

TLN 10 most influential Hispanic Canadians 2022

Top Global Affairs Canada official offered keynote speech

Trade show & conference for immigrants announced for the Spring

Toronto, December 9, 2022 – TLN 10 most influential Hispanic Canadians were announced last night. The Hon. Patricia Peña, Assistant Deputy Minister in the Partnerships for Development Innovation branch at Global Affairs Canada, provided keynote remarks. The organizers also announced a conference and mini trade show for immigrants this coming Spring. The program is presented by TLN Media Group and was sponsored by ILAC Education Group, Copa Airlines, and Omega Trading Cargo. It is run by the Canadian Hispanic Business Alliance, this year in cooperation with the Canadian Hispanic Congress. Bios and picture follow, by first name they are:

- Dr. Aline Tezcucano (Mex/MB): Food Safety Regulatory Specialist, Government of Manitoba
 - Carolina Ordonez (Bol/BC): VP of Corporate Affairs, New Pacific Metals
 - Gustavo Gimeno (Spa/ON): Music director, Toronto Symphony Orchestra.
 - Jorge Peral (Mex/ON): Artistic director, Canadian Bank Note
 - Hon. Lilly Nicholls (Chi/ON): Canada's High Commissioner in Bangladesh
 - Luis Horacio Najera (Mex/ON): Criminology reporter and autor
 - Dr. Mauricio Garcia-Barrera (Col/BC): Neuropsychological assessment expert, U. Victoria
 - Miryam Lazarte (Col/ON): CEO, LatAm startups
 - Rosario Astuvilca-Rojas (Per/ON): CEO, Inclusive Mining
 - Viviana Santibañez (Mex/ON): LGBTQI community leader
- * Brian Marcos Chaupiz was recognized for artistic achievements despite learning barriers.

Omega Trading Cargo, a shipping leader specialized in relocation services to Latin America, is proud to support these awards program, said Romy Gonzalez, operations director. Congratulations to all winners and nominees. They represent who we are: Canada's creative class, said Monique Forster, President of the Canadian Hispanic Congress.

Everyone is invited to join and partner for our conference and mini trade show for immigrants this coming Spring, noted Mauricio Ospina. There will be speaking opportunities and promotion for 20 providers of goods and services such as immigration, real estate, education, accounting, tourism, law, business development, retail, and anything in between, he added.

TLN 10 most influential Hispanic Canadians boasts 140 awardees from 18 countries in 6 provinces. The program has been personally recognized by the Secretary General of the Organization of American States, Prime and Cabinet Ministers, and the Parliament of Canada – among others. The program raised the profile and secured \$230,000 in scholarships for the community and locked in business and housing opportunities during the 2015 Pan American Games.

More information at www.HispanicBusiness.ca

With thanks to

TLN Media Group is Canada's most influential multicultural media company connecting cultures on television, online and in communities through storytelling and shared experiences. www.tln.ca

ILAC is one of the most awarded language schools in the world, now with select programs offered by Georgian College and Fanshawe College at ILAC Toronto. www.ilac.com

Copa Airlines currently operates an average of 300 daily flights through the Hub of the Americas, connecting 76 cities in 32 countries throughout the continent. www.copaair.com

Omega Trading Cargo, international freight forwarder specialized in shipping cargo to Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe and Far East with agents 32+ countries. www.omegatradingcargo.com

PICTURE (L-R)



- Aldo Di Felice, TLN
- Hon. Patricia Pena, GAC
- Camila Gonzalez, emcee
- Laura Marin, Copa Airlines (sponsor)
- Romy Gonzalez, Omega Trading Cargo (sponsor)
 - Dr. Aline Tezcucano
 - Carolina Ordonez
 - Maureen Lewis (for Gustavo Gimeno)
 - Daniel Martinez (for Jorge Peral)
 - Luis Horacio Najera
 - Brian Marcos Chaupiz
 - Dr. Mauricio Garcia-Barrera
 - Myriam Lazarte
 - Rosario Astuvilca
 - Viviana Santibanez
 - Linda Hernandez Deslauriers (for Hon. Lilly Nicholls)
- Eldy Ampuero, emcee
- Ilan Cohen, ILAC
- Jonathan Kolber, ILAC (left, holding the sign)
- Mauricio Ospina, CHBA (right, holding the sign)

