

Beyond Barriers: The Dreamers' Summit 2026

"The Dreamers' Summit is more than just an event; it's a catalyst for transformation and a space where potential knows no limits. It's about fostering a community where Dreamers feel seen, valued and inspired to chase their ambitions without barriers - knowing that their dreams are truly within reach. By connecting Dreamers with mentors, resources, and each other, we're empowering them to see the possibilities in their lives and equipping them with the tools to turn their potential into purpose. This is where Dreamers become the authors of their own stories, turning aspirations into reality and shaping their own futures"

- Marco & Taylor. Event Co-Chairs



Since 1987, Shine Foundation has transformed the lives of close to 9,000 young people (ages 11-21) living with severe physical disabilities. Shine provides them with a customized **Shine Dream** to inspire them to reach their future goals and develop a sense of purpose that can last a lifetime.

Life-changing Shine Dreams are centered around helping young people see a **future full of possibility** and contribution, personal development, and expanding education and career opportunities while helping combat mental health challenges.

Shine strives to help young people facing unimaginable challenges **discover a world where possibilities shine brighter**, a world in which they stop seeing their disability first.



AYESHA | AGE 13 | CEREBRAL PALSY
PUBLISH HER CHILDREN'S BOOK

 CLOSE TO **9,000** SHINE DREAMS

 **1.1M+** LIVES CHANGED

 **38** YEARS OF IMPACT

The Shine Foundation knows how a positive experience can change the life of a young person with severe physical disabilities because we've seen it first-hand for the past 38 years.

We know that fulfilling our programs are a catalyst for developing confidence, strength, and a positive sense of self. We help young people think differently about their future, **changing their mindset from "I can't" to "I CAN!"**



JADEN | AGE 20 | CEREBRAL PALSY
MUSIC PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT

BEYOND BARRIERS - THE DREAMERS' SUMMIT

Beyond Barriers - The Dreamers' Summit is a motivational and empowering event organized by Shine Foundation to support young people living with severe physical disabilities in achieving their dreams.

The Summit will provide a platform for past and present Dreamers to **connect** with peers, be inspired by **motivational speakers**, and engage with **employers** showcasing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility initiatives. **Post-secondary educational institutions** will be present, offering resources for their academic and career aspirations, and **accessible sport** will be showcased to highlight the power of physical activity.

This event aims to foster a sense of community, inspire hope, and provide tangible pathways for all participants to pursue their goals.

Each Dreamer will leave with a **toolkit** that will be invaluable as a trajectory to their future potential.

A unique feature to the Summit is a **separate Workshop stream for their caregiver** to assist them on this journey. Dreamers will be experiencing their independence during the event while still having the support of a caregiver close by, as they will also be creating their own toolkits separately!

SUMMIT PLANS

DATE: August 3 & 4, 2026

LOCATION: Hotel X, 111 Princes' Blvd, Toronto, ON

GUESTS: 200

Dreamers' past and present, age 14+ and their caregivers

COST: Free for Dreamers and their family member

FEATURED ACTIVITIES:

- 2 days of motivational speakers, workshops, and networking
- Vendors from:
 - Educational institutions
 - DEI & Accessibility-forward employers
 - Accessible sports, clothing, gear, and
 - Technology companies
- Networking meals and evening entertainment
- Separate caregiver workshops



MEET THE CO-CHAIRS



MARCO PASQUA



DREAM 1992: DISNEYLAND

Marco is an award-winning Entrepreneur, Accessibility Consultant and Inspirational Speaker with cerebral palsy. Throughout his life, Marco has been involved with a number of organizations as a spokesperson, helping to spread advocacy for persons with disabilities across Canada.

As an Accessibility and Inclusion Consultant, he has worked with some of BC's biggest change-driven business leaders who are champions for more accessible, inclusive workplaces. It's through these experiences that he is helping to pave the way for all Canadians to have universal access to the programs, services and places that they live, work and play.



