



The Canadian Disability Hall of Fame

2018 Inductees

James G. Kyte (Athlete)

Born in 1964, Jim was the first legally deaf player to suit up in the National Hockey League. Wearing a hearing aid and a specially designed helmet, he played 598 NHL games with the Winnipeg Jets, the Ottawa Senators and the San Jose Sharks, before a car auto accident forced him into retirement at age 33. Subsequently, he shifted his focus to academics and currently serves as the Dean of the school of hospitality and tourism at Algonquin College in Ottawa. A sought-after motivational speaker, he promotes a message of inclusion and accessibility. Jim started a hockey school for the hearing impaired and is a co-founder of the Canadian Hearing Impaired Hockey Association.

Alvin Law (Achiever)

A thalidomide survivor, Alvin was born in 1960 without arms and soon abandoned by his birth parents, but with the support of his loving foster parents, he learned to use his feet for hands and has never looked back. Attending a regular school, he discovered his musical ability and joined the school band, playing trombone, drums and piano. Alvin went on to work in broadcasting, advertising and the civil service, served as a UN spokesperson — and even ran for public office — before, in 1988, focusing his energies on motivational speaking. For years, Alvin was a mainstay on the annual telethon Telemiracle, and he has helped raise over \$175,000,000 for charities, mostly one that support disabled kids.

Brian Mulroney (Builder)

The Right Honourable Brian Mulroney is known to be a man of heart, always ready to reach out to those in need. As Canada's Prime Minister from 1984 to 1993, he used the power of the office on multiple occasions to help improve the lives of people with disabilities. Perhaps his most important contribution was appointing the first Minister Responsible for Disabled Persons, which ensured there was an advocate for the disabled at every decision-making meeting. His government also created the Disabled Persons' Participation Program, which substantially increased support for consumer organizations involved with disabled people, and it added a provision to broaden the availability of disability-related deductions for income tax purposes.

