

December 17, 2007

## Cycle to Walk

As Commissioner of Yukon, I am asked to lend my support and name to many organizations. This can be a charity I firmly believe in or it can be a long standing community organization that makes a great contribution.

When a young fellow that I have known since he arrived in Yukon as a child, approached me along with the Rotary Club to support his initiative and become the Honourary Chair for the "Cycle to Walk", I did not hesitate. I did not hesitate because his cause is pure and Ramesh Ferris is someone who has the focus and drive to complete his dream of hand cycling across Canada.

Reading Ramesh's biography of his visit to India to meet his birth mother and the surroundings where he would have stayed had he not been adopted, allowed him to reflect on giving.

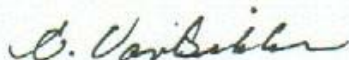
What is he giving? Himself. As he trains and focuses on the task at hand, Ramesh not only inspires but allows hope to filter through. The hope is that Polio can be beaten - one child, one country at a time.

Ramesh is very aware that cross Canada ventures have been done before for various causes. He firmly believes that if he can change the attitude of one person or a small group of people and help them to understand that Polio is still a concern in our modern world he will have gained.

Polio did not disappear after the 1950's epidemic struck Canada. It is a virus that can thrive again and cripple or kill many. Many baby boomers have stories of someone they know who has Polio or a family member who was stricken.

"Cycle to Walk" is very apt for this athlete as he is unable to use his legs to cycle and by hand cycling he can move at great speeds. It is both a pleasure and an honour to support, in my small way, Ramesh Ferris and "Cycle to Walk". I urge everyone to do what they can - Polio can be beaten!

I will be with you in spirit across the country, Ramesh.



The Honourable Geraldine Van Bibber  
Commissioner of Yukon

