

WhyNot.

FEBRUARY 2023

MAGAZINE

THE 39TH
ANNUAL

Great Valentine Gala

Celebrating Our
BEIJING 2022
Paralympians



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Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons, a charitable organization founded in 1985, assists people with physical disabilities to live fuller lives. Its mission is to create awareness in the public, business communities and government of the abilities of persons with disabilities and their needs in the areas of housing, employment, education, accessibility, sports and recreation and research. In the past 39 years, the Foundation has raised substantial funds, which it has distributed to a wide variety of organizations and events. These include the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame, the Eternal Flame of Hope, the Rotary Cheshire Home, the Canadian Helen Keller Awards Luncheon, the annual Great Valentine Gala, the King Clancy Awards, the Corporate Awards, a Seat at the Table, the WhyNot Marathon, the first Canadian Marathon for the Paralympics, Jeff Adams' CN Tower climb, Rolling Rampage Wheelchair 10K Road Race and Rolling Rampage on the Hill.

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WhyNot.



As patron of the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons (CFPDP), I am pleased to send my warmest greetings to everyone gathered for the 2023 Great Valentine Gala.

Since its foundation

in 1987, the CFPDP has been working diligently to support persons living with physical disabilities and to celebrate their contributions. By changing the way we think about physical disability and raising awareness of the challenges faced by members of the disabled community, the CFPDP improves our society as a whole.

Your presence at this event will help the foundation continue building a stronger, more inclusive and accessible Canada. This evening, you will honour outstanding Canadians who succeeded in their ambitions, demonstrating that people of all abilities can turn adversity into strength.

Congratulations to the award winners. I wish everyone a wonderful evening.

Her Excellency, The Right Honourable Mary May Simon

The Governor General of Canada



As Honourary Patron of the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons, it is with pleasure that I extend greetings to all gathered for the 39th Annual Great Valentine Gala.

Over nearly four decades, this event has provided an opportunity to celebrate the extraordinary progress made toward achieving a more just, sustainable, and resilient future—a world that works for everyone.

I am happy to congratulate tonight's honourees. You have made important progress in promoting accessibility and inclusion across this country. May you persist in your efforts to create a more inclusive Ontario. We all have much to learn from you.

As His Majesty The King's representative in Ontario, I send my best wishes for an enjoyable gala.

The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell
The Lieutenant Governor of Ontario



Scotiabank is a proud, long-time supporter of the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons (CFPDP). I am delighted to return as an Honourary Co-Chair for the Foundation's

39th Annual Great Valentine Gala.

Investing in the communities where we operate has been a focus for Scotiabank throughout our 190-year history. We support events, programs and causes that make a meaningful and measurable difference.

CFPDP's mission aligns with Scotiabank's diversity, equity and inclusion efforts, and our purpose to deliver for every future in the communities where we live and work. Over the years, CFPDP has opened many doors by changing attitudes and raising awareness nationwide. The Foundation continues to emphasize the importance of embracing differences and fostering inclusive values. This plays a vital role in strengthening our country from coast to coast and is transforming how we think about disabilities.

Your backing of CFPDP and its fundraising initiatives allows this important work to continue. Thank you for being a devoted partner, for believing in change and for caring about the collective good of our communities.

Thanks also to each and every person who has contributed to the success of the 2023 Great Valentine Gala, from the organizers and attendees to loyal volunteers, patrons and supporters.

Your generosity means so much to CFPDP, and I am honoured to be of service.

Raj Viswanathan
Group Head & CFO, Scotiabank
Honourary Co-Chair, The Great Valentine Gala

MESSAGES



LifeWorks TELUS Health is delighted to continue its support of CFPDP's Great Valentine Gala. It is my absolute pleasure to serve in 2023 as an Honourary Co-Chair.

As the global leader in digital and in-person

total wellbeing solutions, LifeWorks helps to look after the health and wellbeing of employees around the world. We do this with a commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging (DEIB). By improving lives, we improve business.

Improving lives and a focus on DEIB are at the core of CFPDP's mission, which is to make our nation the greatest place in the world for people with disabilities. Being so aligned, we are proud to partner with the Foundation as we work together to make workplaces and our world a better place.

At LifeWorks, we value long-term relationships. Now as a part of TELUS Health, our more than 10,000 employees worldwide are continuing our proud legacy of over 55 years, working passionately to lift others up and make a difference.

CFPDP and its long-time, loyal supporters are equally passionate and dedicated. Thank you for sharing your time, resources and heart for almost four decades.

Lastly, warm congratulations to all of this year's award winners and to the broader CFPDP community. We applaud you for helping to raise awareness, generate opportunities and create positive change for people with disabilities from coast to coast.

Paula Allen,
Global Leader and SVP, LifeWorks
Honourary Co-Chair, The Great Valentine Gala



The Great Valentine Gala is the cornerstone upon which the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons (CFPDP) was built 39 years ago. In that time, we have raised over \$35

million to help raise awareness, fund important initiatives in Canada's disability communities, and help make this the best country in the world for people with disabilities.

We are delighted to share this celebratory event with enthusiastic attendees, honoured guests, esteemed award recipients, valued sponsors and loyal supporters.

In 2023, we are once again recognizing tremendous individuals and organizations through our annual awards.

The David C. Onley Award recipient is Andrew Parsons, President of the International Paralympic Committee. Parsons is being honoured for his passion, commitment and leadership in raising awareness of international Paralympic sport.

Canada's Paralympic medallists from Beijing are the recipients of the 2023 King Clancy Award, presented annually to recognize exceptional achievements of Canadians who live with a disability. Their success on the world stage makes us all very proud.

Our Corporate Award is being presented to two organizations that are changing the status quo when it comes to representation of people with disabilities, the National Hockey League and the Council of Canadian Innovators.

Please join me in congratulating our 2023 award recipients.

On behalf of CFPDP, thank you for your ongoing support.

The Honourable Vim Kochhar
Chair, Canadian Foundation
for Physically Disabled Persons



Welcome to our 39th Annual Great Valentine Gala.

The Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons (CFPDP) is thankful for your continued, faithful commitment to

our largest annual fundraising event. We are humbled by your generosity and expression of support for our work.

Our Foundation team is dedicated to creating positive change. Raising awareness is at the forefront of what we do so that people focus not on disability but on the abilities of all Canadians.

CFPDP's efforts also provide financial support for important programs and services. This includes funding for Paralympic athletes through the CFPDP Podium Fund in partnership with Scotiabank and increasing the representation of persons with disabilities on public corporate boards through our Seat at the Table initiative. By supporting the Canadian Helen Keller Centre, we are also helping to create independence for people who live with the dual disability of deafblindness.

Much of our funding is raised through this annual Gala, and it touches our hearts to know that you remain steadfast in support of our mission. We vow to passionately continue buoyed by your encouragement and kindness.

On behalf of the Board, thank you to our dedicated CFPDP volunteers and patrons, the Foundation's staff and all of our supporters. Together, we are making a significant difference.

