



CFPDP Announces Tom Chau, Kevin J. Collins and Ina Forrest as 2025 Inductees to the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame

TORONTO, ON – July 16, 2025 – [Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons](#) (CFPDP) is pleased to announce the 2025 inductees to the [Canadian Disability Hall of Fame](#) (CDHF). **Tom Chau**, a Senior Scientist at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, **Kevin J. Collins**, President and CEO of Easter Seals Ontario, and **Ina Forrest**, internationally renowned Canadian curler, were chosen by an independent Selection Committee from a group of exceptional nominees. They join a prestigious community of [129 past inductees](#) honoured over more than three decades. The official ceremony will take place on Thursday, October 9, 2025, during the 32nd Annual Canadian Disability Hall of Fame Induction Luncheon presented by **CIBC** at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel in Toronto.

Inductees into the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame are recognized not only for their outstanding personal and professional accomplishments but also for their dedication to improving the lives of people with disabilities. These individuals have emerged as powerful changemakers and advocates, creating a lasting impact across Canada and internationally.

2025 Inductees



Tom Chau



Kevin J. Collins



Ina Forrest

Tom Chau (Builder): Tom Chau is a Senior Scientist and Raymond Chang Foundation Chair in Access Innovations at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, and a Professor at the University of Toronto's Institute of Biomedical Engineering. His research explores novel access pathways to facilitate communication for children and youth with severe physical impairments. Chau's lab has developed numerous access innovations that are being used by children and youth locally and abroad. These include the Virtual Music Instrument, a computer vision-based software tool that allows children of all abilities to play music, and the Hummingbird, a device that enables communication through humming.

His lab has also created various brain-computer interfaces (BCIs) that translate mental activity into communication and control. These innovations led to the launch of the pediatric BCI clinic at Holland Bloorview in 2019.

Kevin J. Collins (Achiever): Kevin J. Collins has a long history of supporting children with disabilities and Easter Seals Ontario. Born with Cerebral Palsy, he was the Orillia Kiwanis Club Easter Seals ambassador “Timmy” (1973-75) and the Easter Seals provincial “Timmy” in 1976. This launched his lifelong path as a disability advocate and community leader. Collins has since spoken at nearly 1,000 events to raise awareness. After a successful career with a major hotel chain, he joined Easter Seals Ontario in 1991 as Manager of Corporate and Special Events, expanding fundraising and access to programs. In 1999, he became Executive Director of Friends of We Care, which unites the foodservice and hospitality industry to support Easter Seals, increasing annual revenue from \$250,000 to \$1 million. In 2017, Collins returned to Easter Seals Ontario as President and CEO, where he continues to increase opportunities for children and youth with physical disabilities.

Ina Forrest (Athlete): Ina Forrest is a Canadian curler of international renown. She has been a key member of Canada’s National Wheelchair Curling Team since 2007, competing in four Paralympic Games and 15 World Championships. Forrest has helped Canada earn four Paralympic medals (two gold, two bronze) and six World Championship medals (three gold, three silver). She has also represented Team BC, winning four national medals (two silver, two bronze). Recognized for her remarkable achievements, she received the Top Canadian Female Athlete Award from the Canadian Paralympic Committee after Sochi 2014 and was inducted into the Canadian Curling Hall of Fame in 2016. At the 2022 Beijing Paralympics, Forrest was named a Flag Bearer for the Opening Ceremonies. Committed to giving back, she has supported Plan International since the 1980s and was elected to the Canadian Paralympic Committee Athlete Council in 2020.

“The 2025 inductees to the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame have distinguished themselves through extraordinary achievements and meaningful contributions to 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, the exceptional quality of nominees makes it increasingly challenging for our Selection Board to choose just one inductee per category. We warmly congratulate all inductees and nominees for their incredible accomplishments.”

The Canadian Disability Hall of Fame is the only place in Canada that permanently recognizes people living with disabilities and those who 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 honoured to mark the 32nd consecutive year of recognizing exceptional Canadians through the Disability Hall of Fame,” said **The Honourable Vim Kochhar, Founding Chair of CFPDP**. “For over three decades, we have celebrated excellence and remarkable individuals dedicated to making Canada a leader in inclusion and opportunity for people with disabilities.”

Tickets and sponsorships for the 32nd 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 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:

Christine Payne
Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons
(416) 760-7351
christinepayne@cfpdp.com

Tickets / Sponsorships for the 32nd Annual Canadian Disability Hall of Fame Induction Luncheon:

The Honourable Vim Kochhar
Founding Chair
Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons
(416) 760-7351
vimkochhar@cfpdp.com