



The Canadian Disability Hall of Fame

2017 Inductees

Todd Nicholson (Athlete)

Todd's achievements in sport have been outstanding, both on and off the ice. A paraplegic due to a car accident in his teens, he forged a brilliant career with Canada's National Sledge Hockey Team, highlighted by five Paralympic Games appearances and three Paralympic medals, including gold in Torino 2006, silver in Nagano in 1998 and bronze in Lillehammer in 1994. He also won eight medals at world championships and was captain of his team on several occasions. After retiring from competition in 2010, Todd turned his energies to advocating for Paralympic athletes and championing the inclusion of all people in the recreational and cultural lives of their communities.

Jim Sanders (Builder)

A native of Thunder Bay, Ontario, Jim has made it his life's work to help ensure the independence, respect and dignity of persons with disabilities. He was born in 1947 with severe glaucoma, losing his sight entirely at age 36. Upon completing university, he joined the CNIB and stayed with the organization more than 40 years, the last 7 as president and CEO. Since retiring in 2009, he has continued to share his skills and talents wherever he can be of assistance. In 2004, he received the Order of Canada in recognition of his tireless efforts to eliminate the barriers faced by people living with vision loss.

Shirley Shelby (Achiever)

A passionate advocate for people with disabilities, Shirley has had a powerful impact on Ontario sports in two different areas. After learning about the challenges disabled individuals often faced when traveling, she started a pioneering travel agency in the late 1970s that specialized in special-needs travel. In this capacity, she was a leader in improving airline policies for people with disabilities and managed travel for several organizations, including the Canadian Wheelchair Sports Association and Canadian Blind Sports Association. Shirley has also been a leader in sports administration. She helped found Sport for Disabled Ontario, joined the Ontario Blind Sports Association as President, and she continues to stay involved to this day.

Robert Snoek (Achiever)

Three-time Paralympian Rob Snoek represented Canada in track and field for over 12 years. A below-knee amputee from age one due to a congenital bone disease, he grew up playing sports at a high competitive level in Orono, Ontario. Upon discovering the Paralympics in his late teens, Rob redoubled his training and went on to compete in the Games in Barcelona in 1992, Atlanta in 1996 and Sydney in 2000, as well as at four world championships. After retiring from competition, Rob became a sports broadcaster, covering elite events including the Paralympics, for the CBC. He frequently shares his spare time speaking about the importance of physical activity and advocating for people with disabilities.