Tony Wight,
Chair, The Great Valentine Gala



The Great Valentine Gala has been a beloved tradition of the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons (CFPDP) for 39 years. It puts people with disabilities and their accomplishments in the spotlight while recognizing those who contribute to improving their lives.

CFPDP's annual Gala is also a platform to build awareness, advocate for positive change and celebrate those who are making a difference. At the same time, it is both CFPDP's largest annual fundraising event and a night to remember, filled with awards presentations, live entertainment, delicious food and great conversations.

Over almost four decades, the Great Valentine Gala has raised more than \$35 million to support

support the Canadian Helen Keller Centre (CHKC) and the deafblind community, as well as numerous additional disability-related programs and services. These include awareness events and initiatives, increasing representation of qualified professionals with disabilities on corporate boards, funding Paralympic athletes and Para sports, and more. CFPDP is also helping to raise funds for CHKC's most ambitious project to date – a brand new 56-unit affordable and



Lisa Kalhans
President & CEO, American Express Canada
2022 Corporate Award Winner



Duncan Sinclair
Chair, Deloitte Canada and Chile
Chair, Selection Board, A Seat at the Table



Stephen Liptrap
2022 Honorary Gala Co-Chair
Retired President and CEO, LifeWorks

programs and services that enrich the lives of people with physical disabilities.

"The funds raised have made an incredible difference over many years, helping thousands of people," says the Honourable Vim Kochhar, Founding Chair of CFPDP. "Donations and sponsorships from our first Gala in February 1984 supported the construction of a fully accessible, barrier-free apartment building where active adults and seniors who are deafblind live independently. It was the first housing complex of its kind in North America."

To this day, CFPDP's efforts continue to

fully accessible apartment building for deafblind consumers and people living with other disabilities.

Businesses also play a vital role in diversity, inclusion and expanding access for disabled people. To that end, the Great Valentine Gala honours organizations that are making exemplary contributions in support of people with physical disabilities. It also recognizes individuals making a vital difference as role models and changemakers. The annual CFPDP awards are presented in three categories to individuals and organizations that have gone the extra mile.

The 2022 Corporate Awards celebrated the achievements of two companies, American Express Canada and OpenText.

AMERICAN EXPRESS CANADA was recognized for its diverse, inclusive culture as well as its leadership in recognizing the rich, untapped talents of Board members with disabilities.

More than 6.2 million Canadians, representing almost 22% of our population, live with some form of disability. American Express Canada believes it is vital that this group be represented at all leadership levels within their business. And that starts from the very top.

Following an extensive search process that identified a diverse group of highly skilled candidates, Gaurav Upadhy, a top executive at Foresters Financial, was appointed to the Amex Bank of Canada Board in July 2021. Upadhy's extensive background in finance, risk and actuarial science is undoubtedly a significant asset, yet so too are his lived experiences as a person with a disability. Born in India, Upadhy contracted polio when he was three years old. He has walked using crutches and leg braces ever since.



Mark Barrenechea
CEO, OpenText
2022 Corporate Award Winner



Martin Deschamps
Singer/Songwriter
2022 Gala Entertainer



Raj Viswanathan
2022 Honourary Gala Co-Chair
Group Head and CFO, Scotiabank

Major-General (Ret.) David Fraser was appointed to the OPENTEXT Board in 2018. For many years, he hid his disability – significant hearing loss that resulted from serving as an infantry officer during the Yugoslavian civil war. Feeling valued and accepted in the diverse, supportive environment at OpenText, he began talking about his disability for the first time. Fraser believed doing so would help end the stigma that others with invisible disabilities may sometimes feel.

OpenText is a wonderful example of all that is possible when you build a culture that recognizes and values people of all abilities.

Canada's medal-winning athletes from the Tokyo Paralympic Games received the 2022 King Clancy Award.

CFPDP established the Award in 1986 to commemorate the contributions of King Clancy as an inspirational humanitarian. In partnership with Scotiabank, CFPDP also provided these outstanding athletes with podium cheques to fill a decades-old void when it comes to rewards and financial support for our country's best-performing amateur athletes.

The 2022 Honourable David C. Onley Award was presented to Tim Rose.

He was born with spastic quadriplegia, a form of cerebral palsy affecting his arms and legs. Doctors told his parents their son would never speak. Today he not only speaks, but he speaks powerfully as a business leader, advocate and changemaker to help people with disabilities.

As Senior Consultant of Accessibility within CIBC's Client Experience Team, Rose works passionately to advance accessibility, inclusion and diversity initiatives. He does this both in

the bank and in the communities it serves.

Among his goals, Rose hopes to make banking more inclusive for everybody and to create a more accessible world with fewer frustrations for people with disabilities.

"CFPDP is always so proud to celebrate incredible individuals with physical disabilities as well as the people and businesses that are going above and beyond," says Hon. Kochhar. "We are also pleased to spread the word about the continued good work of CFPDP and the extended community that supports our efforts."

2023 Great Valentine Gala Committee Members

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Tony Wight

FOUNDATION CHAIR
The Hon. Vim Kochhar

**EVENT
COORDINATION**
Christine Payne

IT MANAGER
Rob Ham

EMCEES
Suhana Meharchand
Rob Snoek

FINANCE
David Ford

AWARDS COMMITTEE
Tony Wight
Hon. Vim Kochhar
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VIP RECEPTION
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Raj Viswanathan
Tony Wight
Faye Blackwood
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Brian McLean
George Przybylowski
Rob Snoek

TOMBOLA
Dorothy Price
Jennifer Robbins
Jan Verboom
Kelly Chumbley
Rob Ham
Ivy James
Thomas Gaffney
Lynne Hardy
Nicole Hardy

Honouring Deloitte's Duncan Sinclair

Deloitte Canada's partnership with the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons (CFPDP) dates back more than a decade to the Great Valentine Gala in 2011. The company's current Chair, Duncan Sinclair, has always been a passionate advocate for people with disabilities.

For Duncan, it all began in the 1970s when he was growing up in Edmonton – a city that suddenly found itself one of the most culturally diverse in all of Canada as thousands of workers from near and far flooded into the area to work in Alberta's oil patch.

"The explosion of diversity of cultures, people, backgrounds and experiences was very much present throughout my entire life as a kid growing up," he recalls. "You really begin to appreciate the importance of differences across multiple dimensions. [And] on a personal note, some of my elementary school classmates had physical disabilities that had to be accommodated ... but we were all just kids in the class ... [That] gave me a perspective that I have carried throughout my life. We are all people, we are all citizens, we are all part of a community, and we all need to be given our best opportunity to be included."

He says, "Within my own personal value system, I very much believe in the importance of allowing everyone to be their authentic selves, and to live, work and be in an environment where they can do that."

Duncan found that environment for himself at Deloitte Canada, the world's largest professional services company. When Duncan joined the firm in 1988, he says Deloitte's values were already well aligned with his own.

