

## **My OT journey: from client to provider**

Dave Calver

Health Services for Community Living, Vancouver

Approximately 11 years ago I had a spinal cord injury while mountain biking in Kamloops, British Columbia. Previous to this I was a guide in the adventure tourism industry guiding on rivers all over the world and trekking trips in the Himalaya.

My accident resulted in a L3 ASIA A spinal cord injury and my use of a manual wheelchair. Initially, I believed my injury and resultant wheelchair use meant a loss of opportunity and mobility. My injury and rehabilitation experiences caused me to pursue a master's degree in Occupational Therapy. Since then, I have worked in acute care spinal cord rehabilitation, Home & Community Care, spinal cord rehabilitation education, and international wheelchair development projects with Motivation UK and currently as the clinical co-ordinator for United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) Wheels for Humanity.

I have guided river trips in British Columbia, The United States and Latin America and been involved with programs to help other individuals with disabilities participate in adventure based activities and to access wilderness environments. I no longer believe there have been any limitations in my opportunities or mobility...but I am still testing that theory!