Los 10 hispanos de mayor influencia de Canadá de TLN

Alta funcionaria de Asuntos Globales de Canadá ofreció discurso Anuncian feria comercial y conferencia para inmigrantes en la primavera

Toronto, 9 de noviembre, 2022 - Los 10 hispanos canadienses más influyentes de TLN fueron anunciados anoche. La Honorable Patricia Peña, viceministra Adjunta de la sección de Alianzas para el Desarrollo de Innovación en Asuntos Globales de Canadá, ofreció el discurso principal. Los organizadores también revelaron una miniferia comercial para inmigrantes la próxima primavera. El programa es presentado por TLN Media Group y fue patrocinado por ILAC Education Group, Copa Airlines y Omega Trading Cargo. Está dirigido por la Canadian Hispanic Business Alliance, este año en alianza con el Canadian Hispanic Congress. Los perfiles completos de los premiados están en la página 3, por nombre son:

- Dr. Aline Tezcucano (Mex/MB): Especialista en seguridad alimentaria, Gobierno de Manitoba
 - Carolina Ordonez (Bol/BC): VP de asuntos corporativos, New Pacific Metals
 - Gustavo Gimeno (Spa/ON): Director musical, Toronto Symphony Orchestra.
 - Jorge Peral (Mex/ON): Director artístico, Canadian Bank Note
 - Hon. Lilly Nicholls (Chi/ON): Alta Comisionada de Canadá en Bangladesh
 - Luis Horacio Najera (Mex/ON): Reportero de criminología y autor
 - Dr. Mauricio Garcia-Barrera (Col/BC): Experto en neuropsicología, U. Victoria
 - Miryam Lazarte (Col/ON): CEO, LatAm startups
 - Rosario Astuvilca-Rojas (Per/ON): CEO, Inclusive Mining
 - Viviana Santibañez (Mex/ON): Líder comunitaria de LGBTQI
- * Brian Marcos Chaupiz fue reconocido por logros artísticos a pesar de barreras de aprendizaje.

Omega Trading Cargo, líder en transporte marítimo especializado en servicios de reubicación a América Latina, se enorgullece de apoyar este programa de premios, dijo Romy González, directora de operaciones. Felicitaciones a todos los ganadores y nominados. Representan lo que somos: la clase creativa de Canadá, dijo Monique Forster, presidenta del Congreso Hispano Canadiense.

Todos están invitados a unirse y asociarse en nuestra conferencia y mini-feria comercial para inmigrantes esta próxima primavera, señaló Mauricio Ospina. Habrá oportunidades 20 proveedores de bienes y servicios tales como inmigración, bienes raíces, educación, contabilidad, turismo, derecho, desarrollo empresarial, comercio minorista y todo lo demás, agregó.

Los 10 hispanos de mayor influencia en Canadá de TLN cuenta a la fecha con 140 galardonados de 18 países de origen en 6 provincias. El programa ha sido reconocido personalmente por miembros influyentes de la sociedad como el secretario general de la Organización de los Estados Americanos, primeros ministros, ministros del gabinete, alcaldes y el Parlamento de Canadá. Este programa ha elevado el perfil y recaudado \$230,000 en becas para la comunidad, y aseguró oportunidades comerciales y de vivienda durante los Juegos Panamericanos de 2015.

Mas información en www.HispanicBusiness.ca

Les 10 Canadiens hispaniques les plus influents de TLN 2022

Un haut responsable d'Affaires mondiales Canada prononce un discours liminaire

Salon professionnel et conférence pour les immigrants annoncés pour le printemps

Toronto, le 9 novembre 2022 – Les 10 Canadiens hispaniques les plus influents de TLN ont été annoncés hier soir. Le député. Patricia Peña, sous-ministre adjointe de la Direction générale des partenariats pour l'innovation dans le développement à Affaires mondiales Canada, a prononcé un discours liminaire. Les organisateurs ont également annoncé une conférence et un mini-salon pour les immigrants au printemps prochain. Le programme est présenté par TLN Media Group et a été parrainé par ILAC Education Group, Copa Airlines et Omega Trading Cargo. Il est géré par la Canadian Hispanic Business Alliance, cette année en collaboration avec le Canadian Hispanic Congress. Les profils complets des lauréats suivent, par prénom, ils sont :

