

# TRANSFORMATIVE GIFT PROPELS CFPDP ENDOWMENT FUNDS TOWARD \$5 MILLION NATIONWIDE IMPACT

**“If you’re going to live, leave behind a legacy. Make an impact on the world that can never be erased.”**

**T**hese words from Maya Angelou sum up perfectly what Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons (CFPDP) is working to create with “A Seat at the Table” (SATT) and its associated endowment funds initiative.

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.

Since 2019, SATT has been striving to increase the representation of people with physical disabilities in Canada’s public company boardrooms. From its inception, CFPDP’s SATT endowment funds program has been dedicated to breaking down barriers to post-secondary education for students with disabilities. The financial awards made possible through these endowment funds help future leaders achieve their academic goals while shaping the next generation of board directors and decision-makers.

In January 2025, CFPDP announced a generous commitment of \$1.3 million from the Shah Family Foundation, further enriching the legacy of the SATT endowment funds program and propelling its total impact toward \$5 million.

The Shah Family Foundation’s gift is being used to establish a pan-Canadian endowment fund initiative, providing students with disabilities the opportunity to access post-secondary education at a university or college in each province and territory in perpetuity. Building sustainable communities by ensuring equitable access to education is a cornerstone of the Shah Family Foundation’s mission, which aligns perfectly with CFPDP’s efforts to forge academic pathways for disabled students and nurture the leaders of tomorrow.

“Building communities that thrive over time requires investing in education that equips individuals with the tools to contribute meaningfully to society. By supporting initiatives that provide resources, opportunities, and resilience, we aim to create environments where future generations can build on these foundations and drive lasting change. Our goal is to create a ripple effect

where the benefits of education extend beyond classrooms and into the heart of communities,” says Kris Shah, President of the Shah Family Foundation.

Thanks to the generosity of the Shah Family Foundation, CFPDP was working to finalize endowment funds at the University of New Brunswick and the University of Alberta to start the year. Endowments in all other provinces and territories across Canada will follow.



**Kris Shah**

As this pan-Canadian initiative was being advanced, The Honourable Vim Kochhar was humbled to learn that the Shah Family Foundation wanted to name the endowment funds in his honour.

“The Honourable Vim Kochhar’s contributions to improving accessibility and opportunities for persons with disabilities are unparalleled. Naming these endowments after him felt like a natural way to honour his extraordinary legacy,” says Shah. “My family and I have always admired leaders who dedicate their lives to uplifting others, and Vim’s work embodies that spirit. From founding

Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons to creating housing solutions for the deafblind community, his vision has transformed countless lives. This decision reflects our gratitude for his impact and our hope to inspire others to follow in his footsteps.”

“Serving as volunteer CEO of CFPDP for over four decades and making Canada the best country in the world for people with disabilities is the honour of a lifetime,” says Kochhar. “I am so proud to see changemakers like Kris and his family recognize the positive chain reaction that post-secondary education can have for students with disabilities, the corporations they will go on to advise, and the communities they will impact as they grow their careers as business leaders, executives and entrepreneurs.”

While working with CFPDP and its SATT program is the first initiative the Shah Family Foundation has undertaken to improve access to higher learning in the disability community, it reflects the organization’s broader commitment to fostering inclusivity and equity in education.

“We are inspired by the vision of Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons and look forward to building on this impactful partnership,” says Shah.

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