



Media Release
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For Immediate Release

Coalition pleased to share its successes for the year

(St. John's) The Coalition of Persons with Disabilities-NL (Coalition) is pleased to share its successes for the past year with its membership at its Annual General Meeting. The Coalition's AGM and presentation of Awards was held on Thursday, May 28th at the Fairfield Inn and Suites. The Honourable Clyde Jackman, Minister of Seniors, Wellness and Social Development, brought greetings to the Coalition's members and announced the recipients of the Provincial Government's 2014 Inclusion Grants.

Jerry Weir, President of the Coalition, states "We have had a busy year at the Coalition and we are here to celebrate our accomplishments. This past year, we worked on several major projects including Emergency Preparedness and Blue Zone Parking. These projects are vital in supporting inclusion of persons with disabilities but the overall impact of this work will also be of benefit to everyone in our communities". He went on to say that "these projects provided a platform to talk about attitudes toward persons with disabilities...to talk about choice, respect, dignity and fairness".

Kelly White, the Coalition's Executive Director, states "since our creation in 1983, we have been through many changes and we have seen many changes around us. One thing that has remained unchanged, however, is the deep passion that we see every day about inclusion...as a necessity not just for persons with disabilities but for all of society."

The Annual Inclusion Awards were presented at the AGM. These awards are given to recognize the support and use of inclusive practices. Awards were presented as follows:

- Organization/ Agency Award for Inclusion (Dual Recipients) - Fire and Emergency Services, Newfoundland and Labrador and the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary
- Business Award for Inclusion - Steele Communications
- Individual Award for Inclusion - Greg Hussey
- Media Award for Excellence in Disability Coverage - Bonnie Belec, The Telegram
- Council of Canadians Award for National Volunteerism – Myrtle Barrett

In addition, three scholarships were presented to high school students with disabilities who are pursuing post-secondary studies. Mark Hemmings from Conception Bay South and Jordan Singleton of Bay Roberts received the Husky Energy scholarships valued at \$1250. Jennifer Brown of St. John's received the Scotiabank scholarship valued at \$1000

Operating at the provincial and local levels, the coalition is an organization promoting inclusion and equality for persons with disabilities throughout our province.