

## TRIBUTE TO DARREL MURPHY

### FOUNDER OF ATTENDANT SERVICES AT SPINAL CORD INJURY ONTARIO



At the age of 28, Darrel sustained a spinal cord injury in a diving accident. It was a complete injury at the level of C4 resulting in quadriplegia. For the next three years Darrel lived in a rehabilitation facility. It was 1980 and there were few options for people with long-term disabilities who wanted to live independently in the community. In rehab, people who didn't have a home to go to most often ended up in a chronic care hospital. That was something Darrel and his friends didn't see as an option. They began working with the Canadian Paraplegic Association, which became Spinal Cord Injury Canada and the provincial organizations, including Spinal Cord Injury Ontario. They made as many government contacts as they could.

After years of hard work Darrel, friends and affiliates introduced the first 24-hour Attendant Care project to people with spinal cord injuries in Canada. In 1983 Nucleus Housing was born.

In 1987, with the help of the Canadian Paraplegic Association Ontario, Darrel secured funding from the Ministry of Health to provide outreach attendant services to six clients living in their own homes. Darrel served as Director of Attendant Services for more than a decade. His knowledge of the business and his determination greatly increased public awareness of the services our organization provided. Darrel worked to increase awareness and access to attendant services until his passing in 2001.

Spinal Cord Injury Ontario continued to provide attendant services for the next 19 years. We served hundreds of clients and built a reputation for providing a client-centered, quality service with unique expertise in supporting people living with spinal cord injury.

In 2020 Spinal Cord Injury Ontario transferred our Outreach Attendant Services program to March of Dimes Canada. We are proud to partner with this large national charity and to carry forward Darrel's vision for training attendants. His commitment, passion and dedication are really the foundation and the drive behind this training.

Thank you, Darrel!