



## ***Connect 4 Life Expands to Offer Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Training***

It gives me great pleasure to announce my latest initiative, *Gaining Vision 2020*.

We've had 10 beautiful years empowering individuals with disabilities in our community and, in the process, solidifying a supportive network of clients, volunteers and community partners.

It's been an absolute pleasure to see the positive change we have made together, and I am excited to see that grow with *Gaining Vision 2020*, a global initiative that will assist businesses in realizing the significance, advantages, and values of employing persons with disabilities.

In particular, I would like to thank *Connect 4 Life* Chairman of the Board, Mark Brown, and *Voices 4 Ability* Station Manager, Sean Pickard, for the invaluable role they've both played growing our charity and, more recently, supporting the launch of *Gaining Vision 2020*.

While I will assist in running *Connect 4 Life* programs when needed, my primary focus will be working in the community to build corporate relationships with the primary goal of expanding *Gaining Vision 2020* across Ontario.

With that, Mark Brown will assume the role of *Connect 4 Life* Executive Director as of May 1st, 2023, and manage all day-to-day responsibilities, with the support of Sean Pickard.

Mark is no stranger to the *Connect 4 Life* community. He graduated from *Connect 4 Life's* very first *An Accessible Voice in Broadcasting* course in 2015 before joining the charity's board as Fundraising Director in 2016, and Chairman of the Board in 2018. Mark has helped facilitate *Connect 4 Life* programming including *Connect 4 Wellness* and *Introduction to Public Speaking*. As an individual with a disability, he brings lived experience and passion to his roles and is an inspiration to our *Connect 4 Life* clients and partners.

As Station Manager, Sean Pickard will continue to lead *Voices 4 Ability* while also supporting Mark and *Connect 4 Life*, alongside the Board of Directors. Sean graduated from the *An Accessible Voice in Broadcasting* course in 2018 and has served the community as *Voices 4 Ability* Station Manager ever since, growing the station, equipping *Voices 4 Ability* with the latest accessible technology, co-facilitating the broadcasting program and empowering individuals with disabilities, giving them the confidence to pursue their passions.

Thank-you to everybody who has helped me on my journey to make my dream come true - starting *Connect 4 Life* - and I look forward to the further opportunities *Gaining Vision 2020* will offer individuals with disabilities.

Mark and Sean will transition into their new roles through the summer, collaborating with me and the *Connect 4 Life* board and volunteers to build out our Fall 2023 programs.

For all Connect 4 Life inquiries, please contact:

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