



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: 2026 INSPIRING POSSIBILITIES AWARDS

We are thrilled to share that Community Living Ontario is currently accepting nominations for its *2026 Inspiring Possibilities Awards*. These awards are an opportunity to celebrate the people and organizations making a positive impact on the lives of those with intellectual disabilities and their families in Ontario.

We encourage chosen recipients to accept their award in-person at our [2026 Inspiring Possibilities AGM and Conference](#), taking place **September 15–17, 2026** in Markham, Ontario. However, you do not need to attend to be eligible to receive an award.

Nominations must be received before **Monday, June 8, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. EDT.**

The following important information covers:

- All four awards
- Who can be nominated
- How to nominate a person, organization, or team
- The deadline for nominations
- Last year's award recipients

If you have any questions about the awards or nominations process, please contact us at communications@communitylivingontario.ca

The 2026 Inspiring Possibilities Awards:

Award #1: The Changemaker Award

This award celebrates an individual, team, or organization that has made an impact on the people of Ontario. This person, organization, or team should be seen as a torchbearer, significantly impacting the lives of people with intellectual disabilities. The recipient of this award has shown exceptional leadership, creativity, and determination in advancing the rights of people with intellectual disabilities, promoting their inclusion in society, and inspiring others to follow in their footsteps.

Award #2: The Inclusive Media Award

This award honours an individual, team, or organization that has made an impact on the people of Ontario by creatively and passionately utilizing social media, television, radio, film, or print media to raise awareness, promote inclusion, and positively impact the lives of people with intellectual disabilities. This award recognizes a person or group that has leveraged the power of media to challenge stereotypes, break down barriers, and create opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities to have their voices heard.

Award #3: The Jason Rae Award

This award is in memory of Jason Rae who passed away on Sept. 15, 2016. Jason served on or contributed to a variety of causes and organizations, including the Board of Community Living Ontario.

Jason was a service-minded role model who did not let his disability get in the way of his passion for life. “Pride”, “Integrity”, “Disciplined”, and “Gifted” as well as “Nothing left undone” are just a few of the terms that defined Jason. Jason was an exemplary, civic-minded role model to his community and to those close to him. The person receiving this award must be a self-advocate who contributes to their community and is seen as a leader. The Jason Rae award recognizes an individual who reflects these same values.

Please note that this award comes with a \$1,000 prize.

Award #4: The Noreene Adam Trailblazer Award

Noreene Adam passed away on May 10, 2024. Throughout her life, Noreen was a tireless advocate on behalf of her son Kirby and then, for all those who experience intellectual disability as well as their families. Noreene took part in many steering committees and boards at both the local and provincial level, using her lived experience to fight for the rights of people with intellectual disabilities, helping them to live fulfilling, independent lives with appropriate support.

This award celebrates an individual or group who has made an impact on the people of Ontario by developing solutions to enhance accessibility and inclusiveness for people with intellectual disabilities. The recipient is someone who celebrates the belief that “anything is possible” and exhibits a “can-do attitude”.

We encourage nominations of family members of people with lived experience.

Eligibility Criteria:

The following criteria apply to all awards:

1. A person cannot nominate themselves, i.e., no self-nomination.
2. All nominees must agree to have their work reviewed by the award selection committee and be available to participate in any associated publicity activities, such as interviews or media coverage.
3. The term “work” applies to the period from approximately January 2025 to June 2026.

4. Nominees can live and/or work outside of Canada. However, their work must impact people with intellectual disabilities and/or their families in Ontario, Canada.
5. Nominees must meet the requirements specific to the award for which they are being nominated.
6. Please note that nominations are being accepted until Monday, June 8, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. EDT.

Changemaker Award Eligibility Criteria

- Individuals, teams, and organizations are eligible to be nominated.
- Nominees must demonstrate a clear impact during the period of January 2025 to June 2026 by raising awareness, promoting action, and advocating for a more inclusive and barrier-free world and have significantly contributed to advancing the rights and opportunities of people with intellectual disabilities.
- Nominee's work should align with the values and mission of CLO.

Inclusive Media Award Eligibility Criteria

- Individuals, teams, and organizations are eligible to be nominated.
- Nominees must demonstrate a clear impact in raising awareness, promoting action, and advocating for a more inclusive and barrier-free world.
- The media must have been published, aired, or released between January 2025 and June 2026.
- The work should be of high quality, including using accurate and respectful language, imagery, and representation of people with intellectual disabilities.

Jason Rae Award Eligibility Criteria

The nominee must be someone who:

- Is a person who identifies as having an intellectual disability.
- Is involved in and contributes to their community.
- Uses leadership skills, both with Community Living and in the community.
- Is active in standing up for people's rights and helping others find their voice.
- Believes in people and the value of everyone being a part of the community.

Noreene Adam Trailblazer Award Eligibility Criteria

- Individuals or groups are eligible to be nominated.
- Nominees must demonstrate a clear impact during the period of January 2025 to June 2026 by fighting for the rights of people with intellectual disabilities, helping them to live fulfilling, independent lives with appropriate support.
- The nominee must have developed or contributed significantly to a solution that has improved accessibility for people with intellectual disabilities.
- The solution could be a product, service, technology, or design that has been implemented and demonstrated success in improving the lives of people with intellectual disabilities.
- The nominator should be able to present evidence demonstrating the impact of their solution, including user feedback, testimonials, or data that highlights the effectiveness of their approach.

To provide context and examples, you may want to read about last year's Inspiring Possibilities Award Recipients:

Discover the recipients of the 2025 Inspiring Possibilities Awards by visiting [this page](#).

How To Nominate:

Nominate a person, team, or organization for one of these awards [The Jason Rae Award is for a person not a group] by filling out and submitting the [nomination form](#) before **Monday June 8, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. EDT**. If you require accommodations or assistance with filling out this form, please contact us at communications@communitylivingontario.ca

Thank you for your interest.

Please only nominate eligible candidates. Unfortunately, nominations that do not meet the stated eligibility requirements cannot be considered.

All nominees and nominators will be notified once nominations have been reviewed, and final decisions have been made.