

Biography

John Draper

John Draper believes in the possible. He believes that citizens can be inspired to effect change to create communities that are accessible for and inclusive of people with disabilities.

John Draper graduated with a Journalism Diploma from Durham College in June 2005. In addition to his educational background, John has enhanced his journalism and communications skills through work experience gained as a communications intern with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, the Innovation Centre at Durham College and the *Oshawa This Week* community newspaper. During his post-secondary career, John was the recipient of the Joublin Scholarship from the Toronto Community Foundation and the Words+ Scholarship from the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC).

In recognition of his efforts to promote inclusion and accessibility, John is the recipient of the Accessibility Advocate Award from Durham College and the Glenn Crombie Memorial Award from the Ontario College Committee on Disability Issues. In 2005, John received the Lisa Christine Evans Memorial Scholastic Achievement Award (U.S.) in honour of his "altruistic efforts to enlighten minds and enhance the future of education." In 2007, his alma mater Durham College honoured John with the Alumni of Distinction Award.

John is a member of the Canadian Association of Journalists and the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication. As a volunteer, John has served on the Canadian Committee for the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child of the Canadian Institute of Child Health and is currently a member of the Accessibility Advisory Committee of a national financial institution. As a writer, John has contributed articles to several newspapers and other publications.