regional Health Authority (x2)  
Community Health Nurses Association  
Rockyview Foundation  
Health Canada (x2)  
Canmore Local Nurses Union

## **EDUCATION RELATED**

Arizona State University, Business School Board of Excellence  
Elk Island Area School Principals  
School Business Officials of Alberta  
Red Deer College  
The Banff School of Advanced Management, The Banff Centre  
Banff Centre for Management Aboriginal Leadership Program

## **NON PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**

United Way of Canada  
Boys and Girls Club of Canada (x3)  
Glenbow Museum  
Wings Over the Rockies Festival  
Rotary Canada  
Canadian Diabetes Association  
Alberta 4-H  
Interpretation Canada  
Science Alberta  
Friends of Glacier National Park



# Testimonials

## M I C H A E L   K E R R

*"We were drowning in tears of laughter. Michael is a very dynamic and upbeat speaker. His presentation was an excellent way to end our conference."*

Antje Nameth  
Assistant Bankruptcy Officer  
Industry Canada

*"Because of the positive spirit of humor, team building exercises and your alternative thinking activities, the weekend was a huge success! We have become huge fans and would share our exceptional experience with anyone asking."*

Walt Muralt  
General Manager  
Muralt's Travel Plaza

*"It was a great way to start the day—no one should have so much energy so early in the morning."*

Jennifer Campbell  
BDO Dunwoody L.L.P.

*Your name and topic brought a record crowd to our January dinner meeting. Your presentation not only provided us with an opportunity to laugh, but also with a chance to look at how we can use humor to make our workplaces truly exciting and fun places to be!"*

Heather Ayres  
Professional Development Chair  
Human Resources Management  
Association of Manitoba

*"As our opening speaker, your contribution was considerable. Your presentation was delivered with humor, passion, commitment and tremendous energy. Your style of communication through humor truly inspired participants and energized our workplace".*

Glen Armstrong  
Regional Director  
Public Works Canada

*We were in stitches laughing so hard during our Meeting Planners International meeting. Michael is very entertaining and humorous, which held our attention while teaching us valuable information.*

Wendy Kirkpatrick  
Sales Manager  
Rimrock Hotel

*"The feedback showed that your presentation was the most appreciated and enjoyed session of all that were presented. That is by itself a great testimonial to your personal leadership style and communication skills!"*

Alan D. Burpee  
CEO  
Society for Manitobans With  
Disabilities

*"This was the best and most focused training I've had in 30 years!"*

Peter Hope  
Communications Manager  
Atlantic Region

*"The feedback for your informative and energizing workshop was extremely positive. Some of the comments included "This was your best workshop yet—every employee should participate in this workshop."*

Marlies van Dijk  
Community Development Coordinator  
Calgary Regional Health Authority

*Michael's presentation was upbeat, action packed and very funny. I can certainly recommend Michael Kerr as a speaker who is very dynamic and who will add humor to your event.*

Roy T. Spence,  
Saskatchewan Credit Union Managers  
Association

*"Within a few minutes Michael had everyone up, laughing, participating and learning. It was an exciting, fun and informative end to the conference."*

Diane Reid  
Manager of Communication  
Boys and Girls Club of Calgary

*"To anyone looking for a humorous and educational speaker—Mike was outstanding. Not only was he very funny and entertaining, there was a lot to learn about humor in the workplace. We will see him again... no question about it!"*

Dana Zaretski  
Chairperson  
Canadian Association of  
Pharmacy Technicians



# Testimonials

M I C H A E L   K E R R

*"Michael did an outstanding job of meeting his stated goals and he did it by putting a massive amount of energy into his workshop. The attendees were laughing and learning the entire presentation."*

David Blain  
Indian Oil and Gas

*"A couple of wardens said this was the best workshop they'd ever attended. Everyone was impressed with your dynamic, humorous approach. Your workshop definitely made an impression!"*

Jenny Klafki, Communications  
Manager, Parks Canada

*"What a rollicking trip you ushered through the Canadian Rockies! The audience laughed; they were awed; they were inspired; they were ready to travel north!"*

