



WHITE CANE MAGAZINE

The Voice of the Blind™ in Canada

2010 ISSUE



**This year
the world
celebrates
the bicentennial
of the birth
of Louis Braille**



CCB Person of the Year



Team Canada Award



Embassy Day



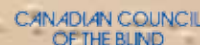
Kitchens of the World



Cross Canada Journey

The Canadian Council of the Blind is the Voice of the Blind™ in Canada. Extend accessibility. The white cane is a **symbol of ability not disability...** of independence, not dependence. Changing what it means to be blind. A lack of sight is not a lack of vision. Most people don't know what it's like to be blind. Just close your eyes. **FOREVER.** Accessibility promotes ability not disability. **We're changing what it means to be blind.**

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WEEK 2010**



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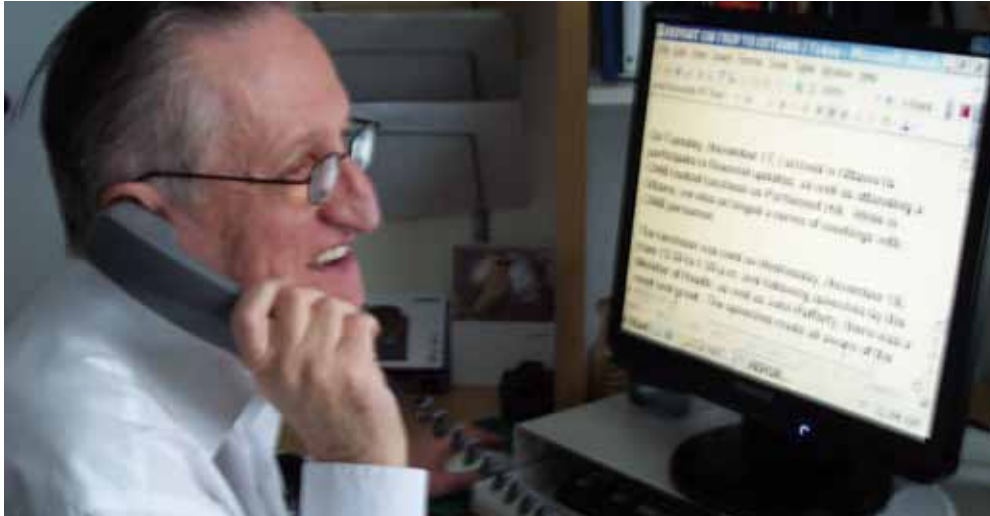
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White Cane Week™ Magazine

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A Celebration of White Cane Week™ 2010



THE CCB members and volunteers did a fantastic job of raising the awareness of the blind and visually impaired to the public this White Cane Week. We got out there and made a difference; letting our abilities shine through and above all else, had fun!

The celebration of White Cane Week 2010 marked the seventh year The Council assumed sole responsibility for this event. We demonstrated our commitment to increasing the impact and outreach of this important week of awareness of the blind and visually impaired.

This year's theme continues to promote accessibility and inclusion, as we asked to "Help promote accessibility... measure me by my capabilities not my disabilities."

During White Cane Week our members and volunteers participated in many different public events at the chapter division and national levels. All events were committed to raising the awareness of the White Cane as a "symbol of ability not disability",

and extending public support for the accessibility that is crucial to the quality of life for those in our community – the community of the blind and visually impaired.

The Canadian Vision Impaired Curling Championships held in Ottawa returned with more exciting competition. This event again provided a platform to demonstrate the abilities and skills within our community.

To our donors and partners and future ones as well, I would like to extend a very special thank you for participation with the Council this White Cane Week.

Harold Schnellert
*National President
Canadian Council of the Blind*

A major challenge being the isolation felt by far too many members of our community.

We still have challenges to face

WHILE looking back on White Cane Week 2010, we should be proud of the accomplishments we have made, as members of the blind community, in improving our quality of life; and raising awareness to our abilities.

While we are out participating in book clubs, learning new technology, meeting new friends or getting active; we are showing the world what we are capable of.

We still have challenges to face; a major challenge being the isolation felt by far too many members of our community.

Canadians with vision impairments, to a significant degree, live outside of the national mainstream. Many are disconnected from the workforce, have little access to significant social and cultural information and have limited opportunities to participate in community life.

While Canada increasingly ensures the availability of means to overcome the barriers imposed by the 'built environment', those that limit access to information and knowledge, and social connection and interaction are rarely recognized, let alone addressed. The isolation created by these barriers dramatically reduces the will and the capacity to interact, to be informed, to participate and to be active.

Common barriers to the blind and vision impaired include: transportation, access to assistive technology, computer training, exclusion from social activities, exclusion from physical activities, communication and employment.

The CCB, a national, community-based organization of the blind with a history for over 65 years of hosting

a range of programs from peer support, to sports and recreation, to general social activities, to computer training is well positioned to reach out and lend a helping hand to isolated members of the community.



Within the CCB are members who, through their participation in its programs, have forged and maintained lives that in responding to the challenges and trauma of a loss of sight became more involved and active than at any other time in their lives. These persons ski, sculpt, act, sail, cycle, curl, bowl, golf; have become computer literate; participate in book and current affairs clubs; mentor and support others; organize activities for others; and develop networks of their peers.

As we continue to move forward, we must encourage the rest of Canada to move forward alongside us; helping us to reach out to isolated individuals.

White Cane Week provides an excellent vehicle for outreach, as well as a platform to showcase our abilities. It is a chance to remind all Canadians we are here, we are strong-willed and we will continue to fight for our rights to live on an equal playing field as our sighted peers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Potvin'.

Mike Potvin
*Editor,
2010 White Cane Week Magazine*

2010 WHITE CANE WEEK PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD

Lori Fry

THE Canadian Council of the Blind is pleased to announce that this year's White Cane Week Person of the Year award goes to our very own Lori Fry, of the CCB 100 Mile House & District Chapter in British Columbia.