- Dr. Aline Tezcucano (Mex/MB): Spécialiste de la sécurité alimentaire, Government of Manitoba
- Carolina Ordonez (Bol/BC): Vice-président des affaires corporatives, New Pacific Metals
- Gustavo Gimeno (Spa/ON): Directeur de musique, Toronto Symphony Orchestra.
- Jorge Peral (Mex/ON): Directrice artistique, Canadian Bank Note
- Hon. Lilly Nicholls (Chi/ON): Haut-commissaire du Canada au Bangladesh
- Luis Horacio Najera (Mex/ON): Journaliste et auteur en criminologie
- Dr. Mauricio Garcia-Barrera (Col/BC): Expert en neuropsychologie, U. Victoria
- Miryam Lazarte (Col/ON): CEO, LatAm startups
- Rosario Astulvica-Rojas (Per/ON): CEO, Inclusive Mining
- Viviana Santibañez (Mex/ON): Leader de la communauté LGBTQI
- * Brian Marcos Chaupiz : réalisations artistiques malgré les barrières d'apprentissage.

Omega Trading Cargo, un leader du transport maritime spécialisé dans les services de relocalisation vers l'Amérique latine, est fier de soutenir ce programme de récompenses, a déclaré Romy Gonzalez, directrice des opérations. Félicitations à tous les gagnants et nominés. Ils représentent qui nous sommes : la classe créative du Canada, a déclaré Monique Forster, présidente du Congrès hispanique canadien. Tout le monde est invité à se joindre et à s'associer à notre conférence et mini salon professionnel pour les immigrants ce printemps, a noté Mauricio Ospina. Il y aura des opportunités de promotion pour 20 fournisseurs de biens et services tels que l'immigration, l'immobilier, l'éducation, la comptabilité, le tourisme, le droit, le développement commercial, la vente au détail et tout ce qui se trouve entre les deux, a-t-il ajouté.

Les 10 Canadiens hispaniques les plus influents de TLN comptent 140 lauréats de 18 pays dans 6 provinces. Le programme a été personnellement reconnu par des dirigeants de la société, notamment le secrétaire général de l'Organisation des États américains, les premiers ministres et le Cabinet et le Parlement du Canada. De plus, le programme a obtenu 230 000 \$ en bourses d'études pour la communauté, rehaussé le profil de la communauté et verrouillé des opportunités d'affaires et de logement pendant les Jeux panaméricains de 2015.

Plus d'informations sur www.HispanicBusiness.ca

PROFILES

ALINE TEZCUCANO, DR.
Mex/MB: Food Safety Regulatory Specialist

Mexican-born Aline Tezcucano holds a B.Sc. in Biochemical Engineering from Mexico's National Polytechnic Institute, a M.Sc. in Food Safety from the University of Birmingham (UK), and a Ph.D. in Food Chemistry from McGill University in Canada. She came to Canada in 2003 and now works as a Food Safety Regulatory Specialist for the Government of Manitoba. Dr. Tezcucano received twice the Dairy Farmers of Canada Doctoral Research Award for contributions to dairy science, and the Macdonald Campus Gold Key Award for outstanding extra-curricular activities. She also received the 2012 President Award and 2019 Institute Award for outstanding contributions (Canadian Institute of Food Science and Technology); in 2012, she was the recipient of the Manitoba Agriculture Working Together for Success Award. Community-wise she has been Project Coordinator in Agriculture (Global Network of Mexican Professionals); founder and treasurer of the Latin American Commerce Association of Manitoba Inc.; President of the Mex Y Can Association of Manitoba Inc.; recipient of the 2019 Al Malbranck Memorial Outstanding Volunteer Award; and Mexican pavilion coordinator at Manitoba's Folklorama festival. Aline was a business partner of two Mexican restaurants in Winnipeg and contributed as columnist in two community newspapers. In 2019, she was included as part of the Personalities Wall permanent exhibit at the Manitoba Museum, which showcases 30 individuals in Winnipeg's history from the 1870s to the present, who are part of the fabric of the community. In 2020, the Manitoba Women in Agriculture and Food named her Champion of Diversity.

CAROLINA ORDONEZ
Bol/BC: Vice President, Corporate Affairs at New Pacific Metals Corp.