Mark Battista  
Chief Naturalist  
Chesterfield County Parks

*"Mike, I requested a presentation with a good amount of humour in it, and that is exactly what you delivered. Your presentation was a breath of fresh air."*

Jean Herriot  
Manager  
Public Works

*"Mike was outstanding! One client told us he taped Mike's business card on his bathroom mirror so he could see it every morning and laugh just remembering the evening."*

Stephen Gooder  
President  
Gooder Financial Management

*"I guarantee that you will not be disappointed,"*

Greg Stroud, Parks Canada

*"Loved the day—it was fantastic!"*

Carol Easton  
Director of Surgical Services,  
Calgary Health Authority

*"Your workshop was full of energy, creatively presented and jam packed with worthwhile advice. You have a unique ability to inspire confidence and foster significant improvements in people. Your fantastic sense of humour also had us laughing throughout, and made the day most enjoyable."*

Mary Dalman  
Communication Specialist  
Parks Canada

*"The hands on session you led was one of the highlights from the session. I personally appreciated your ability to put the group at ease and to see their need to be reenergized."*

Monique Doolittle-Romas  
Director of Organizational Learning  
United Way of Canada

*"To speak to speaking professionals is a tough 'gig', but you grabbed them and held them with your unique wisdom and wit. I will recommend your great work to clients and Speaker Bureaus."*

Donald Cooper  
The Donald Cooper Corporation,  
Certified Speaking Professional

*"You left the audience in stitches, and a lot of food for thought on how they should approach their everyday work life."*

Kathy Reimer  
Program Director  
Canadian Business Travel Association

*"Your unique brand of humour, backed up with your innate knowledge of the Rockies made for a truly memorable presentation."*

Ian McCormack  
Executive Director  
Alberta Assessors Association

*"High energy, high value!"*

Steve Enns  
Harvard Business Development

*"This was the best luncheon talk I've seen in 42 years of Rotary Meetings!"*

Ken Madden  
Banff Rotary Club

*"We've heard back nothing but the highest praise for your presentation!"*

Karen Jans  
Manager  
Marketing and Clients Services  
Canadian Heritage Department



# You Can't Be Serious!

## PUTTING HUMOR TO WORK

### ***Humor in the workplace:***

***improves productivity***

***reduces stress***

***improves customer service***

***increases creativity***

***improves morale***

***reduces employee absenteeism and turnover rates***

***strengthens teamwork***

***enhances communication***

***improves the coffee in your office!***

*(okay, it may not improve the coffee, what do you want - a miracle?)*

**You Can't Be Serious!** keynotes and workshops are fast-paced, humor-filled and full of practical tips on how audiences can boost their humor quotient in the workplace and why they should take humor seriously.

Programs include door prizes and the handout *You Can't Be Serious! 201 Ways to Put Humor to Work*.

Presentations can also be customized to suit your audience's particular workplace or conference theme.

### **AUDIENCES WILL DISCOVER...**

How We Choose Our Attitude

How Laughter Can Boost Morale, Motivation & Productivity

Why Laughter is the Best Medicine

The "Three R's" of Humor & Stress Management

Six Guiding Lights to Put Humor to Work With

### **PROGRAM OPTIONS**

Choose the most general **You Can't Be Serious!** keynote or workshop, OR select from one of the following 7 specialized streams:

#### **Laugh for the Health of It**

Humor as a Stress Buster

#### **Managing to Have Fun**

Humor Skills for Supervisors and Managers

**Humor Me** Energize Your Presentations With Humor

#### **Customer Service With a Laugh**

#### **Master Change With Humor**

**We Have to Stop Meeting Like This!** Energize Your Meetings With Humor

**From Ha Ha to AHA!** The Creativity and Humor Dynamic Duo

### **MICHAEL KERR**

Author of *You Can't Be Serious! Putting Humor to Work*, Michael combines his background as a communications manager with his experience as a theatre improviser, humorist and humor writer to provide a unique perspective on humor in our work lives. He is a faculty member of The Banff Centre for Management, a Laughter Leader for the World Laughter Tour and a member of the American Association of Therapeutic

Humor. His programs are based on more than 10 years of research into the fields of applied humor and organizational behaviour.

