



## 28<sup>th</sup> Evening in the Maritimes continues fundraising success for ABLE2

**(Ottawa, ON) Friday, May 3, 2024** ...The moment guests arrived at the 28<sup>th</sup> edition of Evening in the Maritimes, they were ushered into a complete East Coast experience. From a roving fiddler playing sea shanties to taking pictures at the SHELL-fie station with ‘Larry the Lobster’ mascot, to the delicious meals served by the culinary team of The Westin Ottawa, it was a unique event.

Evening in the Maritimes, which took place on May 1<sup>st</sup>, once again brought together over 550 members of the business, political, and media sectors, along with community leaders, to raise funds for [ABLE2: Support for People with Disabilities](#).

A special moment of the evening was the recognition of the founder of ABLE2, David Hall, who fifty years ago established ABLE2 with the vision to empower people with disabilities in Ottawa to build lives of meaning and joy. As the Honorary Chair for the evening, Michael Lifshitz reflected that reducing isolation for people with disabilities is a crucial goal. “Trying to navigate a world that often doesn't take accessibility and inclusion into account can be truly challenging and take a toll on people's self worth and mental health. This is why I believe it is so important to support ABLE2 in its mission, as their programs work to remove these barriers so everyone can live their life to the fullest of their abilities.”

Over the years this fun-filled night has raised funds to support people with disabilities in the Ottawa area. All the money raised goes directly to ABLE2 programs and services. The 2024 edition saw over \$375,000 in revenue raised.

CTV Ottawa’s Graham Richardson emceed the evening, known as the event where **Good Food** meets a **Good Time** for a **Great Cause**. Auctioneer Ryan Watson from Raising the Bid, engaged the guests to bid on a number of travel and dining experiences from across Canada. The live auction alone raised \$46,000 this year.

The event is planned by members of the local community working alongside ABLE2 staff and the event producer, iSPARK Consulting.

## About ABLE2

ABLE2 is a charitable, non-profit organization in Ottawa with programs and services that empower persons of all ages across the disability spectrum and their families, to build lives of meaning and joy as valued members of our community.

Supporters of ABLE2 help to provide growth and development, facilitate independence, reduce barriers and vulnerability, and improve mental and physical health for persons living with disabilities in the Ottawa community.

It began as Citizen Advocacy Ottawa in 1974, and it rebranded as ABLE2 in 2020 and celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2024.

It has been instrumental in ensuring that **every person, regardless of ability, is seen as able, important, and valued** and has opportunities to live a fulfilling life.

ABLE2 has **supported over 2,000 people** with disabilities annually by providing direct-impact programming and services to facilitate growth, development and independence, reduce vulnerability, build skills and remove barriers. In Ottawa, **more than 300 people volunteer** their time and skills with ABLE2, contributing an average of 36,000 hours yearly.

## Resources

**Photo Gallery from 2024 event** – web resolution photographs. High Resolution photographs can be supplied upon request.

## Contacts

Barb MacDonald, Media & Communications Consultant  
[iSPARK Consulting](#)  
[barbmacd21@gmail.com](mailto:barbmacd21@gmail.com)  
(M) 613-894-1769

Nancy Oakley  
Director of Development and Community Engagement, ABLE2  
[noakley@able2.org](mailto:noakley@able2.org)  
(T) 613-513-7799