



For immediate release

**Together We Rock! founder John Draper receives
David C. Onley Leadership in Accessibility Role Model Award**

Oshawa, May 25, 2017 – John Draper, founder of Together We Rock!, today received this year's David C. Onley Leadership in Accessibility Role Model Award. Her Honour the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, presented the award at a ceremony at Queen's Park, alongside the Honourable David C. Onley.

The annual award – named for Ontario's 28th Lieutenant Governor – recognizes individuals and organizations that have gone above and beyond to raise awareness about accessibility and to nurture a culture of inclusion across the province.

John Draper is the founder of the socially responsible business Together We Rock!, whose mission is to inspire learning and champion leadership to create accessible and inclusive communities. As a motivational presenter, Draper uses humour to encourage his audiences to take one step to make a difference in creating a world where everyone belongs. Diagnosed with cerebral palsy at birth, Draper is physically disabled and non-verbal. He uses a motorized wheelchair to manoeuvre, and conveys his messages through the use of a communication board and assistive computer technology.

John Draper is a graduate of the Journalism Program at Durham College. For his efforts to promote accessibility and inclusion, he was named a Durham College Alumnus of Distinction in 2007.

Draper gives freely of his time and talents to inspire learning. Since 2006, he has been an Alumni Guest Presenter for Durham College. He has also served as a member of the TD Financial Services Accessibility Advisory Group.

"I am humbled to receive this award today," said Draper. "I want to share this honour with all the corporate leaders, organizations, professionals, educators, students and community members who have embraced my message and taken one step to create a more accessible and inclusive world. You are the source of my inspiration."

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For more information, contact:
Together We Rock!
Email: info@togetherwerock.com
Telephone: (905) 404-9569