*"We were drowning in tears of laughter. His presentation was an excellent way to end our conference."*

Antje Nameth, Bankruptcy Officer, Industry Canada

*"Michael's presentation was upbeat, action packed and very funny."*

Roy Spence, Saskatchewan Credit Union Managers Association

*"Mike was outstanding! One client taped Michael's business card to the mirror so he could see it every morning and laugh just remembering the evening!"* Stephen Gooder, President, Gooder Financial Services



# Inspiring Workplaces

## CREATING A HEALTHY, HAPPY AND HUMANE WORK ENVIRONMENT

How would you like to work at a place where everyone else wants to work? In this energizing and humor-filled program, management consultant and author Michael Kerr reminds audiences of five simple, yet fundamental, cornerstones that help to foster an inspiring and productive work environment.

As Michael tells his audiences, "This isn't rocket science, it's just the opposite—it's about how to connect with people at a human level in an increasingly complex, technological world" (only Michael actually says it in a fun and engaging way in his programs).

Audience members will also receive the resource handout *101 Tips on Creating an Inspiring Workplace*.

### YOUR PROGRAM GUIDE

Michael Kerr is an international speaker, management consultant and author of 3 books including, ***You Can't Be Serious! Putting Humor to Work***.

Michael combines his background as a communications manager with his experience as a humorist, theatre improviser and Laughter Leader for the World Laughter Tour to offer a truly unique perspective on the role humor and creativity play in creating healthy workplaces.

*"Michael's presentation was upbeat, action packed and very funny."*

Roy Spence,  
Saskatchewan Credit  
Union Managers  
Association

*"The attendees were laughing and learning the entire presentation!"*

David Blain  
Indian Oil and Gas

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

#### Attitudes at Work

Is work really a 4-letter word?

Why we should care about creating healthy workplaces now more than ever

Choosing your own adventure (and your own attitude)

#### Communications 101

Reconnecting (and slowing down) in the "wired age"

There is no such thing as small talk!

Connecting the brain to the heart

#### Sparking Creativity – What a Great Idea!

Sparking the collective brainpower in your workplace

Eliminating "WE-CAN'T-DO-THAT!" speak

Storming the brains for more (and better!) ideas

#### Thanks a Lot!

Motivating the troops

Fun ways to celebrate success

Appreciating appreciation

#### You Can't Be Serious! Are We Having Fun Yet?

Why humor in the workplace is no joke

No kidding? How humor connects, sparks and inspires!

Putting humor to work everyday



# Team Tune-Up

Have you peeked under your team's hood lately? Checked the fuel levels? Rotated the tires? If your team has logged more than 6,000 km or cruised along for more than one year without a tune-up then this day-long workshop offers the perfect opportunity to energize, motivate and inspire your team.

In this highly participatory workshop, Michael Kerr will help your team reconnect and reenergize by tapping into their humor, team spirit and creativity. The day offers the ideal blend of practical content with high octane fun to create a truly memorable and lasting impression on participants.

## Team Tune-Up

The Long and Winding Road

What's Under the Hood?

Sparking the Sparkplugs

Firing Up the Engines

Fueling Up for the Long Haul

Are You a Backseat Driver?

Where Are We Going?

## What Audiences Will Learn (or Rediscover!) . . .

Is "Work" Really a Four-Letter Word?

Why You Should Care About Work More Than Ever Before!

Creating an Enthusiastic Workplace and a Dynamic Team

Tapping Into Your Team's Creativity –

How to Create a Culture of Inspiration, Innovation and Ideas

Putting Humor to Work –How Your Sense of Humor Can Help You Manage Stress, Boost Morale and Prepare Your Team for Change

Who Wants to Be Motivated?

Rewarding & Celebrating Your Workplace Successes

Speaking About Communications. . .

Keeping the Spirit Alive!

