



Tuesday, November 23, 2004

ARPA Recognizes Karen Robinson of Edmonton for Outstanding Contributions to Recreation and Parks in Alberta

(Edmonton, AB) The Alberta Recreation and Parks Association takes great pride in recognizing Karen Robinson with the 2004 AABRD Graduate Scholarship Award! This outstanding individual has made amazing contributions to improving the quality of life of Albertans through recreation and parks services.

As a graduate from the Bachelor of Arts in Kinesiology and Physical Education program at Laurier University, Karen has an outstanding record of academic success and practical experiences in working with people with disabilities. Her time spent working and volunteering for various disability organizations including a position with the Ontario March of Dimes, coupled with strong leadership skills and research experiences gained from completing her undergraduate honours thesis helped shape the current path Karen is pursuing.

Nearly two years ago, she committed to furthering her knowledge and professional experience when she enrolled in a Masters Degree program at the University of Alberta, specializing in Adapted Physical Activity. Since that time, she has involved herself with numerous research projects at the University; acted as a physical activity leader for two University-based programs tailored for children with disabilities; worked as a primary instructor for two movement activity courses - one at the University of Alberta and the other at King's University College; worked as a personal ABA therapist for a young boy with autism; spent six weeks in Ghana, Africa as a researcher with Right to Play; and acted as the temporary Executive Director for SportAbility Alberta while a colleague was en route to the Paralympics. She managed all of these accomplishments while balancing a demanding graduate-level university schedule and made leaps in progress toward completing her Master's thesis. She expects to defend her degree just in time for Christmas this year.

Karen's future plans to begin a Ph.D. program in Adapted Physical Activity will be kick-started this weekend as she showcases her Master's work at the North American Adapted Physical Activity conference in Thunder Bay, Ontario – yet another important stepping stone en route to enhancing her repertoire of personal and professional experiences.

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