

Monthly Newsletter

CONNECT4LIFE

February 2025



This Month in Advocacy: Empowering Voters and Shaping the Future



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A Message From Our Executive Director

Hello, my dear readers,

I'm Mark Brown, the Executive Director of Connect4Life. Many of you may already know that a provincial election has been called for February 27. As we approach this important date, we at Connect4Life would like to take a moment to reflect on the significance of voting and the incredible power of having our voices heard.

Voting is one of the most fundamental rights we hold as citizens. It's not just about casting a ballot—it's about standing up for what we believe in, shaping the future of our communities, and ensuring that our values are represented. Each vote has the power to make a difference, and every voice is important in this democratic process.

We encourage everyone who is eligible to vote to take part in this election with confidence and pride. Your vote is not only a personal decision—it's a collective action that shapes the world around us. Let's make sure our voices are heard, now more than ever.

Thank you for your continued dedication to making our community stronger, and for standing with us at Connect4Life. Together, we can make a real difference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Executive Director
Connect4Life

Connect4Life: The Podcast - It's about people connecting and sharing human stories

Not yet three full months in operation, Connect 4 Life: The Podcast, launched November 27, 2024, has already achieved more than we could have hoped.

Sixteen episodes have been produced and published, with audiences enjoying our stories mainly in Canada, the US, Japan and South Africa. We are also very happy to learn that the program attracts a fairly even gender balance of women and men enjoying our program (which is a bit of an achievement in itself).

Our newest feature in the program is something we call "A Melanie Minute". Personified after Connect 4 Life's founder, Melanie Taddeo, "A Melanie Minute" is a shorter, bite-size segment that which is much like an audio blog.

This is only the beginning. There are many more innovations and features that we'll be incorporating into our program as we grow. Most importantly, listeners will soon be able to fully engage with us, directly through an episode, offering feedback, suggestions and even partnership ideas.

While the listener growth and program reach are key to our operating plan, Melanie reminds us of one of the most important reasons anyone listens to a podcast: to be inspired and to learn something new.

"I think one of the compelling features of our podcast, unique to the world of charities, is found in the human stories we tell," Melanie explains. "And the more we can share these stories, and the joys and challenges of living with a disability, the more we further the goals, objectives and mission not only of Connect 4 Life, but for the benefit of people with disabilities anywhere around the world."

Connect 4 Life: The Podcast is available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Amazon Music, IHeart Radio, TuneIn and pretty much wherever listeners enjoy their favourite podcasts.

A New Program At Connect4Life

Voting is a fundamental right for all individuals, including those with disabilities. Ensuring that people with disabilities can exercise this right is crucial for fostering an inclusive democracy where every voice is heard. Voting empowers individuals to shape decisions that impact their lives, from healthcare to education and employment policies.

However, many individuals with disabilities still face significant barriers in the electoral process, such as limited access to polling places, challenges understanding the voting process, or insufficient accommodations. By educating individuals with disabilities about their voting rights and providing guidance on accessing the necessary support, we can work to remove these obstacles.

Connect4Life has already launched a program designed to empower voters with disabilities. This initiative, introduced in February 2025, provides valuable resources and assistance to ensure people with disabilities are informed, supported, and able to participate fully in the democratic process. Through this program, we are promoting inclusion and guaranteeing that everyone, regardless of ability, has an equal opportunity to make their voice heard at the polls.



Did you know that, if we combine the total number of people with disabilities in Canada with the total number of older Canadians who require mobility, vision or hearing accommodations, we probably have the single largest voting bloc in the country.

Voting Day for the Ontario Provincial Election

Voting Day for the Ontario Provincial Election on
February 27: Vote - Your Voice Counts

**February 27
is election day.**

Are you ready to
mark your X?




 **Elections
Ontario**

Connect 4 Life: Expanding from Canada to South Africa

Connect 4 Life is a registered Canadian charity, making a significant impact both locally and globally. With its roots firmly planted in Canada, the organization is now expanding its reach to South Africa, bringing its vital services and support to even more communities. This expansion highlights Connect 4 Life's growing influence and commitment to making a difference on an international scale, all while staying true to its Canadian foundation.





This newsletter is available as a Word document and PDF on our website, as well as an audio version which is produced for our podcast.

Let us know if we can enhance our accessibility options even more.



Mission and Vision

Mission

To enhance the potential of individuals with disabilities by strengthening their independence and contributions to society; and to promote positive social change by transforming public perception.

Vision

Eliminating barriers for people with disabilities in our community.

Thank you for reading!

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