



CFPDP Announces Penny Bennett, Tim Rose and Francis Roussel as 2024 Inductees to the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame

TORONTO, ON – July 11, 2024 – The [Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons](#) (CFPDP) is pleased to announce the 2024 inductees for the [Canadian Disability Hall of Fame](#) (CDHF). **Penny Bennett**, a leader in Canada’s blind and deafblind community, **Tim Rose**, a business leader advancing accessibility, inclusion and diversity initiatives, and **Francis Roussel**, a remarkable athlete who won 21 medals spanning three consecutive Deaflympics, were chosen by an esteemed Selection Committee from a group of highly accomplished nominees. They join a prominent group of [126 past inductees](#) honoured over 31 years. The official ceremony will take place on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, during the 31st Annual Canadian Disability Hall of Fame Induction Luncheon presented by **CIBC** at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel in Toronto.

Canadian Disability Hall of Fame inductees are recognized for their exceptional personal and professional achievements and for improving the lives of people with physical disabilities. They have also emerged as influential advocates and changemakers, leaving an indelible impact that extends across Canada and around the world.

2024 Inductees



Penny Bennett



Tim Rose



Francis Roussel

Penny Bennett (Builder): Penny Bennett is a leader in Canada’s blind and deafblind community and is known nationwide as a strong, tireless advocate. She has spent decades building awareness and breaking down societal barriers for people with disabilities. This includes advocating for the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2015 and serving in leadership roles with numerous national, provincial and local community and disability organizations. Bennett has been involved in countless committees and boards, including Chair of CNIB Deafblind Community Services, member of the Municipal Accessibility

Awareness Committee for the City of Kingston, Ontario, and Co-Chair of the National Deafblind Awareness Month Working Group, among other notable roles. She has contributed to the creation of a self-advocacy guide for the deafblind community and advocates for equitable access to intervenor services so that all Canadians who are deafblind can thrive.

Tim Rose (Achiever): Tim Rose is a business leader, changemaker, advocate, role model and entrepreneur who works passionately to advance accessibility, inclusion and diversity initiatives. Rose believes his disability has given him a perspective and lens on the world that very few get to have, and he approaches everything with positivity and humour. After graduating with a master's degree in human rights law focusing on disability policy, Rose has spent 15 years spanning the disability and corporate sectors, from nonprofit work to employment consulting, mentoring and beyond. Since 2017, Rose has been a proud team member at CIBC, holding roles including regulatory compliance, community investment and as the lead for client experience accessibility for the 27% of Canadians who identify as having a disability. In this role, he works to make banking more inclusive for all Canadians.

Francis Roussel (Athlete): Francis Roussel is a remarkable athlete who won 21 medals in 28 world championship events, including five gold, ten silver and six bronze. Competing against top swimmers in the world, his phenomenal performances spanned three Deaflympics. He won seven medals at each of three consecutive games, including Sofia 1993, Copenhagen 1997 and Rome 2001. Roussel broke numerous records in 22 event categories during his career and has nine Canadian records that remain unmatched as of June 2024. These categories include the 400 metre (m) individual medley, 200m butterfly, 200m freestyle, 400m freestyle, 800m freestyle and 1,500m freestyle. In addition to his athletic accomplishments, Roussel supports the development of sports within the Deaf community through his involvement and board service with the Canadian Deaf Sports Association.

“The 2024 inductees to the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame have achieved excellence and made a difference in the lives of people with disabilities,” said **The Honourable David Crombie, Chair of the CDHF Selection Board since the Hall of Fame's inception.** “Each year, it becomes increasingly difficult for our Selection Board to name a single inductee in each category due to the extraordinary calibre of nominees. We wholeheartedly congratulate all the inductees and nominees for their exceptional accomplishments.”

The CDHF is the only place in Canada that permanently recognizes people who live with disabilities and those who help enrich their lives. Founded by CFPDP, this public exhibit was officially opened on February 11, 1994 at Metro Hall, located at 55 John Street in Toronto.



Canadian Disability Hall of Fame at Metro Hall (55 John Street, Toronto).

“CFPDP is proud to continue its annual tradition of inducting outstanding Canadians into the Disability Hall of Fame, said **The Honourable Vim Kochhar, Founding Chair of CFPDP**. “For 31 years, we have celebrated individuals who are working passionately to make Canada the best country in the world for people with disabilities.”

Tickets and sponsorships for the 31st Annual Canadian Disability Hall of Fame Induction Luncheon are available by contacting Hon. Vim Kochhar, Founding Chair of CFPDP, at (416) 760-7351 or vimkochhar@cfpdp.com.

About the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame:

The Canadian Disability Hall of Fame (CDHF) recognizes outstanding achievements in volunteerism, the arts, sports, rehabilitation, science and medical research, advocacy and public policy. Founded by the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons (CFPDP) in 1994, the public exhibits are located at Metro Hall (55 John Street, first-floor lobby, Toronto) and the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre (6 Sakura Way, second floor, Toronto). The CDHF is the only place in Canada that permanently honours the achievements of people with physical disabilities and those who enrich their lives.

About Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons:

Founded in 1984, the goal of Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons (CFPDP) is to consistently seek to put the emphasis on a person's abilities — rather than disabilities — and to recognize and celebrate their achievements and contributions to society. Since then, CFPDP has founded dozens of important projects and events, raising over \$40 million to support them and other initiatives. Learn more at <https://www.cfpdp.com/>.

Further Information / Media Requests:

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