TAYLOR LINDSAY-NOEL



DREAM 2013: MEET RYAN SEACREST

Taylor lives with a spinal cord injury as a result of a gymnastics accident. She is the founder and owner of Cup of Té Luxury Loose Leaf Teas, overseeing all aspects of business from product development and marketing to customer relations and strategic growth.

She has dedicated her career to entrepreneurship, advocacy, and public speaking with a focus on accessibility and inclusion – specifically as a TikTok and Instagram influencer on these topics.

Knowing how a Dream shines a light on their potential and creates opportunities for them to make the impact they strive for; we cannot just stop there.

And we cannot do this work alone.

Help turn “I can’t” into “I can” and be a champion for inclusion!

- Empower the next generation
- Foster community and belonging
- Bridge the gap between talent and opportunity
- Champion Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility
- Inspire the workforce of tomorrow
- Showcase the power of sport and active living
- Equip youth and caregivers for success
- Create lasting change

To help close the employment gap by 2040, “Support is needed to help persons with disabilities succeed, improve their financial independence, job satisfaction, and quality of life.”
– Government of Canada’s Employment Strategy. This is where Canadian corporations, individuals, and Shine Foundation can make an impact.

Disability Employment Stats: ([Source](#))

- Only 62% of Canadians with disabilities (ages 25-64) have jobs.
- Some employers see youth with disabilities as unable to work. This makes it harder for students with disabilities to find jobs. They often miss out on early job experiences that teach them the skills that many employers want. Early work experience makes them 20% more likely to have a job 2 years later.

What is Needed? Support.

- Employee skills training for entry and growth, entrepreneurship support, help to find and keep a job, improve financial independence.
- “Youth are often pushed into jobs that seem ‘to fit’ their disability instead of their talents.”
- Accessible housing, transportation, childcare
- Accessible and inclusive workplaces
- Employer education to hire, keep, and advance the careers of people with disabilities



“Together we can build a future where every person in Canada has a fair chance to succeed.”

Proposed Agenda

DAY ONE	DREAMERS	CAREGIVERS
10:00 AM	REGISTRATION OPENS	REGISTRATION OPENS
10:30 AM	NETWORKING	NETWORKING
11:30 AM	WELCOME REMARKS & LUNCH	WELCOME REMARKS & LUNCH
11:45 PM	KEYNOTE SPEAKER	KEYNOTE SPEAKER
1:00 PM	Employer & DEI Panel	Guided Meditation
2:00 PM	BREAK	BREAK
2:30 PM	Workshop #1 – Workforce Readiness & the Entrepreneurial mindset Workshop #2 – Navigating Post Secondary with Accessibility Needs Workshop #3 – Advocate & Influencer...utilizing your voice! Workshop #4 – Accessible Sport & Outdoor activities	Workshop #1 – Protect yourself with PPE for your mind (relieving anxiety & stress for those who keep everyone else healthy and safe)
3:30 PM	ROTATE to 2 nd WORKSHOP	Workshop #2: Silent Victims: Vicarious Trauma (understanding how experiences of other people's trauma can impact you)
4:30 PM	BREAK	BREAK
6:00 PM	"Networking" Dinner *	"Networking" Dinner *
7:00 PM	Entertainment	Entertainment

DAY TWO	DREAMERS	CAREGIVERS
8:00 AM	"Networking" Breakfast	"Networking" Breakfast
9:00 AM	VISIT VENDORS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colleges/Universities Sports Teams/Clubs Outdoor Activity Job Fair Accessible clothing, gear, technology, etc. 	VISIT VENDORS
11:30 PM	"Networking" Lunch	"Networking" Lunch
1:00 PM	Rotate to 3rd Workshop	Workshop #3: How to secure funding AND Wound Care
2:00 PM	BREAK	BREAK
2:30 PM	Rotate to 4 th Workshop	Workshop #4: Having Difficult Conversations (Learn how to approach and handle those difficult conversations related to mental health and wellness)
3:30 PM	CELEBRATION! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closing Remarks Actionable "Next Steps" 	CELEBRATION!