"Lori truly believes in the CCB's ability to change

loss and promoting equality for blind Canadians. She also leads a vital program of Aquafit classes providing therapy and rehabilitation for her community.

Lori has been instrumental in promoting Lucentis as a treatment for Age Related Macular Degeneration (AMD) in BC; advocating fair and equitable eye treatment for all.

Lori has participated on a parent's advisory committee, working with local schools to implement programs such as the Positive Playgrounds and Safe arrival program.

Positive Playground's purpose is to achieve a positive environment on the playground; while promoting physical activity for children. Lori also helped to establish the Safe Arrival program; ensuring children arrive to school and back home safely.

This year Lori was also one of the 45 outstanding British Columbians named as a recipient of the sixth annual BC Community Achievement Awards by Premier Gordon Campbell and Keith Mitchell, chair of the British Columbia Achievement Foundation.

"Together, British Columbians build a stronger province, and in the midst of these demanding times, we gather

confidence from those in our province who consistently and honourably create safe, caring and vital communities," said Premier Campbell.

"I applaud the outstanding contribution these individuals have made to regions throughout British Columbia and their commitment to making our province the best place on earth."

The CCB would like to thank Lori for her tireless dedication to improving the quality of life for those with vision loss. □



From left to right: Honourable Steven L. Point, Lieutenant Governor of B.C., Lori Fry and Honourable Gordon Campbell, Premier of B. C.

what it means to be blind in Canada," comments Jim Tokos, CCB National Vice President and CCB/CNIB National Liaison. "She leads by example, and is constantly working with CNIB in BC to strengthen the relationship between the two organizations, therefore better positioning each organization to assist the blind community."

Lori is an active member of the regional, provincial, and national CCB, where she has volunteered for 18 years, raising public awareness about vision



B.C. Team in action

2010 Canadian Vision Impaired Curling Championship

THE sixth annual Canadian Vision Impaired Curling Championships were a great success! Congratulations to all the blind curlers!

Special congratulations to Team Canada (Kelowna, BC), Team Ontario 2 (Hamilton, ON) and Team Alberta who placed first, second and third, respectively. Way to go!

Nine teams from coast to coast participated in total. Team Canada (Kelowna, BC) was back to defend their championship title. "They were all out to be the team to knock us off the top and some day our reign of being Team Canada will end," said Team Lead Bob Comba, "but until that day comes we'll continue to do our best."

One of the main missions of the championship is to demonstrate the ability of blind and visually impaired to all Canadians and to encourage participation at the local level.

"The event is inspirational in so many ways," states Michael Potvin, CCB Spokesman. "Not only are the blind curlers showcasing their amazing talents on the ice, but to see the support from the Embassies on an international level, is truly remarkable."

Even though many may assume that it would be near impossible to curl having ten percent vision or less, it proves to be a sport that can be mastered by effort, coupled with clear communication and teamwork. All members throwing a stone and

sweeping are vision impaired. The only members of the team who are sighted are the coach and the guide. "They train the same way all curlers do. They work hard on developing their skills and learning the strategy of the game," said Walter Koop, Team Manitoba Coach. "It is very rewarding for me as a coach to watch them play and to see all the hard work pay off."

FINAL ROUND ROBIN STANDINGS

1. AB (Alberta)	7 wins	1 loss
2. BC (British Columbia/Team Canada)	7 wins	1 loss
3. ON1 (Ontario/Kitchener)	5 wins	3 losses
4. ON2 (Ontario/Hamilton)	4 wins	4 losses
5. SK (Saskatchewan)	4 wins	4 losses
6. MB (Manitoba)	4 wins	4 losses
7. NS (Nova Scotia)	3 wins	5 losses
8. NB (New Brunswick)	1 win	7 losses
9. NL (Newfoundland)	0 wins	8 losses

Special thanks to Doris Koop, CCB member from Winnipeg, who co-ordinated the championship for the third year in a row; and continues to promote visually impaired grassroots curling across the country.

With financial support from the TSX, the CCA is offering training and coaching sessions for persons with disabilities at various centres throughout the country. □

ON Friday, February 12, curlers and honoured guests including Carleton University's Paul Menton Centre staff; CCB bursary recipients; Lions and officials from the Office for Disability Issues listened to Paul Franklin, our very inspirational guest speaker. Mr. Franklin is a former Canadian Medic who lost both legs in Afghanistan.

Paul Franklin didn't set out to become a hero -- much less one of "Canada's Heroes," as TIME magazine calls him. A former medic with the Canadian Armed Forces, Franklin was nearly killed in Afghanistan in 2006 when a suicide bomber smashed into his vehicle, killing a Canadian diplomat. Franklin lost both of his legs, but he survived. At home, he made national headlines, becoming a symbol of the resilience and unheralded work that Canadian soldiers — hardworking men and women — are doing to bring stability to a volatile region. Against incredible odds, and after twenty-six surgeries, he began walking on artificial legs and rebuilding his life in Canada.

