



DIRECTING YOUR SERVICE WORKSHOP

PRESENTER: LEW BOLES

PACE Client and former Board Member



Lew Boles is a high-level quadriplegic, who came to Toronto in 1967 for rehabilitation after a spinal cord injury during a football game. Over 50 years, Lew has contributed to and participated in numerous changes and transitions within the rehabilitation, health institution and independent living communities, both as a consumer and an advocate

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from the University of Toronto and is now retired after being employed by global IT corporations where he worked in various capacities.

Lew has served on a variety of boards and committees within the healthcare and independent living communities in several roles, including vice chair, chair and president.

After waiting 30 years as a patient in a chronic care hospital, Lew was finally accepted by an Attendant Services provider, enabling him to live independently in his own apartment. By his own report, Lew's health has improved since being out of the hospital. His quality of life has also improved tremendously. But also, so has his outlook for the future. Lew has described the change in terms of becoming more of a contributing member to society. He has learned that change can empower and should be embraced as an opportunity to grow.

A recipient of the Courage to Come Back award for his contributions to the community, Lew believes that it is important to help others utilize their potential and realize their dreams. As a Peer Support Volunteer at Lyndhurst Rehabilitation Centre, he encourages and supports people with spinal chord injuries after they experience life-altering physical trauma.

Lew's interests include improving barrier free access to healthcare, creating opportunities for people with disabilities and enjoying the experience of accessible sailing.
