



LEADING BY HIS SON'S EXAMPLE

When he picked up the first bowling ball on an outing with his son, Kim Seto never thought that their game would one day lead to an award in his honour.

No – neither of them bowled a perfect game, but Seto's first day as a volunteer parent with the Special Olympics led to his current position as the organization's regional coordinator. On June 16, 2008, ten years after his trip to the bowling alley, his inspiring dedication to the special needs community was recognized at the Nova Scotia Federal Council awards ceremony with the Contribution through Volunteerism Award.

Seto, a Fishery Officer from the Maritimes Region, lives in Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia with his wife Mary and their 15-year-old son, Tyler. His son, an eager athlete with the Special Olympics, has always been his motivation for becoming more involved with the special needs community.

"Bowling seemed like the right way to start out since it's open to all ages and abilities," said Seto. "From there, I became a parent volunteer and then the program coordinator responsible for the program's logistics."

From expanding the bowling program to coaching the Special Olympics swim team, Seto followed his son from sport to sport, challenging himself to match Tyler's determination and drive. Seto even traveled to Quebec City to watch over the team during last winter's Special Olympics.

"It was an honour. I was one of two people chosen from thirty or forty applicants," said Seto. "We were like one big family. I got to meet all the athletes and I helped in any way I could."

As he looked over the truly supportive community of smiling athletes, Seto had already found the true reward for his efforts. He continues to take courses to progress as a national coach, encouraging athletes with special needs to reach new heights. From training and logistics to volunteer coordination, he is building opportunities for success in our communities.

"There's so much that can still be done locally," said Seto, noting his intentions to continue in his position after he retires. "My son will always be involved in some capacity so I plan to keep busy too!"

The Nova Scotia Federal Council awards recognize the significant contributions of public servants to Canadians and the Government of Canada. Thirty recipients, including Seto, were celebrated at the 2008 award ceremony. These individuals have gone above and beyond the call of duty to enrich the lives of others and are integral members of our communities.