



Greg Brodsky History with Skills Unlimited

60 years of Outstanding
Leadership and Volunteerism, Skills Unlimited, 1962

Greg Brodsky first became involved with the organization in 1962 when as a young lawyer he was assigned to provide legal services to the Board of Directors who established the Selkirk Vocational Centre located at the Selkirk Mental Hospital. The primary purpose was to provide Mental Health patients with meaningful vocational skills towards the end goal of working in community-based jobs upon discharge from the institution.

Within a short period of time the Board of Directors identified a need to move away from the institutional setting and felt that a centre located in Winnipeg would provide a better opportunity for accessing the broader labour market available in a large city.

Greg worked with the Board, leading the process to becoming an incorporated not for profit organization under the name of Skills Unlimited. The name itself required strong advocacy from the young lawyer who saw how the word Unlimited provided the vision for unlimited potential for integration of those dealing with mental Health issues to transition back into the community.

After submitting the name Skills Unlimited to the Corporation Branch, the name was originally rejected and two alternative names were proposed back to the board; Skills Inc or Skills Limited. Greg's passion was ignited and he went to work advocating to the Duff Roblin government in power at the time to pass a Members Bill at the Legislature allowing the use of Unlimited in a company name. The bill passed successfully. The young organization was then named, Skills Unlimited and became incorporated in 1964.

Greg was appointed to the Board in the summer of 1964. He remained an active and dedicated Board member for 58 years. He was awarded the organizations first Honorary Life Members in 2017 and continued to attend Board Meetings where he provided timely guidance and wisdom.

During his 58 years of service as a Board Member he served as President on several occasions. His commitment to the vision and mission of the organization was evident throughout all the years he served on the Board. Despite his very busy career he always found time to attend Board Meetings and provided leadership to fellow Board Members and staff.

Greg was instrumental in supporting the legacy of the organization's founders, in particular Samuel Sair who became one of Winnipeg's best-known philanthropists in the 1960's. Greg will be truly missed by the staff, Board Members, clients and volunteers at Skills Unlimited; now operating as steps2work. We will remember Greg as a champion for Mental Health and an advocate for those affected by the adversities of mental illness. We are humbled to carry on his legacy.

Rest in Peace Greg. You're a hero to us all.

Renee Greyeyes
Executive Director
Skills Unlimited - steps2work