

HONOURING A PROVINCIAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER, GORDON PORTER



We talk about measuring the impact that our efforts, activities, and input make. Few people make the impact in this world that Gordon Porter has made. His commitment to human rights and quality education for everyone is unwavering.

Gordon Porter began as a New Brunswick volunteer. When you read or hear about some of his accomplishments on behalf of people with an intellectual disability, you may assume that he is a paid employee of some department but not so.

Gordon began his professional career as an Educator in Woodstock and also began his volunteer work there. However, Gordon's search as a volunteer for equality has taken him on a journey that has changed the lives of many people - not only in our province but across Canada and internationally. In his quest to find an alternative to segregation and exclusion, he has also become a recognized expert and world leader in human rights and inclusion.

Gordon, as President of NBACL and CACL, has applied considerable energy on not only integration in our school system but also on the process of deinstitutionalization. Many children and adults now live and work in their home community and attend their neighborhood school because of that effort. More recently he helped ensure that inclusive education was recognized in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

As quoted from Lorraine Silliphant, "Gordon has had a distinguished professional career. At the same time he can always be counted on to give generously of his time, talent and counsel as a volunteer. His professional, community and volunteer activities, associations, publications and accomplishments are many. His work has had an impact on decision-makers and educators. Through his leadership and teaching many have come to understand why inclusion is important and how it can happen in the classroom, the pre-school, our neighbourhoods, our communities, and our workplaces."

Several Honours & Awards

Order of New Brunswick (O.N.B.) – November 2013

Order of Canada (C.M.) – November 2010

Whitworth Award for Educational Research, Canadian Education Association (C.E.A.) - 2007

Doctor Honoris Causa, Universidad Nacional De Educacion, Enrique Guzman y Valle,

Lima PERU - August 2009

UNESCO/Emir Jaber al-Ahmed al-Jaber al-Sabah Prize to Promote Quality Education for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities - May 25, 2014