"Deloitte is an organization both globally and within Canada that has a purpose of making a tangible, measurable impact that matters," he says. "That has an implication in terms of the work we do with our clients, the way in which we create a supportive working environment for our people and the way that we help the people within the communities in which we live and work ... That is what caused me to remain with Deloitte for [the past] 35 years."

Duncan has made immense contributions with every step up the ladder at Deloitte. And he has done so by constantly applying an inclusion lens to his work.

"Under Duncan's leadership, diversity, equity, accessibility and inclusion efforts have been placed at the forefront of Deloitte's priorities," says Fatima Laher, Senior Partner and Director, Deloitte Board. "He continues to



thoughtfully and deliberately dismantle any remaining roadblocks facing equity-deserving groups. This requires a strategic, innovative and creative thought process, which Duncan possesses in spades. He is the most inclusive leader I have worked with, and I value his inclusive insights and perspectives."

"What I am most proud of," Duncan remarks modestly, "is our ability to put out and to share very transparently and with courage our own journey with respect to diversity, equity, accessibility and inclusion across a number of dimensions. [I take great pride in] how we see that impacting our clients, other organizations and people in the community, and their willingness to do the same."

Duncan emphasizes that success in creating equality and opportunities for underrepresented groups is very much about teamwork. Specifically, it is people coming together, working together, being inspired and supporting each other to do better.

"It really is a testament to the collective group of people within an organization that makes this successful. I think [we must recognize] the notion of continuing to celebrate and acknowledge that culture is built and lived because of individuals and how they engage and interact with one another day to day. It is not [just] an issue of a few people making it happen."

But Deloitte is focused on more than just its own workplace. Duncan and the organization strongly encourage other corporate leaders to follow them along the path to diversity and inclusivity. To that end, Duncan chairs the Selection Board for CFPDP's "A Seat at the Table" initiative.

"When Brian Mulroney inspired the Foundation to aspire to find corporate board positions for people with disabilities, the first person I contacted was Duncan Sinclair. With his support and leadership, we assembled a team of 13 of Canada's top CEOs and executive leaders for our Selection Board," says the Honourable Vim Kochhar, Founding Chair of CFPDP. "Deloitte's team helped us to develop our marketing and advertising campaign. Duncan

spared no means to ensure Deloitte's team put us on a good footing."

Duncan's chairing all the Selection Board meetings has helped the team choose 30 outstanding candidates with disabilities to be promoted for potential corporate board appointments at large Canadian companies.

"Diversity of perspective at the board [level] and the openness of conversations there helps to inform and shape the shared agenda that the board and the executive of an organization have," he says. "This in turn cascades and can have a multiplying effect on the lives of the people within that organization. So, getting into the boardroom and getting yet another critically important perspective into the conversation is immensely valuable. The organizations that have been progressive and prepared to bring that perspective into their boardrooms are really enriched by it."

Duncan's support for CFPDP extends across the Foundation's initiatives. In 2017, he was invited to be Honorary Co-Chair of CFPDP's Great Valentine Gala. In 2018, Duncan was encouraged to serve an additional year. Later in 2018, when former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney was inducted into the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame, Duncan was invited to be the guest speaker at the induction luncheon.

"Duncan has offered a substantial amount of his time and financial resources to ensure that we continue with our mandate to make Canada the best country in the world for people with disabilities. His passion and support are very helpful in promoting CFPDP and its mission," says Hon. Kochhar. "Under Duncan's leadership, diversity and inclusion with a focus on disability became our slogan to motivate others."

In looking back at all that has been achieved, Duncan believes the greatest progress in accessibility to date at Deloitte has been in education and awareness. But he admits there is still much to be done even in this area.

"Increasing efforts to educate and inform people will always be important," he says. "The more that we can do with other leading organizations in the private sector, with policymakers in the public sector, and within post-secondary institutions and the broader educational system to really continue to increase people's knowledge and understanding of the critical importance of the enrichment that comes from a more diverse and equitable society, I

think that has to be there," he says, adding that Deloitte is also working to inspire its broader stakeholder community to be creative within their own work environments."

"Duncan has inspired a generation of inclusive leaders through his community building and at Deloitte. He demonstrates his moral compass every day," says Bev Pao,



2018 Honorary
Gala Co-Chairs
Donald Guloien (left)
and Duncan Sinclair (right)
with emcee Suhana Meharchand (centre)

Partner and Director, Deloitte Board. "He feels that everyone should have [a] sense of belonging and his imperative is to make a safe environment to make that possible. His courage has made it a safer place for so many of us and helped us to thrive."

"Duncan's leadership and proactive support of diversity and inclusion has been a dominant facet of his career, starting long before he was Chair of Deloitte," says Mike Nethercott, Deloitte Managing Partner, Market Positioning and Future of Canada Centre. "He led our early public examination of inclusion in our Outcomes over Optics report several years ago, and has consistently been a public voice on the subject of [diversity and inclusion] on aligned topics like courage and the bold bets we have to take as a country."

Indeed, Duncan and Deloitte are leaders helping to steer our country in a new direction. They are inspiring others to take charge, encouraging the welcoming of opportunities for everyone and creating positive change.

"We are so fortunate to count Duncan and Deloitte as friends of CFPDP," says Hon. Kochhar. "Our mission and the lives of Canadians with physical disabilities are significantly enriched by their support."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
PRESENTING THE 2023
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
King Clancy Award

The **Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons' King Clancy Award** is presented annually in recognition of outstanding personal achievement and important contributions in support of Canadians who live with disability. This year's award goes to a group of outstanding recipients, the 37 medal-winning athletes from the *Beijing Paralympic Games*.

THE 2022 PARALYMPIC GAMES IN BEIJING were the second to be held during the global pandemic. As reported by the Canadian Press, "athletes faced some of the biggest hurdles to get [to] the Games owing to tight travel restrictions that limited opportunities to compete and strict lockdowns that closed training facilities." Indeed, with so many unknowns, Canada did not set a medal target for Beijing.

Nevertheless, the team had its second-best performance in the history of the Games, winning 25 medals – eight gold, six silver and 11 bronze – just three short of the 28 Canada won at PyeongChang 2018.

The medal-winning Paralympians from Beijing are being presented with the King Clancy Award at the 39th Annual Great Valentine Gala. The award recognizes their incredible athleticism and outstanding personal achievements. Each of these medal winners will also receive financial support from the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons' (CFPDP) "Podium Fund" in partnership with Scotiabank.

"We are very proud of all our Paralympic athletes and their phenomenal performance in Beijing," says the Honourable Vim Kochhar, Founding Chair of CFPDP. "As a team, they faced the challenges of a pandemic and the restrictions that came with it. Some faced personal injuries. Regardless, the entire team performed admirably across all sports. We could not be prouder of their level of excellence."

