

# Welcome to the Hall of Fame

*The Canadian Disability Hall of Fame honours its newest inductees for being societal role models and leaders of the disability rights movement.*

Photography by Steve Blackburn

**IN 1993, MORE THAN A QUARTER** century ago, the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame held its inaugural induction ceremony.

Six remarkable inductees were honoured, both for their contributions to enriching the quality of life for people with physical disabilities and for the roles they played in helping advance the disability rights movement in Canada.

It's worth remembering who they were:

**Rick Hansen** was selected in recognition of his 40,000-km Man in Motion World Tour, which he undertook to raise awareness of the abilities of people with disabilities and focus attention on the barriers they face.

**Margaret McLeod** was recognized for being a driving force behind development of the McLeod House, the first residential housing in Canada that was designed specifically for people with disabilities.



*L to R* - Ken Fredeen, Hon. David Crombie, Rt. Hon. Brian Mulroney, Hon. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Dorothy Price, Hon. Vim Kochhar, Alvin Law, Jim Kyte



**Top Left:**

Jim Kyte receiving his Award from Hon. Vim Kochhar and Hon. Elizabeth Dowdeswell

**Top Right:**

Alvin Law receiving his Award from Hon. David Crombie, Hon. Vim Kochhar and Hon. Elizabeth Dowdeswell

**Right:**

Rt. Hon. Brian Mulroney being congratulated for being inducted into the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame



**OPPOSITE PAGE**

**Top Left:**

Rt. Hon. Brian Mulroney receiving his award from Hon. Elizabeth Dowdeswell

**Top Right:**

L. Colonel Ken Perry, Commanding Officer (second from left) and Honourary Colonel Hari Panday (sixth from left) with members from the 32nd Service Battalion, 4th Canadian Division

**John Gibbons Counsell**, who was paralyzed in the 1942 Dieppe Raid, founded the Canadian Paraplegic Association to give paraplegic and quadriplegic Canadians a united voice and a network of support.

**Lt. Col. Edwin A. Baker**, who lost his sight to a sniper's bullet in the First World War, co-founded the CNIB in 1918. He launched prevention of blindness programs that have saved the sight of thousands of people.

**Robert Wilson Jackson M.D.**, an orthopaedic surgeon, helped found the Canadian Wheelchair Sports Association and led the first Canadian team to compete in the Paralympics at Tel Aviv 1968.

**Andre Viger**, an acclaimed wheelchair racer, participated in five Paralympic Games, winning three gold, three silver and four bronze medals, and later started a wheelchair manufacturing company.

The scope and depth of the contributions made by these individuals to the betterment of life for people with disabilities is astonishing — and every year since, this being the 26th year, the Hall of Fame has added more inductees, equally remarkable, to its permanent exhibit at Toronto's Metro Hall.

With today's ceremony, the number of inductees rises to 114, and the Honourable Vim Kochhar, founder of the Disability Hall of Fame, said "we are as committed as ever to recognizing





and celebrating the heroes of the disability rights movement, and we'll keep doing so for as long as necessary, as long as the struggle goes on.”

The fact that there are “so many inspirational people dedicated to the cause of inclusion and equality is a powerful source of hope for the future,” added Kochhar.

### The Accessible Canada Act

He points to the newly minted Accessible Canada Act as an example of society moving in the right direction.

“We owe a great debt to each of the past inductees of the Disability Hall of Fame, as well as many others who have not yet been recog-

nized or prefer to work behind the scenes, for the vital contributions they have made, directly and indirectly, to the passage of this historic legislation,” said Kochhar.

“Yes, there is much more to do, but the new act establishes a framework for advancement — and the arc of progress concerning disability rights is bending incontestably towards an era that will be more inclusive and just,” Kochhar said.

The Canadian Disability Hall of Fame is a public-awareness-building initiative of the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons (CFPDP). Founded 36 years ago, CFPDP creates and supports a wide range of initiatives designed

**Bottom Left:**  
Moe Levy, Ajay Gupta,  
John Stefaniuk, Paul Godfrey,  
Hon. Con Di Nino, Robert Foster

**Bottom Right:**  
Ken Fredeen receiving his gift  
for being our guest speaker  
from Joanne Smith

**Top Left:**  
Norton Kothari congratulating  
Rt. Hon. Brian Mulroney



**Top Right:**  
H Col. Hari Panday with  
Hon. David C. Onley,  
Ruth Ann Onley and  
Hon. David Crombie



**Bottom:**  
Alvin Law – 2018 Inductee

to improve the lives of people with physical disabilities. In its efforts, the organization consistently seeks to put the emphasis on a person's abilities — rather than disabilities — and to recognize and celebrate their achievements and contributions to society.

On November 6, 2019, the CFPDP will host its 26th annual Canadian Disability Hall of Fame induction celebrations at Toronto's Fairmont Royal York Hotel.

This year's guest speaker is Dr. Charles H. Tator, professor of neurosurgery at University of Toronto. An officer of the Order of Canada, Dr. Tator is a world-renowned expert on sports concussions and spinal cord injury, prevention and treatment research. His research laboratory is dedicated to the study of acute spinal injury models.

The 2019 Hall of Fame inductees include two incredible Paralympians, Bradley Bowden (para hockey and wheelchair basketball) and Richard Peter (wheelchair basketball), as well as congenital four-way amputee Tracy Schmitt, known as "Un-



stoppable Tracy," and Commonwealth Games Canada CEO Brian MacPherson, formerly CEO of the Canadian Paralympic Committee.

This year as every year, the host of the induction celebrations is the Honourable David Crombie, who is chairman of the Disability Hall of Fame and heads the Hall of Fame's Selection Board. Crombie is a former Mayor of Toronto, Member of Parliament and Federal Cabinet Minister.

"It's a great pleasure to be able to honour the achievements of the 2019 inductees" said Crombie.

"I've been doing this for 26 years, and each year our Selection Board does an incredible job of identifying individuals who are genuine heroes of our society. They stand out for their accomplishments, and they inspire us all to be better citizens, neighbours and friends," he said.

"Thanks to the contributions of this year's extraordinary inductees — and all those who preceded them into the Hall of Fame — Canada is a better place with a brighter future for all of us, today and in the future," Crombie said.