



MEDIA RELEASE

May 30, 2025

29th Edition of Evening in the Maritimes raises \$300,000 for ABLE2

(Ottawa, ON) — The 29th edition of Evening in the Maritimes (EiTM) welcomed over 500 business, political, and media leaders, and dedicated community supporters, for a night of East Coast charm, all in support of [ABLE2: Support for People with Disabilities](#). Held on May 29, 2025, at The Westin Ottawa, EiTM 2025 raised \$300,000, ensuring that ABLE2 can continue providing life-changing programs and services for people with disabilities in Ottawa.

Guests were immersed in a true East Coast kitchen party, with a roving fiddler playing sea shanties, pictures at the SHELL-fie station with our 'Larry the Lobster' fan favourite mascot, a live painting made by Sam Woj - an artist with a disability, the fresh Nova Scotia lobster and delectable meals served by the culinary team of The Westin Ottawa, and an energetic live auction led by Ryan Watson of Raising the Bid, which alone raised over \$37,000 in high-stakes bidding.

CTV Ottawa's Patricia Boal joined the EiTM ship this year as Master of Ceremonies, keeping the guests engaged for an unforgettable night of good food, good time for a great cause. The special moment of the evening was the heartfelt interview with Mark Evraire, ABLE2 program user, and his volunteer Ally, Daniel Spagnuolo, who shared about how ABLE2's Matching Program has made a difference in their lives. The interview reinforced the event's core message: everyone deserves the opportunity to live a life of meaning and joy.

Gracing the event as ABLE2's newest ambassador was Ottawa Charge's standout athlete, Stephanie Markowski, who attended with her family. Markowski generously donated the 'Ottawa Charge Super Fan Package' for the silent auction, one of the most sought-after prizes among the 100 up for bidding. "I'm excited to be a part of ABLE2 and contributing what I can to expanding their reach and capacity to support more people with disabilities in our community," said Markowski.

Ending the evening on a high note, the RBC Foundation announced its \$20,000 donation to ABLE2, under their 'Ideas for People and Planet' initiative. Danielle Demark, Investment Advisor of RBC Wealth Management and EiTM Event Chair, recognized ABLE2 for its work to drive inclusive opportunities for prosperity and help people build financial confidence. The donation will support ABLE2 in delivering its programs to empower people with disabilities to build essential financial skills, equipping them with the knowledge and confidence to take greater control of their financial future.

For nearly three decades, Evening in the Maritimes has raised crucial funds to support ABLE2's mission of empowering people with disabilities in Ottawa. The event is planned by ABLE2's dedicated volunteers working alongside ABLE2 staff and the expert coordination of iSPARK Consulting.

- 30 -

About ABLE2

ABLE2 is a charitable 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.

Established in 1974 as Citizen Advocacy Ottawa, the organization rebranded as ABLE2 in 2020, to better reflect its evolving mission and broader scope of work. In 2024, ABLE2 celebrated its 50th anniversary.

ABLE2's programs and services have been vital 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 more than 250,00 people with disabilities and families** by providing direct-impact programming and services to facilitate growth, development and independence, reduce vulnerability, build skills and remove barriers. In Ottawa, **more than 500 people volunteer** their time and skills with ABLE2, contributing an average of 16,000 hours yearly.

Resources

[Early Release web resolution photographs](#). High-resolution photographs can be supplied upon request.

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