Here are some of the highlights from the Canadian Paralympic Committee:

- Medals were won in five sports: Para nordic skiing (14), Para alpine skiing (6), Para snowboard (3), Para ice hockey (1), and wheelchair curling (1).
- Para Nordic skiers Mark Arendz and Natalie Wilkie claimed the most medals for Canada, with four each. Individually, Wilkie captured two gold and one silver in cross country, while Arendz earned a gold, silver, and bronze in biathlon. Both were then members of Canada's bronze-medal-winning mixed relay squad.

- In his sixth and final Paralympic Winter Games, the legendary Brian McKeever further cemented his bursting place in the sporting history books, winning three gold for 20 career Paralympic medals. Already Canada's most decorated Winter Paralympian and the world's most successful male Para cross-country skier heading into the Games, he is also now tied with German Para alpine skier Gerd Schoenfelder for the most-ever gold medals won by a male winter Paralympian with 16.

- Nine athletes were multi-medallists in Beijing: Mark Arendz (4), Natalie Wilkie (4), Brian McKeever (3), Collin Cameron (3), Mollie Jepsen (2), Tyler Turner (2), Alana Ramsay (2), Brittany Hudak (2), and guide Russell Kennedy (2).

- 12 athletes won a Paralympic medal at their debut Games: Tyler Turner, Lisa DeJong, Jon Thurston, Collinda Joseph, guide Tristan Rodgers, Rod Crane, Anton Jacobs-Webb, Adam Kingsmill, Zach Lavin, Antoine Lehoux, Garrett Riley, and Branden Sison.

- Canada's Para snowboarders created history in Beijing, winning the country's first-ever medals in the sport since it joined the Paralympic program in 2014. Lisa DeJong won silver for Canada's first podium before Tyler Turner captured the first gold, both in snowboard cross. Turner also added a bronze in banked slalom.

- Canada's wheelchair curling team claimed bronze to extend its podium streak to five consecutive Games. The sport joined the Paralympic Winter Games in 2006, and Canada has since won three gold (2006, 2010, 2014) and two bronze (2018, 2022).

- Canada's Opening Ceremony flag bearers Ina Forrest (wheelchair curling) and Greg Westlake (Para ice hockey) won a bronze and silver in their respective team sports, while Closing Ceremony flag bearer Mollie Jepsen (Para alpine skiing) came home with two medals, a gold and silver.

"Medals were won by Paralympic athletes from across our great country," adds Hon. Kochhar. "On behalf of the Foundation, Scotiabank and our entire community, I send warmest congratulations to our remarkable Paralympians."



Mark Arendz
1 GOLD, 1 SILVER, 2 BRONZE



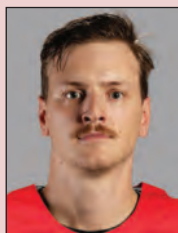
Rob Armstrong
1 SILVER



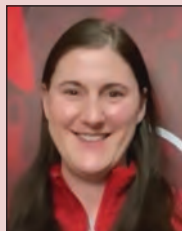
Billy Bridges
1 SILVER



Collin Cameron
3 BRONZE



Rod Crane
1 SILVER



Lisa DeJong
1 SILVER



Ben Delaney
1 SILVER



Adam Dixon
1 SILVER



James Dunn
1 SILVER



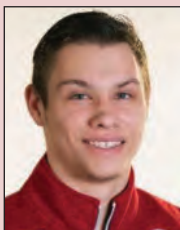
Ina Forrest
1 BRONZE



Alexis Guimond
1 BRONZE



Tyrone Henry
1 SILVER



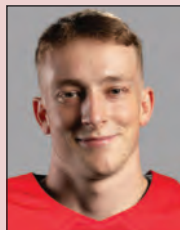
Liam Hickey
1 SILVER



Brittany Hudak
2 BRONZE



Mark Ideson
1 BRONZE



Anton Jacobs-Webb
1 SILVER



Mollie Jepsen
1 GOLD, 1 SILVER



Collinda Joseph
1 BRONZE



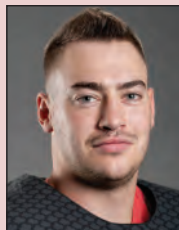
Russell Kennedy
2 GOLD



Adam Kingsmill
1 SILVER



Dominic Larocque
1 SILVER



Zack Lavin
1 SILVER



Antoine Lehoux
1 SILVER



Mac Marcoux
1 SILVER



Tyler McGregor
1 SILVER



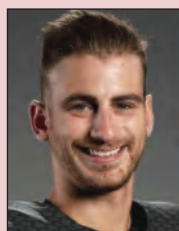
Brian McKeever
3 GOLD



Graham Nishikawa
1 GOLD



Alana Ramsay
2 BRONZE



Garrett Riley
1 SILVER



Tristan Rodgers
1 SILVER



Branden Sison
1 SILVER



Dennis Thiessen
1 BRONZE



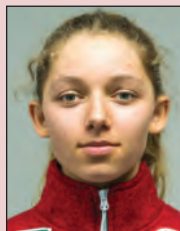
Jon Thurston
1 BRONZE



Tyler Turner
1 GOLD, 1 BRONZE



Greg Westlake
1 SILVER




Natalie Wilkie
2 GOLD, 1 SILVER, 1 BRONZE



Emily Young
1 BRONZE

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CFPDP Continues to Reward Paralympic Medal Winners

There were many memorable moments at the Beijing 2022 Paralympics. While the pandemic still had an impact, the incredible athleticism of our Canadian Paralympic team made us easily forget the continuing global health crisis, even if it was for a moment at a time.

Canada finished third in the standings with 25 medals (eight gold, six silver and 11 bronze), the country's second-best Paralympic Winter Games of all time.

There is however one thing that remains far from golden.

"We want to see Paralympic Gold treated equally to Olympic Gold."

These words from the Honourable Vim Kochhar, Founding Chair of the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons (CFPDP), come from the heart. It is also, he says, the right thing to do.

Paralympians who win medals still do not receive financial rewards from the Canadian Paralympic Committee (CPC) for reaching the podium. This, says the CPC, has been due to financial constraints and the need to build the infrastructure to support athlete development for those on a Paralympic pathway. Their Olympic counterparts receive \$20,000 for a gold medal, \$15,000 for silver and \$10,000 for bronze through the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) Athlete Excellence Fund. The COC first introduced athlete incentives back in 1997.

Some other countries, including the United States and Australia, are already providing equal financial rewards to their Olympic and Paralympic medal winners.

"I'm very disappointed this is not resolved," Josh Dueck, two-time Paralympian, Canada's chef de mission in Beijing and a 2022 Inductee to

the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame, told CBC Sports in Mar. 2022. "It's about equality and being recognized at the same level."

The Foundation that Hon. Kochhar established in the mid-80s has long believed in and advocated for equality in sport. That is why CFPDP created the Podium Fund, which supports and rewards Paralympic athletes who win medals at the Winter and Summer Games. CFPDP also gratefully acknowledges the generous, ongoing support of Scotiabank, a partner in the Podium Fund since 2004.

