

For Immediate Release  
Niagara Falls Honours Accessibility Champion  
Niagara Falls – December 9, 2015

To celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of AODA (Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act) Niagara Falls' resident, Brian Kon, was honoured as "Champion" by The Government of Ontario and the Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario.

This Award will be granted one time only as part of the anniversary celebration to recognize individuals who demonstrate leadership in accessibility and disability issues.

On Tuesday, December 8th, 2015, the City of Niagara Falls honoured Brian Kon as its AODA Champion for his outstanding commitment to promoting awareness of accessibility issues and inclusivity in Niagara and beyond.

In his presentation during Tuesday's City Council meeting, Dean Iorfida, City Clerk, stated that, "For the past 10 years there has not been an accessibility feature of this City that hasn't had Brian's fingerprint on it. From the Scotia Bank Convention Centre to the Lundy's Lane History Museum, to the Gale Centre and MacBain Centre (they) all bear Brian's expertise in accessible design."

Brian was humbled to be named "Champion". "The real Champions are those individuals in our community who, in the face of many barriers, live full, productive and joyful lives. Those are the people who must be celebrated for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AODA." he said.

Brian has dedicated his career to helping create a barrier-free world. In 1995 he established Sterling Frazer Associates as a consulting firm that promotes accessibility through sensitivity and awareness training and barrier-free environment consultation. In 2005, Brian was selected to work with the Province in writing the Customer Service standard, which is the first of five standards under the AODA legislation to be enacted. In addition to working with organizations locally and internationally, Brian works extensively with the US government in evaluating the creation of new assistive technologies for people with disabilities, and reviewing centres of excellence that research products and services that impact people with disabilities.

Brian has proven his commitment to community and marginalized individuals. In addition to his role on the Niagara Falls Mayor's Accessibility Advisory Committee, and the Niagara Regional Accessibility Advisory Committee, he volunteers as Chair of the Niagara Falls Community Health Centre; Board Member of Heartland Forest Accessible Nature Experience; Board Member and Past-President of the Rotary Club of Niagara Falls Sunrise; and is a Niagara Regional Councillor for the Metis Nation of Ontario where he sits on the Aboriginal Education Council for both the District School Board of Niagara and Niagara Catholic School Board.

For more information, contact:  
Sterling Frazer Associates  
905-704-9806  
info@sterlingfrazer.com