For more Information on Vision Impaired Curling, please visit the CCB website at: www.ccbnational.net □

White Cane Week™



Presentation of 1st Place Medals to Team Canada (Kelowna, BC)

Presentation of 2nd Place Medals to Team Ontario 2 (Hamilton)



Presentation of 3rd Place Medals to Team Alberta (Edmonton)

Curling Awards Banquet

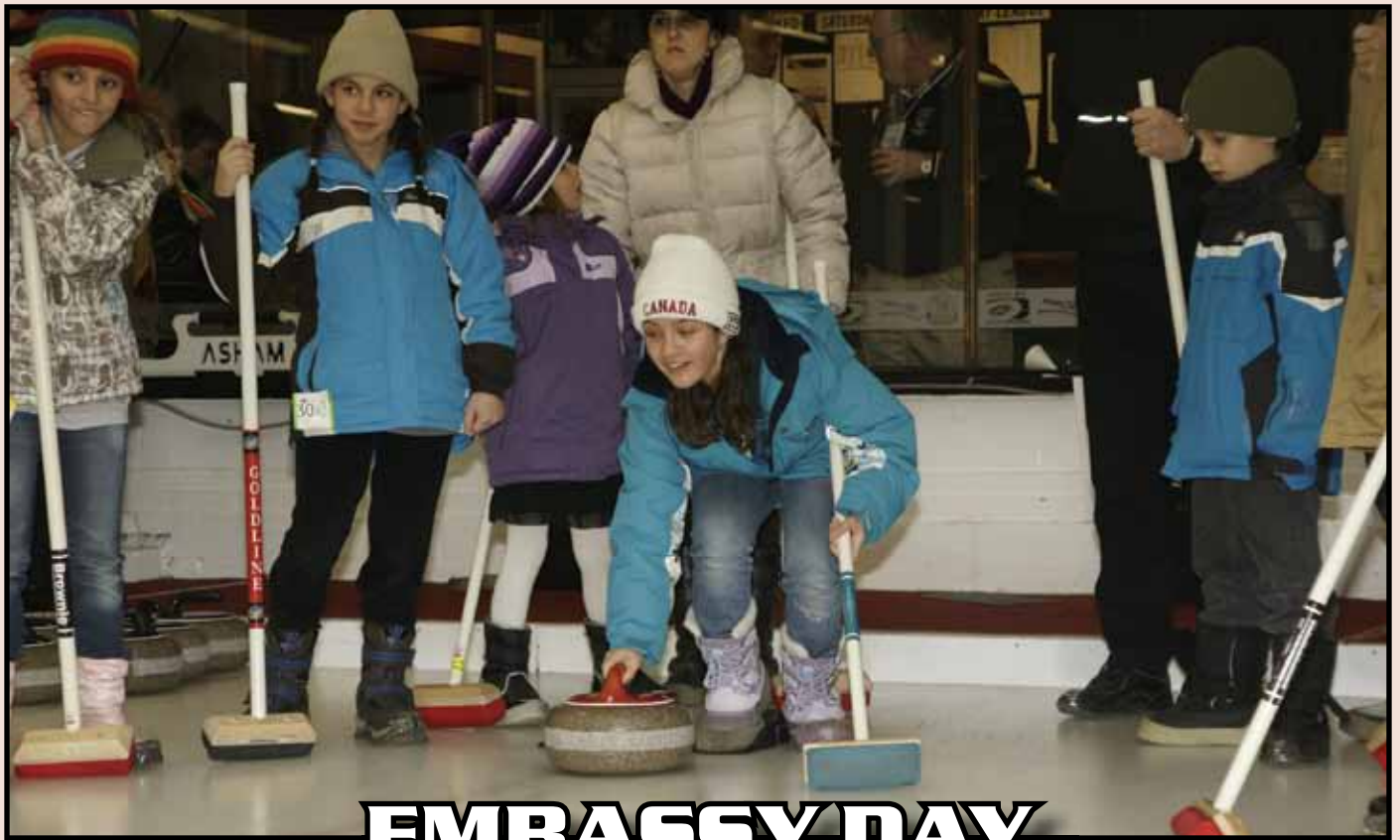


Michael Hayes presents sportsman Award to Don Connolly

Guest speaker Paul Franklin



CCB President Harold Schnellert congratulates Doris Koop, CVICC Coordinator



EMBASSY DAY

COUNCIL SHARES GRASSROOTS CURLING MESSAGE IN EFFORTS TO GROW THE SPORT IN THE WORLD.

ON Saturday February 6, 2010, the Canadian Council of the Blind kicked off its weeklong Annual Blind and Vision Impaired Championship by hosting Embassy Day at the Ottawa Curling Club. Delegates from 26 Embassies located in Ottawa were in attendance to help promote grassroots curling.

Several of the embassies got out on the ice and tried the sport for the first time.

One of the main missions of the championship is to demonstrate the ability of the blind and vision impaired to all Canadians and to encourage participation at the local level. The organizers and athletes involved are also working very hard to make this sport a recognized sport with the Paralympics as soon as 2014.

“We had originally hoped blind curling would at least be a demonstration sport at the 2010 Vancouver Paralympics,” said Bob Comba, Team Canada Skip “It takes time and a lot of support to get three continents and eight countries involved.”

Embassies have been instrumental in the development of the CCB’s Kitchens of the World™ cookbook.

The kick off ceremonies also included a performance by Ottawa’s own Lucas Haneman, 22 year-old vision-impaired jazz guitarist. Haneman’s music career has been on the rise in recent years taking awards at many festivals and contests. □



Looking back on White Cane Week 2009

WHITE CANE WEEK 2009 WAS A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS! VISION IMPAIRED CURLERS FROM ACROSS CANADA GATHERED AT THE OTTAWA CURLING CLUB FOR A WEEK OF INTENSE COMPETITION, AND LOCAL EVENTS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY HELPED SHOWCASE THE ABILITIES OF THE BLIND.

VISION IMPAIRED CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

The fifth annual 2009 Canadian Vision Impaired Curling Championships were a great success! Congratulations to all the blind curlers!

Special congratulations to Team Canada (Kelowna, BC), Team Ontario 1 (Kitchener, ON) and Team Manitoba who placed first, second and third, respectively. Way to go!

The Championship helped to stress the importance of staying active, good camaraderie and to have fun.

"This event really made a huge impact on raising awareness across the country about the abilities of people living with vision loss." States Doris Koop, coordinator of the event.

The media coverage during the Championship played a vital role in raising the profile of the CCB and their members by providing daily results from the competition on national CBC radio. Stories on event activities also ran throughout the week on various local television and radio stations - Rogers, A-Channel and CFRA.

