

A photograph of two women with long blonde hair standing on a wooden bridge. The woman on the left is wearing a pink top and the woman on the right is wearing a denim jacket. They are both smiling and looking towards the right. The background shows a forest of trees under a clear sky.

BEAN GILL

Introduction

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Our next speaker's story serves up a dose of reality like you've never heard before. In 2012, her life was flipped upside down when she felt a sudden, stabbing pain in her spine. She couldn't roll over, sit up, or get out of bed without help.

A once athletic young woman who enjoyed modeling, kickboxing, and weightlifting, she struggled with betrayal by her own body. She was forced to find her way through an inaccessible society, all the while living with paralysis and learning how to love herself - disability and all.

She was faced with two choices: Give up or keep going. Although she wanted to give up many times, she chose to keep going. If it wasn't for the worst year of her life, she wouldn't be who she is today.

Being a woman of color who also has a visible disability, our next speaker is an example of unwavering strength and resilience. By confronting adversity and sharing her story, she breaks down barriers and is changing stigmas surrounding people with disabilities.

Her work has earned her local and national recognition, including Top 40 Under 40, RBC Canadian Women Entrepreneur Award, and Global's Woman of Vision Award. She is the reigning Miss Wheelchair Canada and was recognized by Mattel as one of Canada's top 60 inspiring women as part of Barbie's 60th Anniversary.

Please help me welcome
Model of Diversity, Wheelchair Pageant Queen, and Entrepreneur

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