

Trail Breaker Award 2005



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The Board of Directors of AARC has established an award to recognize individuals who are making a difference, which will affect all of us in the work we do and the people we support.

The Trail Breaker Award received its name because recipients are breaking new ground for us in our journeys of creating new opportunities for people with disabilities.

The symbol snowshoes was chosen because snowshoes allow for a new path without falling through the snow. Snowshoes can take you places where other footwear cannot go. They make a trail for others to safely follow.

Ed Riediger and Alex Hillyard in their leadership of the Workforce 2010 Initiative have demonstrated through action and personal commitment what it takes to be a leader. They have lead us in creating a shared vision, engaging people to embrace the vision and connecting people to each other.

The long-standing issues experience by the workforce that support adults and children with disabilities are complex and pervasive. A solution requires co-ordinated, sustained and comprehensive action. Ed and Alex both have the courage to stand up and say they will take on this challenge. Under their leadership, Families, Community Service Providers, Educators, the PDD Community Governance System and Ministries of Government have been mobilized to move on a shared vision.

The vision is starting to emerge. You can feel the beginning of hope and potential for the future. People are talking, new ideas are emerging, and action on a number of fronts is taking shape.

The Board of AARC is most pleased to honour and celebrate the leadership of Ed Riediger and Alex Hillyard. Your trail breaking is clearly having an impact and we thank you for sharing your gift of leadership with all of us.

Congratulations and thank you Ed and Alex.



Dr. Alex Hillyard
Chief Executive Officer
Calgary PDD

Dr. Hillyard has worked in the human services field for more than 25 years, with the last seven years as CEO for the Northeast Community Board for Persons with Developmental Disabilities. He holds a Masters of Educational Psychology degree from the University of Saskatchewan and a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of Alberta.

During his career, Dr. Hillyard has worked on the front lines and in executive management positions. With the Northeast Board, he has worked tirelessly in developing community-based employment initiatives and on building the capacity of communities to include individuals with developmental disabilities. In addition to this work, Dr. Hillyard has led many provincial initiatives and is currently co-chair of the Workforce 2010 ARRC initiative to address the issue of ensuring a strong, viable workforce in the community rehabilitation sector.



Edwin P. Riediger
Chief Executive Officer
Robin Hood Association

Ed Riediger served the Robin Hood Association since 1975 as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

In addition to his work with Robin Hood, Ed is currently serving as the Secretary for the Edmonton Region Council of Service Providers and as a Co-Chair for the Workforce 2010 project. Ed was a member of Hon. Iris Evans' Ministerial Advisory Committee on the "Family Support for Children with Disabilities Act". He was honoured to serve as the Chair of the Provincial Stakeholders Advisory Committee overseeing the implementation of this Act. His passion and commitment towards enhancing the lives of people with developmental disabilities is truly second to none.

Ed has a Bachelors Degree in Psychology, a Masters degree in Special Education and a Teaching Diploma. He has received numerous awards and commendations for his work in community rehabilitation.