With 15+ years of industry experience, Carolina Ordoñez is a leading figure in corporate affairs within the mining sector in the Americas. Based in Vancouver, she is VP of Corporate Affairs and Investor Relations at New Pacific Metals Corp., a publicly-traded company focused on silver production projects in Bolivia. Formerly, she was on the Vancouver board of the Canadian Institute of Investor Relations, Executive Member of the Vancouver branch of Women in Mining, and Founder Director for Bolivia Women in Mining. Born and raised in Bolivia, Carolina is also an active and influential member of the Latin-American community. She has led and/or been a board member of the Vancouver Latin American Film Festival, Latincover, Bolivian Canadian Clean Water Network, and the Vancouver Council for Care Canada. She helped raise over \$5 million towards the project in Bolivia to empower women to create their business. Currently, she sits on the board for The Karina LeBlanc Foundation, which empowers young girls and women. Carolina holds a designation in International Trade Business, a Diploma in Business Management and International Commerce from the British Columbia Institute of Technology, and a Diploma in Global Business and Politics from the Yale School of Management. Carolina emigrated to Canada in 2000; she is an advocate of the Canadian culture as a multiculturalism society, ethically responsible with the communities, first nations and environment. Throughout the years, she has echoed the message of those principles within Latin America and over 50+ countries she has visited.

JORGE PERAL
Mex/ON: Artistic director for the Canadian Bank Note

Mexican-born Jorge Peral is a multiple award-winning master engraver, banknote designer, photographer, and artistic director for the Canadian Bank Note. He designs for numerous currencies worldwide including for Canada, New Zealand, and FIFA World Cup. His work has been recognized by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the International Banknote Society, and the International Association of Currency Affairs – among others. Jorge studied graphic design and photography at the prestigious Academia de San Carlos in Mexico, followed by design studies in Italy. He uses both traditional techniques to create steel engravings for intaglio printing, as well as new techniques with digital engraving. In 2014, Jorge led the design of the new "Brighter Money Series" for the reserve bank of New Zealand, as well as engraving the portraits of Queen Elizabeth II for the \$20, Sir Edmund Hillary

Trilingual

for the \$5 denomination, and Kate Sheppard in the \$10. In 2001, he designed the "Canadian Journey series" and engraved the portrait of the Queen Elizabeth II and Sir John A. Macdonald. His work is also found in Canadian postage stamps such as the Canadian Wildlife series (\$10 Blue Whale, \$8 Grizzly, \$5 Moose, \$2 Sable Island Horses, \$2 Peregrine Falcon, \$1 Loon, \$1 White-tailed Deer, \$1 Walrus), and other stamps such as the 1999-2000 95 Cent Millennium Dove, 52 Cent Chief Membertou, and the 52 Cent Founding of Quebec City. Jorge's numerous awards include Mexicanos Distinguidos award by Government of Mexico and the Diamond Jubilee medal by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

GUSTAVO GIMENO

Spa/ON: Music Director of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra

Spanish-born Gustavo Gimeno is in the elite of the world's music conductors. His tenure as the tenth Music Director of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra (TSO) - one of Canada's most respected arts organizations - began in 2020/21. Since his appointment, he has reinvigorated the artistic profile of the TSO, bringing an expansive artistic vision, intellectual curiosity and a sense of adventure to programming. In leading the TSO through the pandemic and into this vibrant 100th-anniversary celebration, he has overseen renewed community engagement, and sown the seeds for an ambitious program of commissioning new works from emerging and established composers. This season Gimeno and the Orchestra will embark on the first international tour of their partnership, including a concert at Ottawa's National Arts Center, a return visit to Carnegie Hall, and the Orchestra's debut at Chicago's Symphony Center. Gimeno also holds the position of Music Director with Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg, and will become Music Director of Teatro Real in Madrid in 2025/26 - he currently serves as their Music Director Designate. As an opera conductor, he has conducted at great houses such as the Liceu Opera Barcelona; Opernhaus Zürich; Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia, Valencia; and Teatro Real, Madrid. He is also much sought-after as a symphonic guest conductor worldwide: debuts in 2022/23 include Staatskapelle Berlin and Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France.

LILLY NICHOLLS, HON.