"It is important that we reward and support all of Canada's

top-performing amateur athletes and recognize their world-class performances. Our Podium Fund helps to fill an obvious gap that has existed for far too long," says Hon. Kochhar. "CFPDP is proud to be once again presenting podium cheques and the King Clancy Award for outstanding personal achievement to our Beijing Paralympic medallists at this year's Great Valentine Gala. We are so proud of their accomplishments."

The Canadian Paralympic Committee has said that it hopes to have a financial rewards program in place for the 2024 Paralympics in Paris.

"We are hopeful that the CPC will come through on this commitment. As always, we applaud their efforts, but now is the time for more equitable funding," says Hon. Kochhar. "Para athletes need medal money to help them train, pay for equipment that may need to be customized, and reduce their need to take on other careers to pay the bills. We hope that CFPDP's support, together with Scotiabank, will help these Paralympians continue to train at the needed levels in the years to come."



CFPDP Board Member Gives Generously

Each year, the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame (CDHF) inducts three new members, one each in the prestigious ranks of Builder, Achiever and Athlete. In total, 123 Inductees have been honoured since the Hall of Fame was founded in 1994 by the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons (CFPDP).



In 2023, a \$20,000 donation from CFPDP Board member George Przybylowski is helping the permanent exhibit to expand. His generous gift is funding the new plaque board for the CDHF exhibit at Toronto's Metro Hall.

"Over many years, George has been extremely giving of his time and expertise as our team works to make Canada the best country in the world for people with disabilities," says Hon. Kochhar, Founding Chair of CFPDP. "We are also so thankful for his financial generosity, which will help provide permanent recognition for many more incredible Canadians who are making a difference."

2023 Great Valentine Gala

Presented each year at the Great Valentine Gala, the CFPDP Corporate Awards recognize the exemplary

National Hockey League

The first recipient of the 2023 Corporate Award is the National Hockey League (NHL). The organization is being honoured for its commitment to diversity and inclusion, including its focus on people with disabilities.

In June, the 2022 NHL Awards Gala was broadcast live across Canada and the United States.

Major, historic trophies celebrating the best of the NHL regular season were presented that night. They were all presented by people with disabilities and whose stories of resilience have inspired the hockey community.



Thomas Hodges, who is partially blind, has a day job in life insurance sales. He is also an emergency backup goalie. While not on the roster, Hodges attends every NHL home game in Dallas and is ready to play if a team loses both goalies to injury or illness. Hodges was called into NHL action on the last

day of the 2021-2022 regular season. At the NHL Awards, he handed out the Vezina Trophy for best goaltender of the year.

Jake Thibault had dreamed of playing college hockey before an on-ice collision with an opposing player sent him headfirst into the boards. He began using a wheelchair after the accident and was told his chances of walking again were slim. Thibault presented the Calder Trophy for rookie of the year.

The Norris Trophy recognizing the season's top defence-man was presented by Chris Snow, Assistant General Manager of the Calgary Flames. Chris was diagnosed with ALS in 2019.

"People with disabilities represent at least 22% of our population in Canada. They are beloved family members, friends and colleagues, and it is essential that they be visibly included in everything we do as a society," says the Honourable Vim Kochhar, Founding Chair of the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons (CFPDP). "We applaud the League for being inclusive of the diverse people who live in our communities."

The NHL released its inaugural Diversity and Inclusion Report in October. It details how the League is working to create a welcoming environment at every point where a player, fan or employee might interact with the game.

This is being done in many ways, including the diversification of youth hockey. At the time of publishing its report, all 32 NHL Clubs had launched or were about to launch community hockey programs focused on BIPOC players, LGBTQ+ players, women and girls, and/or people with disabilities.

Clubs are amplifying content towards underrepresented communities, including people with disabilities, so that everyone feels welcome. This includes social media, where a dedicated full-time resource is charged with strengthening social impact and reinforcing an inclusive online environment across the League's channels.

Scotiabank collaborated with the NHL on the "Hockey for All" campaign that aims to shatter stereotypes, including disability in hockey.

The NHL partners annually with USA Hockey on the Sled Classic, a round-robin tournament that brings together hundreds of disabled players on NHL-associated sled teams.

And there are also many more ways that the NHL is working to intentionally create a greater diversity of experiences.

"When we talk about diversity and inclusion in hockey, we are talking about creating opportunities for everyone to bring their full authentic selves to the sport," said NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman on the report's release. "During the past few years, the NHL has accelerated its efforts to ensure that we continue to grow our sport with a lens on the future, specifically underrepresented groups across gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and disability ... The NHL is committed to evolve in ways that bring diversity and inclusion into the fabric of everything we do."

"The NHL is leveraging its powerful voice and global platform to create positive change," adds the Hon. Kochhar. "Diverse representation is vital and we celebrate the NHL for working towards a new era of equality in every aspect of this universally loved sport."

Corporate Award Winners

contributions of Canadian companies and organizations in support of people with physical disabilities.

Council of Canadian Innovators

The second recipient of the 2022 Corporate Award is the Council of Canadian Innovators (CCI). The organization is being honoured for promoting people with disabilities, among other diverse groups, for Canadian boardrooms.

CCI is a powerful ally in advancing equity and inclusion for disabled Canadians. As a membership-based business council, it is exclusively comprised of CEOs from Canada's fastest-growing and most promising technology companies.

Co-founded in 2015 by Jim Balsillie and John Ruffolo, the Chair and Vice-Chair of CCI respectively, the Council's mandate is to help these businesses optimize their growth. Balsillie is the retired Chairman and co-CEO of BlackBerry. Ruffolo is the Founder and Managing Partner of Maverix Private Equity, and the Founder of OMERS Ventures.

Optimizing business growth is achieved through advocacy with the aim of spurring innovation and helping tech firms gain greater access to talent, capital and customers.

On the talent front, CCI is training current and future board members through its Innovation Governance Program (iGP). This program enhances the abilities of highly qualified professionals by diversifying their expertise in governance and increasing their credentials, making them attractive candidates to serve on the boards of rapidly expanding Canadian technology firms. The iGP areas of study, which include leadership from expert partners, cover data commercialization and governance, intellectual property and governance, cybersecurity, risk, finance, controls, commercialization and business models, talent, ESG (environmental, social and governance) and DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion), financing, and boardroom dynamics.

After completing the iGP program, participants are added to a list of prospective directors through a specialized referral service that helps high-growth companies fill open positions on their boards.

Supporting individuals from populations that are traditionally underrepresented in Canadian boardrooms,



including people with disabilities, is an important goal for CCI.