EMBASSIES GIVE CURLING A TRY

Last year's WCW included a special event that tied into the work CCB has been doing with Embassies throughout the last year. On Saturday, January 31, 18 Embassies ventured down to the Ottawa Curling Club, site of the annual Canadian Vision Impaired Curling Championships, where they had a chance to try curling, meet some blind curlers, and even have their picture taken with a curling trophy!

"I had a great experience with curling, especially blind curling, in the sense of trying to play with glasses that mimicked different kinds of vision loss", commented Boris Jelovsek, Councilor at the Embassy of Slovenia. "I realized how difficult it is to live and to play when you cannot see properly. I would strongly recommend and encourage demonstrations like the one we saw today. Thank you very much for giving us the opportunity to become cognizant of curling and

more aware of the beauty of life."

This was a wonderful opportunity to promote awareness on an international level, as well as have a lot of fun!

As a special treat, the entire club was treated to the musical stylings of Lucas Haneman, vision-impaired guitar virtuoso.

Here is a list of the Embassies who attended:

Embassy of Guatemala, Embassy of Czech Republic, Royal Thai Embassy, Embassy of Tunisia, Embassy of Bulgaria, Embassy of Croatia, Embassy of Azerbaijan, Embassy of Ukraine, Embassy of Cuba, Embassy of Mexico, Embassy of Afghanistan, Embassy of Lithuania, Embassy of Turkey, Embassy of El Salvador, Embassy of Slovenia, Embassy of Germany, Embassy of USA, High Commission of Bahamas

Provincial Events

NEWFOUNDLAND

Recreation students from Academy Canada held activities with the members of the CCB Baker Club which included lunch.

A cribbage tournament and a bowling tournament between those with vision loss, The St. John's Lions Club and the Correctional Officers was also held during the week.

PEI

The CCB PEI Queen's County Chapter held various events, and gained media exposure, including: an interview on CBC radio featuring one of the chapter members; a public awareness and educational display located at the Confederation Mall, which provided information on assistive devices and technology; a fun evening of bowling, featuring island politicians and Lions Club members; a goalball demonstration; and a demonstration on the sport of vision impaired curling. ►

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NOVA SCOTIA

The CCB Sydney Chapter had an open house to which the public and the media were invited. Pictures were taken of the members having fun doing table bowling, which appeared in the local newspaper that week.

The chapter also had a mall display to promote awareness with some of the adaptive devices the blind use in every day life.

Members Rory MacCrae and Co-chair Raymond Young played a few hands of cribbage.

The CCB Halifax Chapter held a flag raising ceremony at city hall to start off White Cane Week. They also had a descriptive video on Wednesday afternoon in the CNIB auditorium; and also an expo at the Halifax shopping centre on Thursday, where they showcased some of the activities that the members do. Other organizations were present as well to show blind and visually impaired Canadians that there is support available. On Friday they had cribbage and table bowling where the Lions club joined in on the activity.

On Saturday they finished off WCW with their annual bowling competition, and afterwards they had a pizza lunch from Kit Kat Pizza.

NEW BRUNSWICK

The CCB Restigouche Club held a bowling tournament complete with a banquet.

ONTARIO

The CCB London chapter held a reception prior to a described movie at the downtown library.

The Hamilton Youth Chapter gave a presentation at a school assembly for a parent teacher event. They also held a Museum trip for kids with vision loss and their parents.

The Windsor/Essex Low Vision Social and Support Group held an information day, with the premise being to give as much information regarding support and programs to the vision impaired community as possible.

There were tech aides, a regional ADP vendor with assistive technology, information on library services, information on dog guides, etc.

The CCB Cornwall Chapter held several events. Firstly, it was proclaimed, by Cornwall City Council, that CCB White Cane Week would be the week of February 1st to 7th, 2009. On February 2nd the White Cane Week flag was raised by Cornwall Mayor, Bob Kikger, and was attended by several Cornwall Chapter members. Coverage was represented by print and television media.

A display was set up at the local library with information regarding White Cane Week and CCB Chapters. Some visual aids were displayed.

Information regarding White Cane Week and CCB Cornwall Chapter was advertised in both the local English and French print Media. They also received some free Public Service announcements.

An information table was set up for two full days at the Cornwall Square Mall and was manned by Cornwall Chapter Members.

MANITOBA

As part of the 2009 White Cane Week Celebrations, the CCB Manitoba Division held an informational display which took place at centre court in Winnipeg's downtown shopping centre - Portage Place on February 5, 2009

The purpose was to focus on the abilities of people who are blind or vision impaired and to showcase their ability to contribute to society; to highlight the programs and activities which the CCB Manitoba Division coordinates to fulfill the core CCB goals of peer support, public awareness of the abilities of those who are blind or vision impaired; advocate to increased accessibility in all aspects of day-to-day life in Manitoba; to recognize significant strides in accessibility by presenting the "Inclusion Award" and to recognize volunteers who have worked hard to make CCB MB Division an important voice for people who are blind or vision impaired in Manitoba.

Individual members of the CCB Manitoba Division took turns highlighting the various programs which support the CCB core goals. While many of the programs overlap multiple goals, each concentrated on a particular goal for clarity.

Peer support was addressed through the curling, bowling, and cribbage, Winnipeg & District, Tech-Ease and the L. P. Ng Scholarship. Public awareness was highlighted in the "See If You Can" and in the presentation of the "Inclusion Awards". Advocacy featured a petition for the general public to consider signing.

A presentation of a certificate was made to last year's Inclusion Award recipients. The "Inclusion Award" is presented to an organization or individual who has created or expanded a product or service which increases the ability for Manitobans who are blind or vision impaired to contribute to society.

The City of Winnipeg, Al Filleul Web Manager accepted an award for the Universal Design of www.winnipeg.ca.

