

## **Michael Bortolotto's Shortened Biography For Print.**

*(This Biography is not to read to introduce Michael)*

Michael Bortolotto's life is a powerful testament to self-leadership, perseverance, resilience, self-advocacy, and a positive, rebel mindset. Diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy at 11 months, he transformed physical challenges and anti-social barriers into opportunities for growth, discovery, empowerment, and success. After experiencing discrimination upon graduating from both high school and college, Michael developed his "Positive Rebel Mindset," a philosophy that challenges negative thinking, rejects limiting beliefs and fears, and promotes self-leadership as a pathway to meaningful achievement.

A graduate of Vancouver Island University with a Diploma in Applied Arts and Sciences in Recreation Administration, Michael discovered his passion for small business and entrepreneurship in 1986 during a summer practicum at an International Youth Conference for Entrepreneurialism. He went on to build a successful speaking and entrepreneurial career, using his platform to advocate for inclusion, diversity, and equity for all people. An accomplished speaker and multiple Toastmaster competition winner, he has delivered inspirational keynotes and educational presentations across Canada and the United States. He authored children's storybook focusing on inclusion, anti-bullying, resiliency, perseverance, and self-leadership.

Recognized with numerous awards for his leadership and community impact, Michael has been honoured provincially, nationally and internationally for his contributions. Above all, his greatest strength comes from his wife, Dorothy and their children, Natasha and Quintin, who continually inspire him to rise above his Cerebral Palsy every day.