"CCI exists to help Canada's most innovative companies succeed on a global scale. Individuals from underrepresented groups in Canadian corporate leadership have a powerful role to play and can be of significant influence," says John Ruffolo, Vice-Chair of CCI. "As we provide training to these aspiring leaders, we are also creating new pathways for people of all backgrounds, genders, abilities, ethnicities and cultures who are interested in shaping the growth journeys of Canada's most innovative tech firms. As a person who acquired a disability himself, I am particularly interested in seeing these communities succeed in the boardroom. There is an incredible amount of talent that is going untapped today, and through our iGP program, we are helping to create new leaders of tomorrow."

To ensure that there are no financial barriers to participation, a limited number of subsidies are available for the iGP program through CCI partners. Subsidies are intended for those who could not otherwise attend or whose employer cannot provide professional development funding.

"The Council of Canadian Innovators is driving change by working to elevate qualified people with disabilities into the boardroom," says the Honourable Vim Kochhar, Founding Chair of the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons. "Change starts from the top, where leaders use their influence and lived experiences to steer the direction, tone and culture of an organization. Bringing together people with different backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives results in more thoughtful and well-rounded decision-making. We applaud CCI for its efforts to diversify the boardrooms of Canada's high-growth technology firms so that they can represent the full mosaic of our country's population."

"CCI will continue to lead Canada into the future," adds Ruffolo. "High-growth companies face a different set of challenges and the need for qualified, more diverse talent has never been greater."



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Built on our longstanding history of supporting our communities, CIBC Foundation is committed to removing barriers to personal ambitions and making a positive impact.

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PRESENTING

The Honourable
David C. Onley

AWARD

In tribute to our 28th Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, the *Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons* introduced *The Honourable David C. Onley Award* in 2014. The award recognizes examples of extraordinary service to Canadians who live with a disability.

ANDREW PARSONS has been active in the Paralympic community for over 20 years. Starting as an intern at the Brazilian Paralympic Committee, he has risen through the ranks. Today, he is currently serving his second consecutive term as President of the International Paralympic Committee, IPC.national Paralympic Committee, IPC.

"I'm most proud of how we have aligned the Paralympic movement with the 1.2 billion persons with disabilities," says Parsons. "While sport is important and our reason for being, we have broadened our reach and impact so that we are at the service of the global disability community."

Indeed, the Paralympic Games are the world's top sporting event for driving social inclusion. They are transforming much more than attitudes and the communities in which we live. The Paralympic Games, as emphasized by IPC, are changing the lives of millions worldwide.

"It is vital that persons with disabilities have greater visibility, and the Paralympic Games is the only global event that puts persons with disabilities centre stage," says Parsons. "Through showing the feats of Paralympic athletes to four billion people around the world through our broadcast channels, we start to change the perceptions of persons with disabilities."

He continues, "I also believe that the Paralympic Games deliver change in three ways. Locally, they transform the lives [of] every athlete who experiences the Games. Nationally, the Games are a once-in-a-generation catalyst for transforming a host city and country. And then globally, the Paralympics are leading a human rights movement through the WeThe15 campaign to effect change for the world's 1.2 billion persons with disabilities, representing 15% of the global population."

Parsons is at the helm of change, inclusion and progress. During his time as IPC President, he has achieved much. In addition to the global launch of WeThe15 ahead of the Tokyo Paralympics, he successfully steered the

Paralympic movement through the pandemic. Parsons oversaw the delivery of the Beijing 2022, Tokyo 2020 and PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic Games. There is also the historic long-term agreement signed in 2018 with the International Olympic Committee (IOC), extending the partnership between the IPC and the IOC through to 2032.

The IPC has a new strategic plan that begins in 2023 and will take the organization to 2026. As part of this plan, the IPC is refocusing on how the Paralympic movement can be a force for change.

"For us to be clear and align ourselves with the global disability movement is a big change for the Paralympic movement," says Parsons. "For decades, we were only about sport, but now we are being clear about our identity: we are an elite sport organization, and we can use our sports to help create a better [and] more inclusive world."

As the 2023 recipient of the Honourable David C. Onley Award, Parsons is being celebrated for his leadership in raising awareness of international Paralympic sport alongside his incredible passion and unwavering commitment. He says it is an honour that he is pleased to accept on behalf of the hard-working staff of the International Paralympic Committee.

Parsons adds, "David was an important activist. He was a pioneer; he was putting disability in front of the camera at a time when it was easier to shy away from that. One of the things we're very proud of at the IPC is that the Paralympic Games are an important showcase for disability, both on and off the field of play. Over the last decade in particular, we have seen huge strides in persons with disabilities being in front of the camera and involved in production ... At the Beijing 2022 Paralympic Winter Games, the UK's Channel 4 had a team where every one of the on-screen presenters had a disability. That kind of change started with people like David."



Remembering the Honourable David C. Onley

The Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons (CFPDP) is deeply saddened at the passing of the Honourable David C. Onley on Jan. 14, 2023.



“DAVID WAS A FRIEND for more than 40 years and a trusted advisor to our Foundation. I will miss him greatly,” says the Honourable Vim Kochhar, Founding Chair of CFPDP. “Serving with commitment and dedication, he gave all of his heart to make Ontario a better and more accessible province for people with disabilities.”

When Ontario was looking for a new lieutenant-governor in 2007, Hon. Kochhar did not hesitate to nominate Mr. Onley, a well-known and respected television journalist and long-time friend. When Prime Minister Stephen Harper appointed him, Hon. Onley made history as the first person with a disability to hold the position.

Hon. Kochhar recalls the many times Mr. Onley interviewed him for Citytv. As an anchor and reporter, he insisted on being shown on camera with his crutches or scooter. Hon. Kochhar says he will never forget the time the young reporter said, “You and I together can make Canada the best country for people with disabilities.”

Indeed, Hon. Onley was a passionate advocate for all people with disabilities. Before being appointed as Ontario’s 28th Lieutenant Governor, he served as Chair of the Accessibility Standards Advisory Council and was on the accessibility councils for the Rogers Centre and Air Canada Centre (now Scotiabank Arena). He was a recipient of CFPDP’s King Clancy Award in 1992, which recognizes outstanding accomplishments that have helped to increase public awareness about the potential of persons with disabilities.

As a journalist, he showed up to cover all of CFPDP’s events. As lieutenant-governor, Hon. Onley became an official patron of the Foundation and continued to show up for CFPDP.

“David attended most of our events, including the annual Canadian

Disability Hall of Fame Induction Luncheon,” says Hon. Kochhar, adding that Onley himself was inducted in 1997. “He also joined us for the Rolling Rampage wheelchair race event at Parliament Hill and annually for the CHKC Awards Luncheon, honouring achievements in and contributions to the deafblind community. David was also at our WhyNot Marathon, a torch run across Canada leading up to the 1996 Paralympic Games in Atlanta.”

After he retired from office, CFPDP created the Honourable David C. Onley Award, which he personally presented each year at CFPDP’s Great Valentine Gala. The award celebrates the commitment and support of Hon. Onley for his years of service, for championing disability and for breaking down barriers in our communities.