Serotek Corporation was also recognized for their no-cost screen reading and screen enlarging software "SA To Go".

Volunteer Awards were presented to: Harold Thorvaldson, "King Pin" for 50 Years and Nancy Klippenstein, Coordinator of the "See If You Can" ▶

Program" 1973 - 2009.

The event received very positive feedback from the community. The CCB MB Division has made great strides in the 2009 year and will continue to work on new ideas and ventures to raise positive awareness on the abilities of people who are blind or vision impaired.

SASKATCHEWAN

The CCB MOOSE JAW WHITE CANE CLUB had a successful White Cane Week, with Mayor Dale Me Bain signing the White Cane Week Proclamation. This was witnessed by President Margaret Fortman and member Marion Sweeting.

Cable 10 TV conducted an interview with Ralph Bergland, Public Relations Convener and Ron Metcalfe, President Moose Jaw Lions Club. This interview was aired several times during the month of February, 2009.

The members of the CCB Moose Jaw White Cane Club bowling team challenged the members of the Lions Clubs to a bowling match, which was won by the Lions Clubs members.

The Annual White Cane Week supper had updates regarding the CCB by Len Triffo, President CCB Sask. Division. Also Bob Parker, Social Worker, CNIB Regina gave the members information of aids available to the blind and visually impaired.

Signs were posted on the Bonanza restaurant parking lot and on the Firestone Store parking lot. These are situated on main arteries of the City.

Marquee signs on the Civic Centre lot and on the corner of Manitoba Street and 9th Avenue N.W. were run for the entire month of February.

The Public Library also had a display case filled with visual aids and appliances posted for the month of February.

Posters, bookmarks, pamphlets and the White Cane Week magazine were placed in waiting rooms in the hospital, nursing homes, and also the Moose Jaw Housing Authority properties. Posters were also displayed in windows of restaurants and other business' front windows.

PSA's were run on CHAB and Country 100 radio stations in Moose Jaw.

ALBERTA

The CCB Calgary Club began Monday, Feb 2, At Calgary City Hall, where Deputy Mayor Stevens read the White Cane Week Proclamation as well as a speech on visual impairment. A display was set up with visual aides, WCW magazines, CCB information, and literature pertaining to vision loss. They also included a paper that informed sighted people of the etiquette to use with the blind and visually impaired.

On Wednesday, Feb 4, a luncheon was held at Boston

Pizza, where Media and guests were asked to eat with blindfolds or glasses resembling various eye conditions. Shaw Cable and CityTV showed segments of the Luncheon. It was a huge success.

On Friday Feb 6 the chapter had a Display at Deerfoot Mall. It was the same type of display as City Hall. On the whole, White Cane Week was very successful.

The CCB Edmonton Fantastix Chapter held their 3rd Annual "Blind Bowling Challenge". The small chapter's one major event is a "Blind Bowling Challenge", where sighted people are invited to bowl two games of 5-pin with the members- one "regular" and one blindfolded, to simulate total blindness. The object, besides having fun, is to demonstrate to the sighted world what the members cope with every day of their lives, and how they can enjoy themselves in spite of their limitations.

Last year's event was held on Sunday, February 8, at Bonnie Doon Bowling Lanes in Edmonton. It included fifteen participants, two blind and thirteen sighted, including three children. Scores for the "blind" bowlers ranged from two to ninety; and everyone got a prize just for trying!

The chapter also had a sales and information table and a 50/50 draw. All in all, it was a successful event.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

White Cane Week 2009 was tremendously successful for the BC-Yukon Division. Members from the 100 Mile House & District Chapter, White Cane Club boarded a bus and hit the highway during White Cane Week in order to co-host an open house event with the CNIB on February 2nd.

This combined effort resulted in the formation of a new CCB Chapter. The Caribou White Cane Chapter has been established with thirteen members while others are already planning to join. The Williams Lake Lions Club sponsored the venue and was in attendance to offer their assistance as well as a donation to the new Chapter.

In conjunction with White Cane Week, a certificate of appreciation was presented to 100 Mile Transit for their contribution to the well being of blind and visually impaired Canadians.

In addition to WCW activities, one of the Lions Clubs in the 100 Mile House area has requested a demonstration of the Chapter's speech and magnification software programs which took place on March 2, 2009 as it was not possible during WCW.

Congratulations to six members of the Festival of Friends Chapter living in Kelowna for winning their 5th championship at the Annual Canadian Vision Impaired National Curling Bonspiel in Ottawa. □

IN THE NEWS

BICENTENNIAL OF THE BIRTH OF LOUIS BRAILLE

ACCESSIBLE ART PROGRAM AT NATIONAL GALLERY,
SEROTEK CORPORATION ACCEPTS CCB INCLUSION
AWARD, CRTC TAKES STEPS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO
COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES FOR CANADIANS
WITH VISION LOSS.

HAPPY 200th, LOUIS BRAILLE!



This year, the world marks the bicentennial of the birth of Louis Braille, the blind Frenchman who created and perfected a simple, effective and efficient system of reading and writing by touch. The impact the invention of braille has had on the world's blind, deafblind and visually impaired people has been compared to the impact of the invention of the printing press. Braille200 is the Canadian banner for special events which are being planned and organized by the World Braille Foundation in cooperation with CNIB, the World Blind Union, the Canadian Braille Authority, the Canadian Council of the Blind and other literacy groups in Canada.

Canadian bicentenary festivities in 2009 featured the debut of "Merci Louis," a new song by award-winning singer-songwriter Terry Kelly, and the unveiling of a new Canadian braille textbook titled "Celebrating Braille: A Canadian Approach."

