

The Resilience 2026 recognition ceremony, hosted by Rohini Peris, President and CEO of ASEQ-EHAQ and EHAC-ASEC,, honoured exceptional individuals who have driven meaningful change in accessibility, inclusion, and disability rights. The ceremony celebrated a diverse group of allies and lived-experience advocates whose dedication bridges high-level policy frameworks and the daily realities of environmental barriers.

Bill Adair was recognized as a foundational ally and long-standing leader in disability inclusion across Canada. For years, he has worked behind the scenes to support the multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS) community and to initiate systemic conversations about accessibility to proactively encompass safe, toxic-free environments.

Maureen Haan, President and CEO of the Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work, was honoured for her vital work in expanding employment inclusion and equitable workforce participation. She has championed education and workplace accommodations to help people participate safely in the labour market.

Valerie Leitch was celebrated as a powerful lived-experience advocate who brings critical visibility to the stark realities of living with MCS. Her willingness to speak openly serves as a constant, urgent reminder to policymakers and symbolizes the resilience of the MCS community.

Ginger Major, a passionate advocate with lived experience and a background as an educator, was recognized for her strategic efforts to challenge deep-rooted institutional barriers. She has focused her courage and determination on legal and institutional frontiers.

Shelley Petit, Chair of the New Brunswick Coalition of Persons with Disabilities, was honoured for her fierce, unwavering leadership in disability rights. Navigating MCS herself, she has consistently used her platform to push systems forward.