

Speaking Out



A Conference for Self Advocates

Kim Sparling New Vision

Advocate of the Year

Memorial Award

1. BACKGROUND:

This memorial award was established in 2012 by Ron and Gwen Sparling, of London Ontario, in memory of their daughter, Kim Sparling. This award recognizes the outstanding efforts of a person who has shown strong advocacy work within their community by promoting inclusion and acceptance of all people, regardless of a person's abilities.

Kim was an active member of The New Vision Advocates, educator, presenter and a strong advocate for people with intellectual disabilities. Kim is well known across the province as a presenter, Community Living Ontario council member and an advocate for inclusion, acceptance and belonging of people with intellectual disabilities. Kim was also one of the founding members of the Speaking Out conference planning committee from 2006 – 2011.

2. WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

The Kim Sparling New Vision Advocate of the year award is presented annually to a person who has an intellectual disability and demonstrates hard work and dedication in advocating improving the lives of people with intellectual/developmental disabilities through:

- Promoting equality of people with intellectual/developmental disabilities within their community
- Leadership skills
- Actively participating on committees and promoting the goals of inclusion and citizenship
- Teaching others about the abilities and strengths of people with intellectual/developmental disabilities
- Speaking up publicly and/or helping others to speak up.
- An attendee of the 2026 Speaking Out conference.

3. PROCESS

- i. Complete the information requested on this form.
- ii. Submit the nomination for consideration by the deadline date indicated below.
- iii. **Send the completed nomination form to:**

**Gwen Sparling,
Apt. 408-1985 Richmond Street, London ON N5X 0A6**

iv. DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS **September 11, 2026**

v. AWARD PRESENTATION

The winner will be announced at the 2026 Speaking Out conference. The recipient will receive a plaque along with \$500 to put towards their personal dream as outlined in the award nomination form. This will be presented by the Sparling family at the conference.

- ❖ Please note the person must be at the conference in person to receive the award.

ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR NOMINATION FORM

I/we wish to nominate the following person for the Kim Sparling New Vision Advocate of the Year award:

Name: _____ . From _____

Address _____.

Has registered to attend the 2026 Speaking Out Conference.

Nominated By:

Name: _____

Relationship to the nominee: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/Town: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email address: _____

Date: _____

Signature of contact person: _____

We believe that the above nominated person should be chosen to receive the Kim Sparling New Vision Advocate of the Year award for their hard work and dedication in advocating to improve the lives of people with intellectual /developmental disabilities through: (please list **five** examples only.)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

What would the person hope to do with the funds provided by this award?