



# Michael Bortolotto

## Inspirational Speaker

As a young adult with Cerebral Palsy, Michael encountered society's lack of awareness, limiting misconceptions, and acts of discrimination, which created significant barriers to meaningful employment. Refusing to be discouraged or deterred, he drew on his resilience, determination, and innovation to develop a unique self-advocate-preneur philosophy and initiative, freeing himself from society's restrictive perceptions and actions.

Since 1986, Michael has inspired the world with his "Can Do Attitude" and "Infectious Smile," proving that a disability can be both a valuable asset and a powerful catalyst for achieving personal growth, professional recognition, career success, and a higher quality of life.

### Acknowledgements & Awards For Being A Self-Advocate-Preneur.

In September 2014, Michael was awarded the prestigious Cathleen Lyle Murray Foundation Award from the American Academy for Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine. This award recognizes outstanding individuals and non-medical professionals who have a positive and productive impact on society. Through his humanitarian efforts and self-advocacy initiatives, he has changed and enhanced the lives of people with disabilities, using entrepreneurship as a strategy and vehicle to advocate for himself. His peers have recognized his unique "self-advocate-preneur" initiatives and strategies as a humanitarian leader within the disability and business worlds.

He has been recognized as one of the top ten entrepreneurs in British Columbia by Community Futures and Western Diversity Corporation for his innovative approach to combining entrepreneurialism with self-advocacy. Through his work, Michael has empowered individuals with disabilities while fostering greater awareness and understanding within able-bodied communities

### Customizing A Presentation For Your Audience.

You're welcome to call or text 250-816-2989 or email [michael@michaelbortolotto.com](mailto:michael@michaelbortolotto.com) to share how you'd like to have a presentation tailored to meet your specific needs.





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### Michael's Signature Presentations.

#### Going Beyond But!

Have you ever noticed how a great idea to support a child with special needs is often met with some form of restrictive or prohibitive 'BUT!'

Drawing on his "Can Do Attitude," Michael brings first-hand experiences, actionable advice, and proven strategies to help you and your child overcome the limitations of "But."

With his "Infectious Smile," Michael explains "Why" and provides insights on "How" to empower both your child and yourself by:

- Envisioning The Future And Living Today.
- Moving beyond "But" by embracing the possibilities of "What if...".
- Turning today's adversities into stepping stones for uncovering unlimited possibilities.
- Unlocking unforeseen potential through bold and creative thinking.
- Developing a "Self-Advocate-Preneur" game plan to get from the here and now to then and later.



#### Association Where Michael Has Delivered Keynote Presentations

American Division on Career Development - Myrtle Beach, S.C.  
Association of Supported Employment - Winnipeg, MB.  
American Academy for Cerebral Palsy & Development Medicine - San Diego, CA. Ontario Disability Employment Network - Toronto, Ont.  
Power of Connection Conference - Atlanta, GA.  
Canadian Association of People Supporting Employment - Halifax, N.S.  
America Cerebral Palsy Conference - Hartford, CT.  
Cerebral Palsy Association of British Columbia - Vancouver, B.C.  
Missouri APSE Conference - Kansas City, MO.  
Washington Vocational Services Conference - Seattle, WA.  
Supported Child Development Conference - Richmond, B.C.  
Washington State Self-Determination Conference - Tacoma, WA.  
Able Works - Hamilton, Ont.  
Contact Conference - Saskatoon, Sask.  
S.A.R.C. Spring Conference - Regina, Sask.  
International Day for People with Disabilities - Vancouver, B.C.  
Community Futures British Columbia - EDP Form - Vancouver, B.C.  
People First of Louisiana Form - New Orleans, LA.  
Family Support Institute of B.C. - Vancouver, B.C.

#### Blueprint For Building Up Your Resiliency.

Building resilience is a lifelong journey of learning, exploration, and strengthening intellectual abilities. By cultivating these skills, individuals can navigate and overcome the challenges of adverse situations.

Empower and equip children, teenagers, and adults with disabilities with clear and practical strategies to foster resilience, enabling them to reduce the impact of difficulties and transform adversity into opportunities for growth and achievement.