



Joel Dembe

Joel Dembe is a Paralympian, public speaker and global advocate for accessibility and inclusion. He was Canada's top-ranked wheelchair tennis player, winning over 30 international singles and doubles titles. Internationally, he has been ranked as high as #29. In 2012, he represented Canada at the London Paralympics.

Joel won Canada's first international medal in wheelchair tennis at the 2015 Toronto Pan-American Games. After retiring from competition, he obtained his Tennis Canada national coaching certification, becoming part of a select group of wheelchair-users to net this designation.

In addition to his pursuits on the tennis court, Joel is an accessibility advisor, public relations consultant and speaker, highlighting how organizations can become even more inclusive. In 2017, Joel delivered a highly rated TED talk on independence and inclusion for people with disabilities. He's also Co-Chair of RBC REACH, Royal Bank of Canada's

advisory group for clients and employees with disabilities.

Joel is a frequent media contributor, appearing on CBC's The National and Metro Morning, CTV News, Global National News and most recently on Peter Mansbridge's podcast, The Bridge Daily. He's also been featured in the Canadian Press, Globe and Mail, Toronto Star and Toronto Sun. He was a senior contributor for CBC's coverage of the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Paralympic Games.

He serves as a Chair of the Patron's Council for the Canadian Abilities Foundation and writes a regular column in its magazine, Abilities, serving a cross-disability network from youth to seniors, advocating for accommodation, diversity and inclusion.