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| **The results are in!** |

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| We are pleased to announce the recipients of the**2019 Difference Maker of the Year awards!**Thank you to everyone who sent in a nomination for the 2019 Difference Maker of the Year awards.The Rick Hansen Foundation School Program team enjoyed reading each entry, and we thank all of you who put the time and effort in to send us your nominations. It was heartening to read about the incredible work your students and fellow educators are doing to make our schools and communities more accessible and inclusive. |

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| **Student Difference Makers of the Year**  |

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| **Jaskaran Sahota, Sands Secondary, Delta, BC**Jaskaran created an "Accessiblity Awareness" initiative with events that helped other students understand what it's like to be in a wheelchair in "A Day in the Life of Jas". **Mathew Dodwell, Harcourt School, Harcourt, NB**Matthew is a natural peace-maker and athlete. He often forfeits his share of the 'limelight' so other children can experience success, most often, at his expense. **Thalia Aguilar Bédard, École Georges-Vanier, Montreal, QC**Thalia helped a newly arrived student in her class who has limited mobility in her hands by helping carry her things, accompanying her to the cafeteria, and informing her teacher when the student will be late.**Sébastien Whissell, É.s.c. Champlain, Chelmsford, ON**Sébastien participates in numerous difference-making activities, including WE Day events & initiatives, caroling to raise funds for less fortunate families, volunteering at the Children's Treatment Center's iCan Bike Camp, and a humanitarian mission in Guatemala.**Owen Franke, Kenner Institute, Peterborough, ON**Owen welcomed a new Canadian to his school who speaks very little English by inviting him to sit at lunch and sitting with him on school trips. He says that everyone deserves to be treated with respect and to have a friend.**Abbie Shynkaruk, Brunskill School, Saskatoon, SK**Abbie attended the Special Olympics track meet to cheer on her peers. Abbie stepped up as a volunteer to run with a student who otherwise would not have been able to participate because of safety issues, even though she was only minutes away from running in the same event, compromising her own performance to help him. |

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