

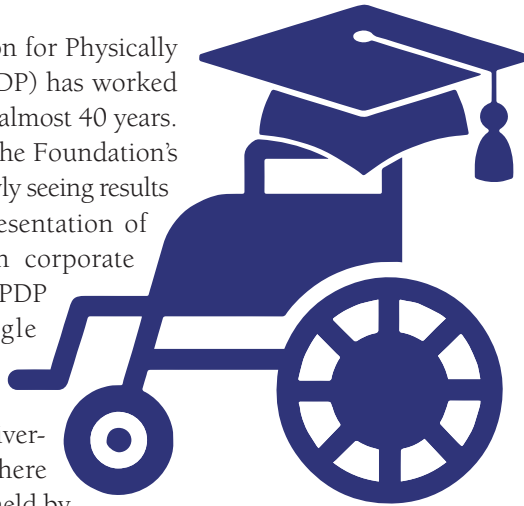
Endowment Funds Provide Bursaries and Scholarships for Students with Disabilities

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.



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:
www.ami.ca/researchpanel