NOTE:

- Dreamer's Workshops will be small sized to encourage maximum participation.
- * "Networking": Dreamers will have the opportunity to choose from the registered participant profiles to facilitate multiple new touchpoints with future connections. It will be switched up at each meal!



SABRINA | AGE 20
SPINAL CORD INJURY
TO RIDE AGAIN WITH A CUSTOM
SADDLE

Why should **YOU** become a sponsor?

Partnering with Shine Foundation is more than a sponsorship, it's a statement of values.

It's a commitment to inclusion, empowerment, and creating a Canada where every young person
—*regardless of physical ability*—
can dream without limits.

As a Shine sponsor, your company will:

Align with a Trusted National Brand

- Shine has a long-standing reputation for integrity, transparency, and life-changing impact.
- Support a mission that resonates with Canadians coast to coast.

Demonstrate Authentic Corporate Social Responsibility

- Show your customers, employees, and stakeholders that your brand stands for accessibility, equity, and hope.
- Join the movement toward more inclusive communities and workplaces.

Reach a Passionate, Engaged Audience

- Connect with thousands of families, donors, volunteers, and disability advocates through events, digital campaigns, and national media.
- Customized recognition opportunities across social, digital, and in-person platforms.

Support Youth with Severe Physical Disabilities

- Help grant life-changing Dreams that promote purpose, belonging, and joy.
- Invest directly in Canada's most underrepresented youth—future leaders, creators, and changemakers.

Leverage Powerful Storytelling

- Gain access to inspiring stories of resilience, talent, and transformation—perfect for internal communications or brand campaigns.
- Many of Shine's Dreamers are influencers, musicians, athletes, artists, and creators—natural storytellers ready to amplify your message with purpose.

Co-Create Meaningful Impact

- Opportunities for employee engagement, custom Dream experiences, and cross-promotional campaigns.

WHY become a Shine Sponsor? 1 in 4 people will experience a disability in their lifetime. The United Nations describes people with disabilities as “the world's largest minority”. This is the one “minority group” that you can possibly join at anytime in your life.

PRESENTING @\$100K

GOLD @\$50K (x4)

- Networking Meals (x3)
- Alumni Program

MENTOR @\$10K (x25)

- Host 4 Alumni with a caregiver

EXHIBITORS @\$3K (x20)

- Post secondary
- IDEA Employers - Job Fair
- Accessible clothing, sport, gear, or technology

SILVER @\$10K (x15)

Option A) Workshops

- Alumni X4
- Caregiver X4

Option B) Function Spaces X4

- Change area
- Calming space
- Wheelchair repair
- CART Services

Option C) Speakers

- Keynote
- DEI & A Panel
- Building your brand

Every partnership is unique, just like the Dreamers who imagine their Dream!

Let's have a conversation to find what suits your goals and vision.

- Exclusive Naming rights
- Tickets to "Evening Celebration"
- Company logo featured on:
 - Website & Community Report
- Speaking Opportunities
 - Main Stage address &/or Mentions
- Access to "In support of Shine" logo use in corporate communications
- Opportunity to provide:
 - Company branded items for all participants
 - On-site company activation
- Collaboration on integrated communications plan to amplify partnership
- Company logo/name featured prominently in media (if applicable)
- Company logo/name featured in Print & Digital
 - Event swag (T-shirt/bags/lanyards/etc.)
 - On-Site Signage
 - Program Ad/Message
 - Welcome Video
 - Social Media Posts
- OTHER Opportunities:
 - Host formal cheque presentations
 - Receive Dreamer video
 - Invitation to a Shine Dream Reveal
 - Volunteer opportunities



MARIA | AGE 20
CEREBRAL PALSY
MEET TRAILER PARK BOYS

Dream big

Tiffany Houston

CEO, Shine Foundation

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Charitable registration number
12995 4822 RR0001



Shine A brighter future
for youth with
disabilities