Canada's High Commissioner to Bangladesh

The Hon. Lilly Nicholls and her family arrived in Canada in the 1970s exiled from the Pinochet regime - she is now one of Canada's highly placed diplomats. Last year, she was appointed Canada's High Commissioner to Bangladesh by Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Melanie Joly. The Hon. Nicholls has 30 years of experience in international affairs including work with the United Nations and the Government of Canada with particular work on Canadian women's advances. Lilly's career has spanned 6 continents in government and civil society leadership roles. She worked with the UN Development Programme in Central America and in New York advising on global poverty reduction and gender equality. She joined Global Affairs Canada (then CIDA) in 1999 as a Senior Economist holding posts both in HQ and overseas. She served a deputy director in the Andes Division (2001 to 2005), head of cooperation in Cuba (2005 to 2007), director of planning in the Afghanistan Task Force (2007 to 2010), and director of Mainland Southeast Asia (2010 to 2013). She was also Global Affairs Canada's director of international assistance research and knowledge. From 2015 to 2018, Ms. Nicholls contributed to the consultations and formulation of Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy. She served as ambassador of Canada to Panama from 2018 to 2021. Lilly did her BA Hons in Political Science and Sociology from Carleton University in 1987; MA in International Political Economy from York University in 1989; PhD in International Development from London School of Economics in 1998.

LUIS HORACIO NAJERA

Mex/ON: Exiled journalist and crime analyst

Luis Horacio Najera is an acclaimed journalist and crime analyst from Mexico who has lived in exile in Canada since 2008. Throughout his career, he has dedicated himself to investigating politically sensitive issues ranging from government corruption to the trafficking of drugs, people and weapons, until his name was on a hit list that forced him to move his family and seeking asylum in Canada. Najera was a reporter for Grupo Reforma based in Ciudad Juárez, a notorious gateway to the lucrative North

American drug market and widely deemed from 2008 to 2012 the most dangerous place on Earth. After 14 months without a job in Canada, he found work as a janitor cleaning floors and toilets. A few months later, he would be recognized as the second Mexican to receive one of the CJFE 2010 International Press Freedom Award for his fearsomeness in reporting. Najera was the PEN Canada-George Brown Writer in Residence in Toronto, and recipient of one of the 2011 Human Rights Watch Hellman/Hammet Awards. He is the first Mexican journalist selected as a member of Massey College, and former fellow at the Citizen Lab/Canada Centre for Global Security Studies. He received a Master's of Global Affairs from the University of Toronto, and a Master of Disaster and Emergency Management from York University. Najera co-authored the book "The Wolfpack: The Millennial Mobsters Who Brought Chaos and the Cartels to the Canadian Underworld". He is frequently cited by national media on transnational organized crime and press freedom issues.

MAURICIO GARCIA, DR.

Col/BC: Professor/researcher, Clinical neuropsychology

Born in Colombia, Dr. Mauricio Garcia-Barrera is a renowned neuropsychological assessment expert with special interests in sports concussions, executive functioning, and clinical Neuropsychology at the University of Victoria (UVIC). He has developed psychometric and cross-culturally valid instruments to assess executive functioning: our brain's ability to organize actions towards a goal, self-regulate, problem-solve and make decisions. His research explores how those cognitive processes are affected by events such as sports-related concussions, and by activities such as physical exercise across the lifespan, using neuroimaging, electrophysiological markers, and computerized testing. With close to 100 publications under his name and over 2,000 citations, Dr. Garcia-Barrera is interested in methods and issues in neuropsychological assessment of clinical populations in North and Latin America. He serves as an Associate Editor in the APA journal Psychological Assessment, and was President-Elect for the Asociación Latinoamericana de Neuropsicología (ALAN). He also teaches courses in neuroanatomy and clinical assessment at UVIC. Dr. Garcia-Barrera has been recognized for his mentorship of exceptional graduate students. Having graduated over 14 Masters and PhD students, who had become faculty members in universities such as Johns Hopkins University and University of Kentucky, and in Medical Centres such as Hamilton Health Sciences, among others, he received the University of Victoria's 2021 President's REACH Awards for Graduate supervision and mentorship. He is an elected member of Senate at UVIC and has also become the Associate Dean Research of the Faculty of Social Sciences.