But that's not all! The year of celebrations also included: Braille exhibits at different museums across Canada; Educational and awareness programs such as library reading series and read-a-thons. □

NATIONAL GALLERY HELPS VISUALLY IMPAIRED 'SEE' ART

WHITE CANE WEEK WORKSHOPS HELP ARTISTS CREATE
USING SENSES OTHER THAN SIGHT

BY EMMA LOVELL, CENTRETOWN NEWS

Christine Duport began participating in visual art workshops only after losing something often considered crucial to the medium: her sight.

Before a tumor caused her to lose her eyesight three years ago, 46-year-old Duport frequented museums and occasionally did arts and crafts at home, but her art practice changed significantly after going blind.

"I did do a little bit of art before, but nothing major," she says.

"Now I enjoy the process as much as I enjoy the finished result, whereas before I was geared toward the end product."

As she speaks, she runs her muddled hands across a clay sculpture she has been molding.

Duport is part of a small group of people with visual impairments who make regular trips to the National Gallery of Canada to experience and create art using senses other than sight.

From Feb. 1-7, the gallery partnered with the Canadian Council of the Blind to celebrate White Cane Week, a national awareness week aimed at emphasizing the talents of Canadians who are blind or visually impaired. Elizabeth Sweeney, accessibility educator at the national gallery, says although programming for people with visual impairments is available throughout the year, the awareness week highlights the power of art to a group that is often forgotten in the field.

"Especially within the blind community, these are people who were discouraged for the most part to think or talk or learn about art," Sweeney says.

The gallery hosted a series of hands-on workshops throughout the week, focused on making art. ►



Participants created hanging mobiles and clay and plaster sculptures, artworks based on form and shape, rather than on visual aesthetics like colour.

The week also included guided tactile tours, where participants explored less-fragile pieces in the gallery's collection through touch, in consultation with curators and conservators and using special gloves so as not to damage the works.

Celebrations wrapped up on Feb. 7, with a lecture by Amadeo D'Angiulli, a professor at Carleton University, who spoke about his studies with the drawings of children with congenital blindness.

Theresa Dupuis, president of the Canadian Council of the Blind's Ottawa chapter, says the accessibility options available at the national gallery and awareness weeks like this one help open up the world of art to people with visual impairments. Since she went blind three years ago due to acute glaucoma, the number of her visits to the gallery has increased significantly.

"Before I lost my sight, I wouldn't come to the gallery that often because I was working and I was too busy. But one door closes, and 10 more open," she says, adding that, in addition to taking part in White Cane Week, she now comes to the gallery at least once a month to attend a regular tour called Stimulating the Senses.

This in-depth tour takes participants through the gallery to examine artwork through senses other than sight, pairing various activities with meticulous oral descriptions of the works.

Activities may include, for example, touching rich velvets similar to those depicted in Baroque paintings, listening to music of a certain era or imagining the smells and tastes contained in a still life painting.

"Art isn't just what we see, art is a feeling; it's a memory and it's a thought," says Sweeney, who organizes the tours.

"Art pushes your imagination in different ways, so we try to tap into that."

Sweeney adds that Stimulating the Senses, which takes place on the last Thursday of every month, can be appreciated by a wide audience, including those without visual impairments. It's just about experiencing art in a deeper way, she says.

With her guide dog Erie lying comfortably at her feet, Duport puts the finishing touches on her

sculpture. She says that since losing her sight she has been able to appreciate art in a completely new way.

"Becoming blind is actually a very freeing experience," she says.

"I don't see what other people are doing, so there's no comparison. There's no pressure to achieve the perfect piece. First and foremost, it's about free expression." □

MIKE CALVO CEO – SEROTEK CORPORATION ACCEPTS CCB MANITOBA DIVISION "2009 INCLUSION AWARD"

The innovative SAToGo product from Serotek Corporation provides no-cost access technology through screen reading and screen enlarging capabilities to many blind and vision impaired people.

On May 28, 2009, at their Annual General Meeting, the Canadian Council of the Blind Manitoba Division honoured the Serotek Corporation with their "2009 Inclusion Award" for its SAToGo product.

The "Inclusion Award" is given by the CCB Manitoba Division to a company, group or individual who has created or expanded a service or product which increases the opportunities for Manitobans who are blind or vision impaired.

The 2009 Inclusion Award was presented to an enthusiastic Mike Calvo, CEO of Serotek's virtual presence via Skype so he could accept the award personally.

Mike Calvo inspired the 45 people in attendance with an uplifting message that "accessibility is a right".

SAToGo was featured as an option on 30 refurbished laptops which were distributed through CCB Manitoba Division to 30 blind and vision impaired people as part of the CCB's Tech-Cane Program.

SAToGo provides a base solution for those who do not have access technology for these laptops.

During his presentation, Mike Calvo made an unexpected extra-ordinary offer of 30 seat licenses to make the 30 laptops accessible to the CCB members in Manitoba. The seat licenses will allow the recipients of the laptops to use their computers even if an Internet connection is not available.

This was an exciting and generous offer which bolsters the goal of leveraging technology to support blind and vision impaired people in their full participation and contribution to society.

Serotek's product pricing and placing models are revolutionary within the adaptive technology industry and can be viewed by visiting www.serotek.com. □

CRTC TAKES STEPS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES FOR CANADIANS

On July 21, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC: www.crtc.gc.ca) announced new requirements to facilitate access to telecommunications and broadcasting services. The requirements build on existing initiatives and consist of concrete measures for the more than four million Canadians living with disabilities. While certain measures will be implemented immediately, others will be put into practice gradually given the current economic climate.

"We understand that Canadians living with disabilities have increasing needs as communications technologies become more prevalent in our daily lives," said Konrad von Finckenstein, Q.C., Chairman of the CRTC. "The measures announced today (Broadcasting and Telecom Regulatory Policy CRTC 2009-430) are an important step in making it easier for them to use the latest communications services."

Given the increasingly converged nature of the communications industry, the Commission examined accessibility issues as they relate to both broadcasting and telecommunications services.

