



2009 MBLN Recognition Awards

Jim Derksen

-Presidents Award-

Every time society needs to change there is a few people that take the lead to make it happen. Jim Derksen is one of those people. As people with disabilities started to enter mainstream society, there were many challenges and they needed a champion. Jim was that champion.

Jim Derksen's passion for disability and human rights has led him to contribute his wisdom, time and energy to local, national and international organizations of people with disabilities. He has worked diligently to build and sustain organizations such as the Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities, the Council of Canadians with Disabilities, Disabled Peoples' International.

Mr. Derksen has been a leading advocate for the rights of people with disabilities in Canada and internationally for over 30 years.

Jim Derksen refers to his disability as a "privilege" because he has had the opportunity to work in and lead a movement that has advanced human rights, and has ensured that people with disabilities have their own voice in discussions about public policy. He has broken barriers personally, professionally and continues to be a mentor and role model to many activists. He brings tremendous historical knowledge, as well as a long-range perspective to discussion about how best to ensure accessibility into the future. Jim also knows that we must be ever vigilant when it comes to protecting the rights and dignity of all people.

The Manitoba Business Leadership Network Inc. is pleased to award the 2009 President's Award to Jim Derksen for his ongoing commitment and determination in helping breakdown barriers.

Greg Findlay, Executive Director

October 14, 2009