



IN 2005, the Canadian Helen Keller Centre (CHKC) began recognizing pioneers and leaders in the fields of Visual Impairment, Deafness and DeafBlindness with The Canadian Helen Keller Centre Award. The annual awards ceremony is a key fundraising event for the CHKC's many programs that help people who have become deafblind. Here are the Award recipients

## Previous CHKC Award Winners

**2019 Apple Canada** was recognized for being a true pioneer in accessibility. Apple Canada has gone to great lengths to make its iPhone, iPads and other products accessible and barrier free so that everyone can use them to communicate, access information and connect with the world around them.

**2018 Royal Ontario Museum** was recognized for its impressive reputation to equally welcome all audiences, including people with disabilities and specifically the deafblind community regardless of their accessibility needs. "Deafblindness: Connecting Through Touch" offers attendees an opportunity to redefine what it means to use their senses in a hearing and sighted world.

**2017 Honourable Dr. Helena Jaczek** was recognized for her work assisting Ontarians who are deafblind by creating efficiencies to allow for more services, implementing a policy framework, and developing operational guidelines that ensure consistency and equality across the intervenor services program. A true advocate and supporter of individuals who are deafblind and all individuals with disabilities in the province of Ontario.

**2016 York University** was recognized for its leadership in initiating programmes in Critical Disability Studies for research and professional training leading to post graduate degrees.

**2015 Ryerson University** was recognized for their programs in disability studies and becoming a proud leader in disability research, education, arts and culture.

**2014 George Brown College** was recognized for its long standing commitment to train professional intervenors to communicate with people who are deafblind and provide access to the world in which we live.

**2013 Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB)** was recognized as the country's leading provider of rehabilitation services and support for people living with vision loss. Between its research, public education, advocacy and rehabilitation programs, CNIB's goal is not only to improve the lives of Canadians who are living with vision loss today – but those of future generations.

**2012 The Honourable David C. Onley**, Lt. Governor of Ontario was recognized for his enormous contribution to build a barrier free community for people with disabilities. Since being the Queen's representative in the Province of Ontario he has devoted his vision on adopting accessibility as the overall theme of his term in office.

**2011 IBM Canada.** Throughout their 100 year history, diversity has been a part of their culture having hired the 1<sup>st</sup> disabled person 98 years ago. IBM's long commitment to diversity and accessibility has made them a well respected leader for the disabled community.

**2010 The Honourable Vim Kochhar** received the award for founding the Canadian Helen Keller Centre and Rotary Cheshire Homes. Vim has spent 30 years removing barriers for persons with physical disabilities and recognizing them for their abilities.

**2009 ICICI Bank Canada** decided early on to assist organizations that work in support of physically disabled individuals. This important commitment reflects the shared values of the bank, its employees and Canadians to ensure inclusive communities where we live and work.

**2008 Microsoft Canada** has made an enormous contribution to the disabled community in Canada. They were responsible for assisting in many innovative initiatives including Children's Discovery Portal at CNIB.

**2007 Reverend Robert L. Rumball**, Founder, The Bob Rumball Centre for the Deaf. The Reverend Robert L. Rumball received the award for his more than 40 years of working with people who are deaf.

**2006 Jim Sanders**, President & CEO, CNIB. Jim Sanders received the award for his achievements in the field of visual impairment. Jim spent 35 years with the CNIB, working to increase the quality of life for people with visual impairments.

**2005 Joan Mactavish** received the inaugural award to recognize 38 years as a pioneer and activist for the development and delivery of specialized services for people who have become deafblind