Regarding telecommunications services and further to its review, the CRTC will:

- require that telecommunications companies, including cable and satellite companies, improve the accessibility of their customer service
- request that wireless companies offer at least one type of cell phone to serve the needs of people who are blind and/or have moderate-to-severe mobility or cognitive disabilities

During its next licence-renewal exercise, the CRTC will require that broadcasters:

- make available high-quality audio descriptions of programming, especially for news broadcasts

(audio descriptions provide Canadians with visual impairments with voice-overs of the text or graphics that appear on-screen, such as weather updates, sports scores or financial data), and

- provide at least four hours per week of described-video programming (described video is added during pauses in dialogue to provide information on the settings, the actors costumes or body language, or other purely visual information).

For the first time, the CRTC's requirements for described video will apply to French-language broadcasters, as well as the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's English- and French language networks. This will result in the provision of described video by a minimum of 15 additional English-language and five additional French-language television services.

The announcement follows a public process that included a public hearing, which was held from November 17 to 26, 2008; and included a presentation by the CCB.

Dr. Gary Birch, the Executive Director of the Neil Squire Society was one of the presenters at that hearing. Commenting on the CRTC decision, Dr. Birch said, "We look forward to working with the cell phone service providers to ensure they have accessible handset devices across the full range of persons with disabilities; however, the CRTC's rulings did not address several significant issues that were raised by the disability community during the hearings."

"In particular, the need for resources for community-based disability groups to be effectively involved in the ongoing process of creating accessibility resulting directly and indirectly from these hearings was not addressed. This is essential to ensure users with disabilities are appropriately involved in making current and emerging technologies and services accessible for all persons with disabilities. The CRTC has made an important step forward in addressing the needs of people with disabilities, but a properly funded and formal ongoing engagement process is necessary to ensure that people with disabilities are not left behind as new technologies and services are introduced."

Dr. Birch added, "We will continue to work with the CRTC, industry and other community-based organizations to continue the work of developing a funding model and putting it into place. This will enable the required level of effort to ensure that Canadians with disabilities can achieve and maintain full access to telecommunication and broadcast technologies." □

ENABLING THE BLIND THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

THE CCB IS OPENING UP A WORLD OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TO THE BLIND AND VETERANS THROUGH OUR BASIC COMPUTER LITERACY SKILLS TRAINING AND TECHCANE PROGRAMS

JAWS Workshop Sheds New Light for Visually Impaired People

JAWS has come to the community of Quesnel, BC. A group is learning how to use a computer without using their eyes. Many of the group is visually impaired, but this method also works for those who have sight and are living with disabilities such as dyslexia.

"There is now a vast amount of information

available on the World Wide Web that people can access like never before. When material was only available in print we were left out unless someone agreed to convert it to Braille," Canadian Council of the Blind's Albert Ruel said. "Now if we have access to technology in our homes or offices we can independently access it in the way that works

Participants in CCB Computer Training Course



for each of us. Some will choose to enlarge the text both on the screen and in print, others will listen to the text using screen reading software, and still others will read it using refreshable Braille displays.

"The real revolution is we individually get to choose, and the producer of the information need only make it available to all through the Internet in accessible formats."

JAWS (Job Access With Speech) is the program that the group is learning. This literacy-focused workshop is made possible through the Canadian Council of the Blind, HRSDC, and a community partnership with Century 21, Discovery Computers, seniors' Advocacy Service, Quesnel Literacy, and Advocacy Resources Centre.

The instructor, Albert Ruel from the Canadian Council of the Blind, is here for two weeks to fill the group's minds with as much training as they can absorb! Some in the group have never experienced using a computer; others have used computers for many years. With ten participants, all of them have something to learn in this workshop: whether that is to stay in touch with each other; to read the newspaper; communicate with families

and friends; research using the Internet; or do online banking.

"We no longer want to feel isolated. Computer technology is here to stay," said Deniece Furber, President of The Quesnel Visually Impaired chapter. "I will not be left behind. I want to be able to understand computers because in the future everything will be computerized. I am thankful for the CCB for showing options to the legally blind residents in Quesnel."

"This class is a riot. I am so glad that I stepped out the door today and came to the class. I am finally feeling normal! I thought that everything that I enjoyed in life was gone. Horses, musical instruments and books were what I lived for," said Allana Coderre, a participant in the course. "This has opened up my old world and a new one at the same time. I am starting to feel the gift my blindness can be, not the curse that I thought it to be."

Alana went on to say, "I think one of the most important things I would like to come away with from this class is a sense of normalcy. I would like to feel free to be me; and that means that I need to have a purpose and be able to function in the sighted world."

This story appeared in the Quesnel Cariboo Observer, October 15, 2009

Note from the Editor:

The CCB Basic Computer Literacy course is open to ALL blind and visually impaired Canadians, and is not limited to CCB members. The free 2-week course has an estimated value of \$2000.00.

Over 310 individuals have received training since the program began in March 2008. Training sessions have been held all across the country.

CCB will train 400 participants by the end of March 2010.

This program is sponsored by Human Resources and Social Development Canada and the Canadian Council of the Blind.

For further information on the program, and registration, please contact:

Mike Potvin at the CCB National office, 1-877-304-0968 or mpotvin@ccbnational.net. □



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THE SOUND OF BOOKS

An Ottawa club for the blind opens the world up to its members

by **PETER SCOWEN**, The Globe and Mail, March 14, 2009

LOSING your sight can happen slowly over years or it can come on suddenly, as quickly as one week. It can occur later in life as the result of macular degeneration, or disease and injury can cause it in youth or middle age.

However and whenever it happens, going blind is a traumatic event, likened by those who've been through it to the horror of losing a family member. Everyday assumptions about mobility are utterly shattered when the sense that most connects us to the world is unavailable. People who go blind have

to restart their lives, rethinking everything from their job situation to the position of the furniture in their living room.

