



Reach Beyond

Impacting the Future

Reach Canada and ABLE2 ensure continued access to justice and human rights for persons with disabilities in our community.

(September 19, 2023) On September 28, 2023, **ABLE2 and Reach Canada will celebrate the merger** of their two organizations. [*Reach Beyond: Impacting the Future*](#) will be held on **September 28 in the RBC Foundry Room at the Bayview Yards from 5:30 to 8:30 pm.**

The Ottawa legal community has a long proud history of giving back to the community and demonstrating the values of access to justice, human rights, equality and inclusion within the legal profession.

Reach Canada has a 42-year history connected to our collegial Ottawa bar that many practicing lawyer in this city have proudly been part of over their careers. **With a roster of over 200 volunteer lawyers ranging from very senior members of the bar to those fresh out of law school. They have given back by providing pro bono legal services and legal education to people with disabilities. Because of the barriers that they face, people with disabilities often encounter difficulties accessing the support they need within the justice system.**

We are excited to announce that this year **Reach merged with ABLE2 to ensure its programs and essential services continue to serve the legal needs of people from the disability community.** Reach Legal Services is now a program of ABLE2, and its legal education workshops continue as part of ABLE2's Grow Education Series.

Join **Honorary Chair Chief Justice (retired) of the Federal Court of Appeal John D. Richard OC** on Thursday, September 28 in the RBC Foundry Room at the Bayview Yards to **toast and recognize the Ottawa Legal Community's contribution to justice for persons with disabilities and raise funds for Reach Legal Services a program of ABLE2.**

The host for the evening is **Domenic Crolla, Partner at Gowling WLG as Master of Ceremonies.**

The guest speaker is an award-winning multi-sports athlete and former member of the **Paralympic Team Canada, Kevin Frost**. Kevin has Usher's Syndrome, leaving him with a 9% hearing capacity and has 3% vision remaining.

The dynamic team of **co-auctioneers Lawrence Greenspon, Greenspon Granger Hill and James Foord, Edelson Foord Law** will lead an entertaining and lively auction with trip packages and fun experiences. Plus, a silent auction, door prizes and 50/50 Raffle!

QUOTES:

“Reach Canada and ABLE2 have been working together for the last four years to bring about this merger. By joining ABLE2, we can help more people with disabilities connect with community resources to deal with their legal issues. In addition, our excellent educational programming can reach a wider audience.” **Frank McNally, Reach Canada Board Chair**

“The Board and staff at ABLE2 are delighted to incorporate Reach's legal referral and educational programming to the wide range of programs we deliver to support people with disabilities build lives of meaning and joy. Together we aspire to achieve our shared vision of an inclusive community where all people are seen as able, important and valued.” **Nick Korhonen, ABLE2 Board Chair**

BACKGROUND:

Reach Canada was incorporated in 1981 as a response to the United Nations' International Year of Disabled Persons. From the beginning, hundreds of legal professionals and volunteers have donated and continue to contribute their time and expertise to provide excellent and timely legal advice and educate the community on disability-related topics.



ABLE2 believes in an inclusive community where all people are seen as able, respected, and valued. People with disabilities face many challenges including stigma, accessibility, social isolation, discrimination, and inequity. Our programs and services empower persons of all ages across the disability spectrum and their families to build lives of meaning and joy as valued members of our community.

For more information on ABLE2, please visit: <https://www.able2.org/>

Facebook: [facebook.com/ABLE2Ott](https://www.facebook.com/ABLE2Ott)

Twitter: [@ABLE2Ott](https://twitter.com/ABLE2Ott)

Instagram: [@able2ott](https://www.instagram.com/able2ott)

[Reach Beyond: Impacting the Future](#)

Date: Thursday, September 28, 2023

Time: 5:30 to 8:30 pm

Location: The Bayview Yards, 7 Bayview Station Road

Click [here](#) to purchase tickets at the student price.

Click [here](#) to purchase tickets at the general price.

Contact:

Nancy Oakley

ABLE2, Director of Development and Community Engagement

noakley@able2.org

613-513-7799

