

# CFPDP ENDOWMENT FUNDS APPROACHING \$2 MILLION

Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons (CFPDP) proudly highlights its endowment funds initiative as an essential element of the A Seat at the Table (SATT) program, which has been working since 2019 to increase the representation of people with physical disabilities in Canada's public company boardrooms.

Since its inception, CFPDP's endowment funds program has raised nearly \$2 million, creating pathways to post-secondary education for students with disabilities who might otherwise face barriers. By investing in these future leaders, the initiative opens doors to educational opportunities and nurtures the next generation of board directors and decision-makers.

Alongside their support to help increase board diversity, SATT sponsors **CIBC, Deloitte, Element Fleet Management, Kothati Group, TD** and media partner **The Globe and Mail** play a crucial role in advancing the endowment funds program, acting as vital partners in its success. Their support amplifies the impact of generous donations while ensuring that the program continues.

"CFPDP's endowment funds initiative is such an incredible program," says **Laura Dottori-Attanasio**, President and CEO of Element Fleet Management. "These funds open doors for students with disabilities, granting them access to post-secondary education and leadership training that they might not have had otherwise. Importantly, these funds also help train the next

generation of leaders—it's not just about getting them in the door; it's about equipping them for the future."

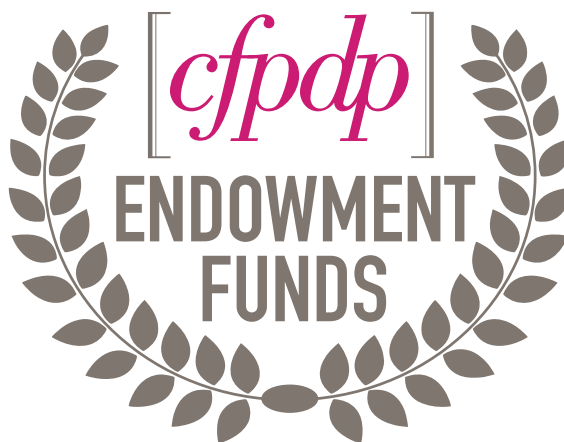
Dottori-Attanasio says, "Through its support, Element is actively contributing to dismantling barriers, paving the way for a diverse pool of qualified professionals who can bring unique perspectives to decision-making tables. By investing in these initiatives, we're truly laying down the groundwork for a brighter and more diverse workforce."

In addition to Element's corporate support for SATT, Dottori-Attanasio and her family made a generous personal donation to create an endowment fund for students with disabilities at Ontario Tech University in Oshawa.

"This donation reflects our family's firm belief that quality education should be accessible to all. Education can be a transformative force in someone's life, and we want to extend that opportunity to future generations, especially for students with differing abilities," she says. "Knowing that this fund will help students achieve their dreams is tremendously gratifying, as it reflects our commitment to a more equitable society."

She adds, "The emphasis that A Seat at the Table and its endowment funds program places on creating a sustainable pipeline of qualified individuals for board positions is a distinctive and impactful aspect that differentiates it from other initiatives."

"Higher education gives students with disabilities the



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knowledge, skills, and critical thinking needed to become future leaders,” says **The Honourable Vim Kochhar**, Founding Chair of CFPDP. “The bursaries and awards created by these endowment funds ease the financial challenges of pursuing a college or university education. We are deeply thankful to the generous donors whose support is making lasting change.”

## Making a Difference

With the help of CFPDP, endowment funds and awards for students with disabilities have so far been established at **York University**, **Toronto Metropolitan University**, the **University of Manitoba**, **Pearson College**, **Ivey Business School** at the University of Western Ontario, **Queen’s University**, **Osgoode Hall Law School** at York University, **Ontario Tech University** and the **University of Calgary**. Multiple endowment funds have been created at some of these institutions. CFPDP recognizes the generosity of the **Asper Foundation**, **Thorpe Family Foundation**, **Duncan and Michelle Sinclair Foundation**, **Feiga Bresver Academic Fund**, **Noor Cultural Centre**, the **Dottori-Attanasio Family** and the **Aaron Family**, among others, in creating these legacies.

Other schools have allocated hundreds of thousands of dollars and are waiting for matching donors. CFPDP is speaking with additional universities and possible donors, asking them to participate and help broaden the program across Canada.

“For those contemplating a donation, know that your contributions can create extraordinary change, supporting educational pathways that empower future leaders and a future where all individuals can thrive and achieve their full potential,” says Dottori-Attanasio.

She adds, “What stands out [about A Seat at the Table and its associated endowment funds initiative] is how the program blends financial support with a

focus on leadership. This isn’t just about providing funds; it’s about nurturing future leaders in a way that encourages meaningful influence within corporate governance. The program’s unique emphasis on creating a sustainable future – including a rich pipeline of qualified individuals for board positions, is what sets it apart from others.”



Laura Dottori-Attanasio

CFPDP is inviting donors to give \$100,000 and will add \$10,000 to every fund that is established. Universities and colleges provide matching funds, creating a \$220,000 endowment fund to grant awards and bursaries in perpetuity using the investment proceeds. Donors who wish to make a meaningful gift of less than \$100,000 are also encouraged to contact CFPDP.

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To learn more or create an endowment fund, please contact CFPDP via [whynot@cfpdp.com](mailto:whynot@cfpdp.com) or (416) 760-7351.