



For 43 years Toronto's Great Valentine Gala has been a beacon of hope and opportunity for Canadians who live with a disability

ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2027, the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled



Persons will celebrate its 43rd 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 13th, we'll be marking 43 years of extraordinary partnership and progress in the service of a great cause. I think that's cause for celebration."

CFPDP has helped raise more than \$85 million over more than four decades 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)



provides affordable, barrier-free housing, training and intervenor services for people who are deafblind.

In 2026, CHKC opened a new 56-unit apartment building in Toronto, giving more people who are deafblind greater independence in their lives.



IMPACT AWARD for Disability Research The newest CFPDP initiative is the creation of a \$100,000 annual interdisciplinary award for research that has demonstrably improved the lives of people with disabilities. The inaugural Impact Award will be presented at the 2027 Great Valentine Gala.



A CFPDP project to increase the representation of qualified professionals with disabilities on Canada's public company boards.



We have generated nearly \$5 million in bursaries and scholarships for students with disabilities across the country to help them become the leaders of tomorrow.

Paralympic Sport: For 43 years, CFPDP has been an active and significant sponsor of Paralympic athletes, the Canadian Paralympic Committee and Para sport.



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

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



Canadian Rotary Clubs have received over \$400,000 from CFPDP for projects assisting people with disabilities across the country.

WhyNot. Published twice a year, WhyNot Magazine promotes the disability community's issues and achievements.



Paralympic athletes are honoured at the 41st Annual Great Valentine Gala in 2025



Canadian Disability Hall of Fame at Metro Hall



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