MYRIAM LAZARTE

Col/ON: Founder of LatAm Startups accelerator

A newcomer from Colombia, exemplifies the spirit of Canadian entrepreneurship as a newcomer entrepreneur blazing trails across borders and supporting the next generation of global entrepreneurs. She is a serial entrepreneur and the founder of LatAm Startups, a Toronto-based accelerator that brings Latin American companies to Canada. She came to Canada in 2008 and launched LatAm Startups in 2016, experiencing high growth in the number of qualified startup companies mainly from Brazil and Pacific Alliance countries. Last June, LatAm Startups received \$3 million in Government funding to support international tech start-ups do business, and create approximately 180 jobs in Ontario. LatAm Startups has brought over 140 companies a part of the programs in Canada. In 2019 became designated company for the Federal Startup Visa Program. Two companies in the LatAm Startups portfolio are currently unicorn level valued at over \$1 billion each. Prior to Latam StartUps, she founded Go South! Consulting, supporting Canadian high-tech companies to scale into Latin American markets. Miryam has been recognized in the Canadian tech ecosystem with multiple awards, the most recent being "Newcomer Entrepreneur Of The Year 2019". The Newcomer Entrepreneur of the Year is an award presented by Startup Canada recognizing an individual that leads as both a newcomer and entrepreneur in the country. Miryam is a member of the Program Advisory Committee for Business Administration, Entrepreneurship and Small Business at Seneca College, and works closely with both Canadian and Latin American angels in pursuit of cross-border investment opportunities.

ROSARIO ASTUVILCA-ROJAS

Per/ON: Founder & CEO, Inclusive Mining

Rosario is one of the most influential Hispanics in Canada's mining sector. In 2021, she was elected to the Board of Directors of the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) as the first Peruvian-Canadian woman in its 90th year history. She is the founder and CEO of Inclusive Mining, a purpose-driven boutique firm established to assist the mining industry in its journey to become more diverse and inclusive. She is a talent management and leadership consultant with over fifteen years helping Canadian and international mining companies, attract and recruit executives and board directors globally. A proud immigrant from Perú, Rosario brings more than ten years supporting the Hispanic community and leading diversity and inclusion initiatives. From 2009 to 2013, she was Board Director of the Peruvian-Canadian Chamber of Commerce. In 2012, she co-founded HispanoMine, a non-profit that connects, promotes, and empowers Hispanics in the mining sector. She is also a member of the National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD) and the Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD), and has completed a corporate governance program at University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Management. Rosario is a lawyer from Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, with a masters in Human Resources Management from York University and executive education from Rotman School of Management, and a postgraduate certificate in Diversity and Inclusion from Cornell University.

VIVIANA SANTIBANEZ

Mex/ON: LGBTQI community leader

Born in Mexico, Viviana Santibañez is a strong community leader working with marginalized communities for over 12 years, focusing on supporting and advocating for Latinos living with HIV and LGBTQI Latinos refugees. She is also the first Latina woman appointed to the board of directors of the Ontario HIV Treatment Network. Via her private LGBTQI Latinxs group on Facebook, Viviana connects with the community and refers people to social, legal, and health services; she provides services for several non-profit organizations such as Latinos Positivos Toronto, Toronto people living with AIDS Foundation, Center for Spanish speaking people, Hispanic Canadian Heritage Council, Canada Trans Summit, and Ontario Cohort Studies. Viviana's work incentivizing the LGBTQI community in Latino/Hispanic events has led to presentations on popular social media platforms reaching people from Calgary to Toronto and Montreal. Viviana has a background in community health, nursing, community capacity building, and digital communications – she recently secured her qualifications as an immigration consultant to assist her community at no cost. Multifaceted, she also represented Canada internationally, bringing the first-ever International Trans pageant title to Canada, where she competed in a trans-advocacy pageant that helped to inspire and empower trans women around the world. She is the first Latina awarded the Inspire LGBTQ Person of the Year in September 2022 by Inspire Awards, one of the most prestigious Advocacy LGBTQ awards in Ontario, for her work and support to the immigrant LGBTQ community.

BRIAN MARCOS CHAUIZ (inspiration award)

Chi/ON: Artist

Marco has Down syndrome. At birth, he had several congenital deformities and doctors gave him a life expectancy of 25 years. He is now 41 years old and excels in sports and photography. You can see him in different events in the community, where Marcos captures the world in his own manner, with his own camera. He has been able to compete at the Ontario level earning 38 swimming trophies thus far.