Additionally, Hon. Onley was one of the first candidates chosen by the Selection Board of CFPDP’s “A Seat at the Table” initiative, which promotes highly qualified professionals with disabilities for corporate board positions.

Throughout his term, Hon. Onley used his platform to raise awareness about accessibility and inclusivity, especially in the area of employment. Hon. Kochhar feels privileged to have served as a sounding board for Hon. Onley’s bold ideas.



L to R:
George Przybylowski,
Dorothy Price,
Hon. Vim Kochhar,
Hon. David C. Onley

“We would meet for lunch in his office, and he would have a memo listing all the ideas he wanted to discuss,” recalls Hon. Kochhar. “Even after he retired, we would often meet at Swiss Chalet for chats.”

After his term, Hon. Onley continued to work quietly behind the scenes as a special advisor on accessibility and disability issues for the Ontario government. In 2019, he made headlines after performing an independent review of the province’s accessibility law. His conclusions were a scathing indictment of the progress to date and concluded that Ontario was far from its goal of ensuring universal accessibility by 2025.

Despite the progress yet to be made on that front, Hon. Kochhar says that Hon. Onley will always be remembered as a changemaker, an inspiring mentor who helped everyone who came to him, and a humble, beloved friend with a smile that lit up every room.

“David was a wonderful person who truly cared about making a difference. He was a cherished friend, and we will honour his legacy by working towards full accessibility and inclusivity,” says Hon. Kochhar. “David will always be in our hearts at CFPDP as we continue our efforts to make Canada the best country in the world for people with disabilities.”



Hon. David C. Onley
with Hon. Sabi Marwah
presenting the Corporate Award
to TD Bank Financial Group



Hon. David C. Onley
with Hon. Vim Kochhar
returning from the
96 WhyNot Marathon



Hon. David C. Onley
with other Gala
participants wishing
success to the 2018
Paralympic Team

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Diversifying and Strengthening Canada's Public Company Boards

On a brisk 2022 fall day, the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons (CFPDP) ventured to downtown Toronto for a meeting of the Seat at the Table Selection Board. The CFPDP team observed silently yet with keen interest as an esteemed group of top CEOs, executives and university Chancellors reviewed the backgrounds of highly qualified professionals with disabilities. It was an hours-long meeting. And from dozens of applications, 15 were chosen.

"The Selection Board believes these latest candidates deserve a seat at the table in Canada's corporate boardrooms," explains the Honourable Vim Kochhar, Founding Chair of CFPDP. "While there has been some progress in recent years, people with disabilities remain significantly underrepresented on public company boards. This is something that CFPDP is seeking to change."

Positive change is something that Hon. Kochhar has been working toward since he founded CFPDP in 1985. His high-level mission has always been to make Canada the best country in the world for people with disabilities. Creating an inclusive workforce plays an important role and should start, he says, in the boardroom.

Hon. Kochhar first took action to break the glass ceiling in 2018 after hearing The Right Honourable Brian Mulroney talk about the benefits of his decision to appoint (for the first time in Canada) a cabinet minister as "Minister Responsible for Disabled Persons."

Speaking at a CFPDP event, the former Prime Minister said the presence of a senior-level advocate for disability issues at the cabinet table was instrumental in guiding his government to

make numerous progressive policy and program decisions on behalf of the disability community.

Hon. Kochhar immediately saw the parallels with corporations appointing people with disabilities to their boards of directors. From there, CFPDP's Seat at the Table initiative was born.

Since that time, Hon. Kochhar has led numerous public awareness initiatives, educating companies about the many benefits of diverse experiences and voices and encouraging appointments to their boards.

Hon. Kochhar has written hundreds of letters to CEOs of Canadian corporations, urging the elevation of diverse talent and inclusive leadership at the board level. Hundreds more letters have been sent to the CEOs of numerous associations representing Chartered Accountants, lawyers, engineers, architects and doctors in every Canadian province. He has also written to non-profit organizations. These letters asked for support in encouraging qualified professionals with disabilities to apply to CFPDP for board positions.

Additionally, almost 50 full-page PSA ads have been published thanks to the generous support of the Globe and Mail.

These efforts have started moving the wheels of change. When the Seat at the Table initiative began, CFPDP could not identify a single public company director with a disability. Osler's 2022 report on diversity disclosure practices reveals that 10 board positions are now held by people with disabilities in companies governed by the Canada Business Corporations Act (CBCA). Furthermore, companies not subject to the CBCA diversity reporting requirement voluntarily disclosed five directors who are persons with disabilities.

Hundreds of applications have also been received by CFPDP. To date, a total of 30 candidates have been chosen in four sessions. All are being actively promoted for board positions.

"The latest group of candidates chosen by our Selection Board includes corporate executives, lawyers, investment bankers and senior leaders with backgrounds in finance, financial governance, marketing and more," says Kochhar. "Highly qualified professionals with disabilities can have a significant impact on corporate boards, bringing new perspectives and fresh insights. With 22% of Canadians living with a disability, CFPDP continues to encourage companies to recruit new directors from this vast, untapped pool of highly qualified professionals."



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Creating Independence for the Deafblind Community

The Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons (CFPDP) and Canadian Helen Keller Centre (CHKC) have a proud, shared history. Both organizations were founded several decades ago by The Honourable Vim Kochhar with help from other passionate individuals who wanted to make a difference.

Today, CHKC is a remarkable success story. It provides accessible housing, programming and intervenor services for people who are deafblind. This helps alleviate the severe isolation that people with deafblindness can experience without specialized services, adaptive communication methods and appropriate housing.

“CHKC is unique because we have a 16-unit affordable housing building where deafblind consumers live independently in their own apartments. It remains the only building of its kind in the world where deafblind consumers live independently,” says Jennifer Robbins, Executive Director of CHKC. “For over 30 years, these residents have received support from intervenors, who become the eyes and ears of people with vision and hearing loss. We also offer intervenor support to deafblind consumers living in the community.”

Over 400,000 Canadians are deafblind, each with individual needs that require special attention. Intervenors exist for communication and to create independence. They help consumers take part in the same types of day-to-day activities that any individual may choose to participate in. This can include dining at a restaurant, attending an exercise class, going to a doctor’s appointment or grocery shopping. Additionally, intervenors help deafblind people to socialize and create closer relationships with family and friends.

More Housing, More Independence

CHKC is currently embarking on its most ambitious project to date. Under the leadership of CHKC Board Chair Philip Corke, real estate developer and CHKC Director Anupam Kothari, and Robbins, the organization is building a 56-unit affordable and accessible apartment building. The new housing development will help reduce CHKC’s waitlist and give more people with a combination of hearing and vision loss access to an independent life. People with other disabilities will use any remaining units.

“Being independent is important for a person’s mental health and overall well-being,” says Robbins. “It also helps people who are deafblind to be fully immersed within the community and society at large.”



