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Corporation of the Town of Kingsville
Council and Senior Administration
Kingsville

Accessibility Form Workshop at the University of Windsor

The Accessibility Directorate of the Province of Ontario coordinated and is in the process of delivering nine workshops across the Province.

The Presenters this day ranged from a former NHL Hockey player to a former CNIB President, a Professor from Laurentian University, and subject matter experts.

Jim Kyte a Dean from the School of Hospitality and Tourism at Algonquin College was the key note speaker. Legally deaf he outlined not only his 17 years as a professional hockey player but the challenges he experienced in life. In youth with hearing aids it was not unusual for him to experience head clashes that resulted in the blood coming from the ears after impact. He keeps playing and learned to work harder to succeed. By watching the fans, by watching the reflecting movement of others in the glass.

He went on to describe life as:

10% of what happens to you

90% of how you react to it.

In youth, once cut early by a hockey coach, his dad was not concerned by the action of the coach as most might expect. His father's response was clear, "You deserve it". The basic thought pattern was that he was not working hard enough. Only after another player experienced injury and was unable to play, and the coach heard from other players that he did have talent did he can show his talent on the ice once, more.

"Knowledge is power" A theme that Jim Kyte stressed. From his own family challenges in providing support services in a school for his kids. He studied the rules in respect to Special

Education Support services and could show the School Principal the rule that required the support required.

From the CNIB perspective Jim Sanders highlighted the changes that have occurred over the decades. The development of braille to the use of Apple Programs that aid in accessibility. Everyone wishes to be treated with respect.

He went on to tell the story of a court room, No windows, power outage. Total darkness. Judge call for a recess. The blind lawyer responds that "he is ready to proceed"

After lunch Thomas Merritt of Laurentian University commenced with:

"we all want to be treated
With dignity
With respect
And to be included"

"We cannot have social inclusion if we cannot get there"

The entire group gathered was encouraged to support accessible transportation.

Inclusion and Small Communities.

From the North, we learned how working with others resulted in the creation of a five-million-dollar center for boating, rowing, and community use developed for all to use. A design that included all and promoted handicap rowing, boating and even dragon events.

Sports a topic that brings all together.

A tool that can and has been used by other communities to include others.

New Standards

We have two new standards coming in Ontario

1. Health
2. Education

Goal in Canada, for accessibility across the nation.

AMI speaker noted the use of 12,000, or feedback from 12,000 in developing and improving offerings.

Tools: WE note Ontario.ca/accessibility for assistance as we move forward.


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