



UNIVERSITY OF  
**TORONTO**

**International Centre for  
Disability and Rehabilitation**

## ICDR - Philippines

The Philippine Working Group – International Centre for Disability and Rehabilitation (ICDR Philippines) at the University of Toronto was formed in 2007 to address social justice and human rights issues faced by persons with disabilities in the Philippines. ICDR Philippines was founded by York University PhD Health student Jeffrey Andrion (MA Critical Disability Studies '10).

This year, ICDR Philippines marks its 10<sup>th</sup> year founding anniversary. To date, the working group has been supporting disability projects in the Philippines in the areas of livelihood, service delivery, and education/advocacy/research. The group has also sent over one million pesos to its many disability partners in the country. ICDR Philippines raises funds in Toronto via its annual two huge fundraising events: the Lecture Day (in May) and the Dinner of Hope (a gala event in September). It is during the Dinner of Hope that the group confers the Apolinario Mabini Memorial Award. This award is named after Apolinario Mabini, a revolutionary hero in the Philippines who helped in the revolt against the Spanish government in the 1800s. Known as the 'Brains of the Revolution,' Mabini was born with a physical disability. The recipient of the Mabini Award delivers the 'Apolinario Mabini Memorial Lecture' – the highlight of the Dinner of Hope. Past recipients include Dr. Stephanie Nixon of the University of Toronto and Director of ICDR (2015) and Ms. Yin Brown, a disability activist (2016).

The Mabini Award embodies the work of an outstanding individual for her/his work in promoting social justice and advancing the rights of persons with disabilities. **ICDR Philippines is extremely honoured to confer the 2017 Apolinario Mabini Award to Dr. Marcia Rioux of York University.**

Aside from delivering the 'Apolinario Mabini Memorial Lecture,' a project funded by ICDR Philippines has also been named after Dr. Marcia Rioux. The project, managed by the Autism Society of the Philippines, is called ***The Dr. Marcia Rioux Project - AutisMall Pilipinas***, a virtual marketplace of products and services by and for persons with autism.

As the founder of the Critical Disability Studies Program, Dr. Rioux's delivery of the 'Apolinario Mabini Memorial Lecture' is a proud moment for York University as it embodies how her work in promoting social justice and advancing disability rights continues to make an impact globally.

**For more info on ICDR-Philippines:** <http://icdr.utoronto.ca/our-community/online-hybrid-courses>