

Walt Lawrence talks about how things have changed for assistive respiratory technology users through the years

Walt: And of course being vent users in the early 60s, late 50s, 70s, you were kind of almost attached to the institution, that's where breathing happened.

Now with the Provincial Respiratory Outreach Program [PROP], you're back in your community, with the ability to be in your community, contributing. You're not all about your injury or your disability, that just happens to be part of your needs, that are met in community. Which is amazing.

So now, people travel all over the world, people live wherever they want to live. Ventilation doesn't have to be restrictive. Whereas, God bless their souls, back then.

You know breathings pretty important, it's not highly overrated, and they provided it. But it was like going to a charging station - you know - do you have to be there all the time?

And that's where PROP has enabled people to live independent lifestyles, it's not all about their breathing it just happens to be. Make sense?