

# For 42 years Toronto's Great Valentine Gala has been a beacon of hope and opportunity for Canadians who live with a disability

ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2026, the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled



Persons will celebrate its 42nd Annual Great Valentine Gala, a cherished Toronto

tradition of celebration and support for Canadians who live with disability.

“It’s going to be a very special night,” promises Gala founder and CFPDP chair The Honourable Vim Kochhar. “The Great Valentine Gala is where it all began for our Foundation, and on February 14th, we’ll be marking 42 years of extraordinary partnership and progress in the service of a great cause. I think that’s cause for celebration.”

Over more than four decades, the CFPDP and its premier fundraiser have raised more than \$40 million dollars on behalf of Canadians with disabilities and the issues and vital services they espouse. These funds have supported many important, life-changing initiatives that otherwise would not have been possible.

Here is a short list of projects that have benefited from the generosity of Great Valentine Gala supporters:

**Canadian Helen Keller Centre (CHKC)**, which operates the world’s first truly barrier-free apartment complex for people who are deafblind. CHKC provides crucial intervenor services to facilitate independence. Programming and training in essential life skills are offered through CHKC via Canada’s first training facility for the deafblind community.



CHKC apartment for the deafblind community



CHKC training centre



**Paralympic sport:** For 42 years, the CFPDP has been an active and significant sponsor of Paralympic athletes and the Canadian Paralympic Committee.

**The WhyNot Marathon:** the CFPDP's epic 11,000-km national torch relay in 1996, enlisting 8,000 torch bearers and 150,000 runners in over 700 communities in support of the Paralympic Games.



**The Canadian Disability Hall of Fame:**

The CFPDP's flagship awareness project, the Hall of Fame is a permanent public tribute to the achievements of people with disabilities. Located in downtown Toronto, it is chaired by the Honourable David Crombie and is open to the public.

**The Eternal Flame of Hope:** Ignited in 1996 by Governor General Roméo LeBlanc, the flame still burns on the public square of Toronto's Metro Hall as a permanent symbol of the dreams and triumphs of people who live with disability.

**Everyone deserves "A Seat at the Table":**

The newest CFPDP initiative in finding qualified Canadians with disabilities for corporate board positions.



**WhyNot.**

**WhyNot Magazine:**

Published twice a year, WhyNot

Magazine promotes the issues and achievements of the disability community.

**Rolling Rampage on the Hill:**

A unique event on Parliament Hill in Ottawa inviting the world's best wheelchair racers to compete for a prize purse of \$30,000.



2022 Paralympic medal winners at the Gala



The Eternal Flame of Hope



Rolling Rampage On The Hill