



## WORKSHOP

### Theory of the logical approach for forensic handwriting casework

Monday April 30th; 8h30PM to 5h00PM

Presenter: Brent Ostrum

Objectives: At the end of the workshop participants will have a working knowledge of the logical approach to evidence evaluation. They will understand how the approach works and the requirements for its application, and also be able to explain pros, cons and limitations.

Synopsis: This workshop presents the **logical approach to evidence evaluation** and discusses this approach contrasting it to the 'traditional' approach used in most labs today. Distinctions between the logical approach, the likelihood-ratio approach and a Bayesian approach will be explored. Pros, cons and requirements for the proper use of each approach, including the 'traditional' approach, will be discussed. The present scientific and legal status of the logical approach, both worldwide and in Canada, will be addressed with discussion of various initiatives in other countries that can be expected to have an impact on the Canadian scene. There is a strong lecture component to the workshop however it is also interactive in that participants will discuss various issues in smaller working groups, as appropriate. Participants will be tested to determine whether or not the basic information has been learned. This session is aimed primarily at forensic practitioners (in any discipline) but will be of value to anyone interested in the topic (*e.g.*, lawyers, judges). Examples are drawn primarily from forensic document examination, but not exclusively, and the general concepts apply equally to all domains and disciplines.

Keywords: evaluation, conclusions, logical approach, forensic expertise

**Notes:** No prior training or knowledge of the topic is required but there will be some required, preparatory readings (a list of recommended readings will be provided prior to the workshop).

Lunch will be provided