*\* Customized Team Tune-Ups are also available – select the topics and issues you feel need the most attention in your team.*

## And Here's The Great Value You'll Receive . . .

The workshop includes resource handouts and fun giveaways for each participant, door prizes and the option of either bi-weekly e-mail follow-up reminders (for six months) or 12 monthly Team Tune-Up workplace articles. As well, volume discounts of the book, ***You Can't Be Serious! Putting Humor to Work***, are available.

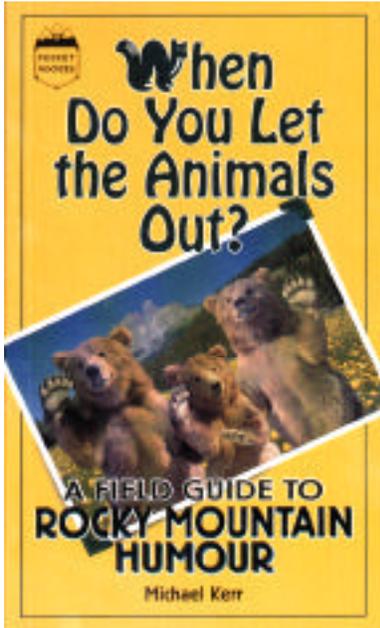
## Your Team Tune-Up Coach

Michael Kerr is an international speaker and author of three books, including ***You Can't Be Serious! Putting Humor to Work***. A former communications manager, Michael combines his "serious" workplace experience with his "not-so-serious" experience as a theatre improviser, Laughter Leader for the World Laughter Tour and humorist, to offer a unique perspective on workplace issues. He is a member of the Canadian Association of Professional Speakers, the International Group for Humor Studies and a faculty member of The Banff Centre for Management.



# When Do You Let the Animals Out?

A HILARIOUS WELCOME TO THE CANADIAN ROCKIES



**"A laugh a minute read."**

Fastforward Magazine, on  
*When Do You Let the Animals Out?*

## YOUR PRESENTER

Michael Kerr, "The Canadian Rockies Peak Speaker," is the former communications manager for Banff National Park and author of the best selling *When Do You Let the Animals Out? A Field Guide to Rocky Mountain Humour* and *The Canadian Rockies Guide to Wildlife Watching*. His wildlife and tourist related anecdotes are featured regularly on CBC radio. Michael has led 400 hikes into the mountains and presented over 1,000 talks on the natural history of the Canadian Rockies.

This lively, humor-filled program welcomes audiences to the Rockies in a truly unforgettable manner. Michael Kerr, author of *When Do You Let the Animals Out? A Field Guide to Rocky Mountain Humour*, offers a truly unique perspective on our beloved Rockies and on what really happens when visitors encounter the wilds of Canada for the first time!

Using hilarious stories, top ten lists, door prizes, wacky props and even wackier costumes, this program is the perfect way to add some fun and local perspective to a Rockies conference. Ideal as a conference opener or closer, luncheon program, breakfast talk, after-dinner presentation or spousal program.

*"Mike's talk When Do You Let the Animals Out? was a great way to start the day – no one should have so much energy so early in the morning."*  
Jennifer Campbell, BDO Dunwoody L.L.P.

*"We were in stitches laughing so hard during our Meeting Planners International Meeting. Mike is very entertaining and humorous."*  
Wendy Kirkpatrick, Sales Manager, Rimrock Hotel

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**Setting the Stage** – Why the Rockies are unlike anywhere else on the planet

**When Does an Elk Become a Moose?** – The 25 silliest visitor questions

**Meet the Most Dangerous Rockies Animal** – The park visitor!

**Tales of Tails** – Close encounters of the furry kind

**The Top Ten Things About the Rockies (or Banff) You Probably Didn't Know!**

**Living the Highlife** – Meet the real locals, from mountain climbers to mountain goats

**How Not to Get Eaten By a Grizzly** (and other survival tips to guarantee a great time in the Rockies)

## BONUS FEATURE!

Purchase bulk, signed copies of the book *When Do You Let the Animals Out?* for a discounted price. The book makes an ideal (and affordable!) conference or corporate retreat gift, memento or souvenir.