



BIO – ROGER B JONES

Roger B. Jones, "The Ability Guy," is a recognized expert on disability and diversity issues. In June 1985 Roger became a quadriplegic as a result of a motor vehicle accident in Nova Scotia.

He has spoken and consulted, nationally and internationally. Throughout his career, Roger has been a great supporter of Individualized Funding and Self-determination and a Consultant on Accessible and Inclusive Cities. For several years Roger sat on the board of the Vancouver/Los Angeles Sister Cities initiative and is CEO of World Accessibility.

In 1999, Roger established the Susan Marshall Fighting Spirit Award for spinal cord injury survivors. He facilitated award winning diversity seminars for the federal government and helped create an Employment Equity disability committee at Canada Revenue Agency. Roger was the Regional Coordinator for the inaugural Rick Hansen Wheels in Motion, which raised millions of dollars for research and quality of life projects. During the 2010 Olympics and Paralympics, he facilitated community meetings with the organizing committee that led to employment for persons with disabilities during the games. Roger has motivated thousands of youth across Canada with the program Above and Beyond and promoted dialogue on citizenship through his work with Philia. In 2011 Roger was a member of the negotiating team that secured millions of dollars in funding for BC employers with disabilities. He was appointed to the Federal Minister's Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation and sat on the Board of Governors at Douglas College. Roger has been an Advisor to the University of Calgary and Douglas College Disability Studies programs and assessed the Strategy for the Coordination of Disability Issues for the BC government. He is currently an associate with the Disability Business Forum in the UK and an advisor to the Neil Squire Foundation.

Active in the African-Canadian community, Roger has been the Keynote speaker at Black History Month, Associate Producer of The Afro News and is a founder and past chair of the Black Cultural Association of BC. Roger was also a founder of the BC Black Action Coalition and is proud to have been one of the first people listed in Who's Who in Black Canada. Roger had the pleasure of assisting with the recent autobiography, "Burnley Rocky Jones, Revolutionary".

A consummate entrepreneur, Roger has been involved in numerous business ventures, including the development of pioneering digital interfaces and video technologies.

Roger has made many media appearances, was the catalyst for the international award-winning documentary, Access Challenge, and is featured in the Seattle production "Discovering the Power in Me". He is a Competent Toastmaster and former member of the Canadian Professional Speakers Association.