

## **Expect More - An Autism Adventure**

Mike Lake is the Canadian Member of Parliament for Edmonton-Wetaskiwin, currently serving his fifth term. He has two children, a son Jaden, 25, and daughter Jenae, 21. The Lakes have been active supporters of autism organizations, families and individuals around the world, while sharing their story of life with Jaden, who has autism. Mike's mission is to challenge us to think differently, not only about people with autism, but about everyone we connect with.

Over the years, and often with Jaden by his side, Mike has spoken to the spouses of world leaders at the United Nations, 60,000 people at the Global Citizen Festival in Central Park, 15,000 high school students at WE Day, and tens of thousands of university students from around the world. He has done a TEDx Talk and traveled extensively, meeting with fellow elected officials from across the political spectrum and leaders in the global research community.

Mike's presentation uses video from interviews and news stories centered around his son. Although Jaden is non-verbal, his story enlightens people in ways that mere words cannot. Mike takes us on a journey through eight years of Jaden's life, demonstrating the power of inclusion as a key to unlocking otherwise undiscovered human potential. The clips, intertwined with Mike's compelling story-telling, create a narrative that resonates with audiences of all ages and from all backgrounds. In the end, his goal is to use Jaden's story to change the way we think about the people around us - their abilities, their challenges, and the unique contributions that they can make to the great benefit of us all.