


CANADIAN COUNCIL
OF THE BLIND



LE CONSEIL CANADIEN
DES AVEUGLES



2026 VISION HEALTH MONTH CONFERENCE
PAN-CANADIAN VOICES

May 26th 2026

A g e n d a

WELCOME



Jim Tokos
National President,
The Canadian Council of the Blind



Leslie Yee
1st Vice President,
The Canadian Council of the Blind

Dear guest,

Welcome to the 2026 Vision Health Month Conference: Pan-Canadian Voices.

Thank you for joining us for this year. We are excited to bring together people from across Canada to share their perspectives and experiences with vision health and eye care.

We hope you enjoy the conference and take this as an opportunity to make new connections, learn from one another, and join in conversations about the future of vision care in Canada.

Thank you for being here.

– The Canadian Council of the Blind

Conference Agenda

10:00 am - 10:10 am Welcome & Opening Remarks

Presented By
Leslie Yee & Jim Tokos

- Yee & Tokos will introduce the day, including the theme of the conference: Pan-Canadian Voices.

10:10 am - 10:40 am Socioeconomic Factors and Eye Care Uptake Across Canada

Presented By
Angelica Hanna

- Hanna will speak about what are existing barriers to vision care access in Canada and the importance of equitable vision care.

10:40 am - 11:20 pm An East Coast and National Perspective on Eye Care

Presented By
Dr. Allison Scott

- Dr. Scott will provide an optometrist's perspective on eye care both national and regionally (East Coast Canada).

11:20 am - 11:30 am

Short Break

11:30 am - 11:40 am Right to Sight Campaign Launch

Presented By Jim Tokos, Leslie Yee
and Jessa Ross

- Discussion on the CCB's newest educational campaign, Right to Sight (RTS).

11:40 am - 11:55 am Update from the Vision Health Partners' Coalition

Presented By
Jennifer Urosevic

- Urosevic will provide updates on the ongoing work of the Vision Health Partners' Coalition, such as their efforts on shaping the National Strategy for Eye Care Act (Bill C-284).

11:55 am - 12:10 pm VIA Rail, Importance of a National Accessibility Plan

Presented By
Catherine Langlois

- Langlois will provide an overview of VIA Rail Canada's current accessibility plan, outlining ongoing initiatives to improve inclusive travel across Canada.

12:10 pm - 12:50 pm

Lunch

12:50 pm - 1:30 pm Helping Little Eyes See Big Things

Presented By
Dr. Kourosh Sabri

- Dr. Sabri will speak about his work with the Indigenous Children's Eye Exam Project: reflecting on what's worked well, the challenges faced, and the program's impact.

1:30 pm - 2:30 pm PANEL: Rehabilitation and Services Across the Country

Kamilia Zaman, Leo Bissonnette,
Richard Marsolais
Moderated by Leslie Yee

- This 60-minute panel will bring together three rehabilitation professionals and service provider professionals to explore how equity challenges manifest across disciplines and regions in Canada.

2:30 pm - 2:40 pm Closing Remarks

Presented By
Leslie Yee

- Yee will lead us through the closing remarks for the conference.

S P E A K E R S



Angelica Hanna
MSc, MD (C) & Researcher

Angelica Hanna is a medical student at the University of Toronto who completed a Master of Science in Health Systems Leadership and Innovation at the University of Toronto. Her work focuses on equity in vision care and access to ophthalmic services in Canada, with research exploring how socioeconomic factors influence vision health, healthcare utilization, and barriers to eye care. She has published work examining disparities in vision care access and outcomes across Canadian populations. Alongside her research, Angelica is actively involved in community outreach initiatives serving marginalized, rural, and First Nations communities through organizations including EyeVan, Kids2See, and the KEI/Forsee Canada Marginalized Vision Clinic. She is passionate about combining evidence-based policy, advocacy, and patient-centred care to improve equitable access to vision services across Canada.



Dr. Allison Scott
OD & Board President of CAO

Dr. Allison Scott graduated from the University of Waterloo in 2006. She has been practicing in the Halifax area since graduation and enjoys working in a family practice, sometimes seeing multiple family generations. She has also recently started a specialty contact lens practice. Dr. Scott has been on the NSAO council since 2011 and has served many roles, including president. Dr. Scott has served on their public education and continuing education committees. She is also an official with Skate Canada and enjoys volunteering at local events in the capacity of figure skating judge.



Dr. Kouros Sabri
MB.ChB., FRCOphth, FRCSC
& Founder of Indigenous Children Eye Exam Project (ICEE)

Dr. Kouros Sabri is a Pediatric Ophthalmologist, Strabismologist and Professor of Surgery at McMaster University. He manages all aspects of pediatric ophthalmology and adult strabismus, leading a busy clinical, surgical, and research practice. He completed his medical training and ophthalmology residency in the U.K. followed by a fellowship in Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus at The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. He holds appointments within the McMaster School of Biomedical Engineering, McMaster Department of Computing & Software, and McMaster Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence and Impact.

He is the founder and director of the McMaster Pediatric Eye Research Group, dedicated to providing high-quality research to improve the delivery of eye care to children. He has published widely and received over \$6 million in research funding to date. He is also the founder of the national Indigenous Children Eye Examination (ICEE) project, delivering eye care to indigenous children in the remote parts of Canada. His main areas of research are vision screening, public health, telemedicine, retinopathy of prematurity, and AI.

PANEL: Rehabilitation and Services Across the Country

This 60-minute panel will bring together three rehabilitation professionals and service provider professionals to explore how equity challenges manifest across disciplines and regions in Canada.

Panelists:

Kamilia Zaman
Low Vision Therapist, VLRC

Leo Bissionette
Director at Braille Literacy Canada (BLC), 2nd Vice-President at CCB

Richard Marsolais
Former Vision Rehabilitation Therapist at VLRC; President, Achilles Ottawa



OTHER SPEAKERS

Jennifer Urosevic

President and CEO of Vision Loss Rehabilitation Canada (VLRC)

Catherine Langlois

Senior Universal Accessibility Advisor at VIA Rail Canada

Jessa Ross


Staff at the Canadian Council of the Blind (CCB)

Leslie Yee

1st Board Vice-President at the Canadian Council of the Blind (CCB)

Jim Tokos

National Board President at the Canadian Council of the Blind (CCB)



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This conference is proudly sponsored by:

