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It is with sincere gratitude that the Canadian Paraplegic Association (Alberta) acknowledges this year's Gala Sponsor, James H. Brown and Associates. James H. Brown and members of his team have supported the work of the association and our clients for many years. The level of support from the firm continues to grow each year with both much needed funds for our programs and volunteer participation of the Associates, particularly from James Brown himself.

Please join us in thanking James H. Brown & Associates Alberta Injury Lawyers for its flagship support of the Canadian Paraplegic Association (Alberta).



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Red Carpet Affair 2009

Recognizing those who have made a difference

by Marc Quinn

"Best ever" and "incredible experience" are two of the accolades the CPA (Alberta) received from attendees at the 2009 Red Carpet Affair in Edmonton, sponsored by James H. Brown & Associates. This year's guest speaker, Chantal Petitclerc, delivered an engaging account of her life experience starting with her injury at the age of 12, her initial interest in disabled sports, her first Paralympic experience in Barcelona and finally her triumphant return from Beijing last September with 5 gold medals. Following her talk, Honourary Patron Marie Stelmach thanked Chantal and presented her with the 2009 Christopher Reeve Award.

Chantal's visit to Edmonton was a homecoming of sorts. As a former student of the University of Alberta, Chantal trained under Peter Eriksson, who remained her coach right up to the Beijing games. Many of her friends and colleagues in Alberta were on the scene to greet her at the Red Carpet Affair. This included Dr. Gary McPherson and Dr. Robert Steadward, who were also Honourary Co-Chairs for this year's Red Carpet Affair.

Members of the Patrons' Council for this year's gala welcomed guests who were treated to a sparkling wine reception, dinner and a selection of wines from Italy, Australia and New Zealand. The prize draw, live and silent auctions caused quite a bit of excitement

throughout the evening. Many thanks for the live auction donations from WestJet, Edmonton Police Services, Harold Smith Travel, Sabor Divino and Edmonton Firefighters, as well as many other companies and individuals.

While the evening's official theme was "We Can Fly," which is also the name of CPA (Alberta)'s new music video produced by CPA (Alberta) staff Marilyn Rose and Russ Bray, another theme that popped up was "family," especially among our award winners. Lifetime Achievement Award winner Eric Boyd, Honourable Lois Hole Community Development Award winner Iris Saunders, and Percy Wickman Accessibility Award winners Robert Lidgett and Alana Hoefer were all surrounded by close family members. The late Percy Wickman was honoured by the attendance of the Wickman family, including Ceira Wickman, who presented the award named in honour of her grandfather. This year's Corporate Leadership Award went to James H. Brown & Associates, making 2009 the second year James H. Brown & Associates has received this award (this company first received the Corporate Leadership Award in 2003).

CPA (Alberta) would like to thank all those individuals and businesses who sponsored individuals with disabilities who would not otherwise have been able to attend this event. ☺

*Wow, what a beautiful event, more important, was to all the people involved in providing was such a lovely time and look forward to 2010... This event is the high-light of our lives each year. Thank you!
Sincerely, Wayne & Jean Simpson*

To express appreciation and to thank you for your thoughtfulness

Thank you, Everyone, who was responsible for allowing me to be part of the wonderful Red Carpet Affair.



Mrs. Marie Stelmach with guest speaker, Chantal Petitclerc