CHKC’s new apartment complex will also have a 6,500 sq. ft. state-of-the-art training centre where deafblind people can learn essential life skills to aid in their independence. This includes communication systems such as American Sign Language (ASL) and tactile ASL to braille and print-on-palm. There will be training in home management skills such as cleaning, laundry, and home safety, organization and maintenance. Consumers can learn about cooking, safe food handling/storage, personal grooming (e.g., shaving, putting on make-up), money management (e.g., budgeting, online banking) and technology (e.g., general computer skills, Apple and Android devices, deafblind-friendly apps). As well, CHKC offers social programs that evolve around sharing meals, gardening and other peer group activities.

“Accessibility is an important part of creating inclusive and welcoming communities,” says Robbins. “As an experienced housing provider for Canadians who are deafblind, we know what is needed to create independence and community under the same roof. Our entire team, which includes members of the deafblind community and independent committee members, is working passionately to help more people with dual sensory loss access an independent life. We are incredibly proud of the work that has been accomplished. CHKC is also eternally grateful for the financial support to fund our growth and help make this new apartment building a reality.”

So far, CHKC has secured \$32 million of the \$38 million needed to complete the project. The organization’s goal is to raise the remaining \$6 million from generous donors and sponsors.

“A portion of the funds raised at CFPDP’s very first Great Valentine Gala helped build CHKC’s 16-unit independent-living apartment building in Toronto’s Willowdale neighbourhood,” says Hon. Kochhar. “Over the decades, we have continued to organize hugely successful events to provide ongoing support to CHKC and people with physical disabilities. We are proud of this legacy and encourage those who can give to do so generously.”

Please contact CFPDP via info@cfpdp.com or (416) 760-7351 for information regarding available sponsorship opportunities.

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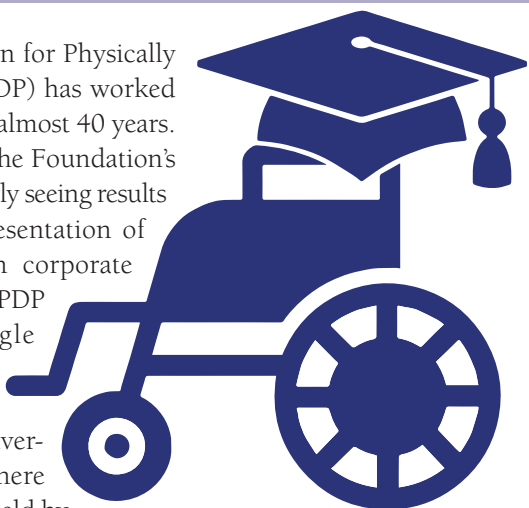
Endowment Funds Provide Bursaries and Scholarships for Students with Disabilities

The Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons (CFPDP) has worked to create positive change for almost 40 years. A Seat at the Table, one of the Foundation's more recent initiatives, is slowly seeing results when it comes to the representation of people with disabilities on corporate boards. When it began, CFPDP could not identify a single public company director with a disability. According to Osler's latest report on diversity disclosure practices, there are now 10 board positions held by people with disabilities in companies governed by the Canada Business Corporations Act (CBCA) based on mid-year 2022 reporting. Additionally, companies not subject to the CBCA diversity reporting requirement voluntarily disclosed five directors who are persons with disabilities.

To help prepare the next generation of leaders for a seat at the corporate board table, CFPDP launched an initiative in 2021 to create endowment funds that provide bursaries and scholarships for students with disabilities. CFPDP's goal is to launch the initiative at all major universities in Canada.

"Financial hardship is the main reason that many students with disabilities do not achieve professional designations or the level of post-secondary education required to secure senior leadership positions," says the Honourable Vim Kochhar, Founding Chair of CFPDP. "We aim to change that by creating more academic pathways for people with disabilities to reach their full professional potential, including a seat at a corporate boardroom table."

Endowment funds have so far been established at York University, Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson University) and Pearson College in Vancouver.



The Asper Foundation has made a gift of \$5 million to establish the Asper Foundation Entrance Bursaries, an endowment fund to support students with financial need at the University of Manitoba. In partnership with CFPDP, the endowment fund has a mandate to dedicate five \$1,000 bursaries each year to support students with physical disabilities.

Additionally, endowment funds are being finalized at Ivey Business School and the Temerty Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto.

"There is so much more that we can do as a community," says Kochhar. "We have five post-secondary institutions ready to provide more than \$600,000 in matching funds and we are actively seeking donors to establish new endowment funds. We encourage anyone who wants to establish one to contact our office. Together, we can propel the careers of students with disabilities and create inclusive leadership teams that are truly representative of Canada's diverse population."

CFPDP is inviting donors to commit \$100,000 and asking universities to match it. As an incentive, CFPDP will add \$10,000 and name the endowment fund in the donor's name. In addition, CFPDP will issue a tax/donation receipt for your donation. This creates a \$220,000 endowment fund to grant bursaries and scholarships in perpetuity using the investment proceeds.

Donors who wish to make a meaningful donation of less than \$100,000 are also encouraged to contact the CFPDP office.

AMI

Partnership and Research Panel

In October 2022, AMI aired the 29th Annual Canadian Disability Hall of Fame Induction Luncheon live on AMI-audio. Interviews with the three 2022 Inductees were broadcast on AMI-audio program *"The Pulse"* and a CDHF television feature aired on *"AMI This Week."* CFPDP welcomes this increased reach and accessibility of our events.

Research Panel

AMI's Research Panel serves as an ongoing feedback mechanism between AMI and the community. Canadians with disabilities are invited to join and share insights and opinions on accessible technology, TV programming, media consumption and more through focus groups, online questionnaires and telephone surveys. Join the AMI research panel today and help shape the future of AMI.

To register for the AMI Research Panel please visit:
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2023 Great Valentine Gala Entertainers



THE LAY AWAKES

CFPDP is delighted to welcome **The Lay Awakes**, a fantastic singer-songwriter duo from Brooklyn, New York, as the entertainment for our 39th Annual Great Valentine Gala.

Anna Paddock (*piano, vocals*) grew up in various states and provinces, but her family ties connect her to rural Manitoba. Her musical roots trace back to classical piano training and the inspiration of dance and theatre, which led her to study music at Trinity Western University and composition at New York University. During this time, Paddock began writing songs, then released a solo album in 2013.

Patrick Anderson (*guitar, vocals*) was born in Edmonton, Alberta, and grew up in Fergus, Ontario. His music lineage goes back to the family campfire and songbook. He studied music at Vancouver Community College and at Hunter College in Manhattan. Anderson has also spent many years representing Canada in wheelchair basketball and is a three-time Paralympic gold medalist.

As is fitting for a Valentine's Gala, there is a love story behind how the two met, married and then partnered to make beautiful music. Learn more at TheLayAwakes.com

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Telephone: 416-760-7351 Fax: 416-760-9405

E-mail: whynot@cfpdp.com Web: www.cfpdp.com

Please include your name, address, email and phone number.

NOMINATIONS TO BE RETURNED NO LATER THAN MAY 8, 2023



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