"Either you can stay at home and wallow in your self-pity," says Mike Potvin, 32, who lost his sight to a genetic disorder seven years ago, "or you can get on with your life."

Potvin chose the latter. He is now both a member and organizer of a book club for the blind in Ottawa, its members gathering once a month in a spare office at the Canadian Council of the Blind (where Potvin

Members of CCB Ottawa Book Club





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works) to discuss *The Book of Negroes*, or a mystery novel, or the works of Bill Bryson.

"It's a wonderful group," Jane Beaumont says of the 15 members of the Canadian Council of the Blind Ottawa Book Club. "And it's made a huge difference in people's lives."

Beaumont is a former chair of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) library board. Four years ago, she teamed up with Potvin at the CCB and the Ottawa Public Library and, with a \$10,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Ottawa, purchased 20 specialized audio-book players called DAISY readers.

But instead of simply handing the \$500 readers over to CCB members and never seeing them again, Beaumont and Potvin formed the book club. They chose the CCB office for meetings because it's on a bus route, which is good for members who can still negotiate Ottawa's transit system (others get driven to the meetings by family members or specialized transit).

The ultimate goal, said Beaumont, was to get people out of their homes and doing the things they'd always done.

"It's proving to be a good book club," said Lois Batten, 82 and one of the founding members.

Batten knows from book clubs: She was a long-standing member of one before losing much of her sight six years ago. This new one, though, is different – there are more men than women, which strikes Batten as both unusual and educational.

"They read what they want!" she said of the men, somewhat startled by it. "If they don't like it, they

don't read it!"

The DAISY readers use specialized CDs made by the CNIB that have enhanced navigation features not available on commercial audio books, according to Beaumont.

Volunteers voice the books in a studio at the CNIB headquarters in Toronto, and the CDs are distributed in Ottawa by the library system.

One issue for blind readers is the delay between the release of a book and its availability from the CNIB. It's usually six months, Beaumont said, and can be longer for Canadian books.

Publishers and authors are touchy about protecting their copyrighted material, especially in the digital age, Beaumont pointed out. As little as 3 per cent of all books are available from publishers in alternate formats, leaving the CNIB with a large hole to fill.

It's clearly worth the effort. At least 10 members aging in range from 30 to 90 attend the meeting every month. The discussions are passionate, by all accounts.

"Socially, I think it's a good thing for the members," said Batten, who calls herself "a joiner."

Potvin, a passionate reader before going blind, said he had a "real transition period" after losing his sight that included wondering whether he would be able to continue with books.

That's all changed; he now does his reading in ways he never imagined. "I crank a book and do the dishes before my wife gets home from work," he said.

Being able to read, he said, "sort of opens the world back up to you." □

Canadian Council of the Blind

The main objectives of the CCB are to give people who are blind or vision impaired a voice in their own affairs and to provide rehabilitation through peer support and social and recreational activities.

The Objectives of the Council are threefold:

- a. To promote the well-being of individuals who are blind or vision impaired through higher education, profitable employment and social association, and to create a closer relationship between blind and sighted friends.
- b. To organize a nation-wide organization of people who are blind and vision impaired and groups of blind persons throughout Canada.
- c. To promote measures for the conservation of sight and the prevention of blindness.

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Canadian Council of the Blind Opens Toronto Stock Exchange



THE Canadian Council of the Blind (CCB), the largest membership based organization for the blind is pleased to announce that it opened the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX) on October 27th.

Jim Tokos, CCB Vice-President, presented the CCB's new cookbook *Kitchens of the World™* to the TSX and the Canadian Paralympic Foundation to thank them for their support for visually impaired curling at the local level in Canada.

"This is a very high end product with the premise that preparing food and with whom we share it can overcome geography and politics and can lead to an appreciation of other cultures," says Tokos.

Mr. Tokos states the cookbook is designed to raise funds for all charities and non-profit organizations

and is available in hard copy or EBook versions and features recipes and colour photographs from 102 countries.

The book also includes maps, iconic features of each country and demographics. "Our partner schools like it because it serves as an educational tool for both parents, students and teachers," notes Tokos.

Mr. Tokos goes on to say, "Quite frankly, I can't think of many charities willing to share with their fund raising ventures, but we are. This is not the blind leading the blind, but the blind leading."

For partnership or curling opportunities or ordering the cookbook visit the CCB web site at www.ccbnational.net □

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For more information or to reach a National Board member, please contact the Canadian Council of the Blind at our national office:
toll-free; 1-866-304-0968
email; ccb@ccbnational.net.



Canadian Council of the Blind National Staff

Jim Prowse

Executive Director

As Executive Director at the Canadian Council of the Blind, Jim works closely with the President of the organization, as well as the Board of Directors. Jim has enjoyed working with President Harold Schnellert and the Board to effect all the positive changes to the CCB.

Janet McIvor

Executive Administrator

Janet is pleased to be working with such diverse and interesting individuals as the Board of Directors, staff members and chapter members. She looks forward to the future with CCB moving ahead in a positive direction as current programs and events such as White Cane Week evolve, enhancing the lives of blind and visually impaired Canadians across the country.

Mike Potvin

Programs and

Communications Manager

Mike manages communications such as the annual White Cane Week magazine and monthly national newsletter, as well as various programs such as the Computer Literacy Training program and the Peer Mentor program.

Margaret Sedlar

Accountant

Margaret began working at the National office in December 2004 as an accountant. Margaret enjoys brightening up the lives of the staff, whether it is through her sense of humor, or kind generosity.

Kelly Hutcheson

Administrative Assistant

Kelly started at the National office in March of 2004 as an Administrative Assistant. Along with her receptionist duties, Kelly also looks after travel arrangements, donations and provides office support.

Fondation des Aveugles du Quebec

5112 rue Bellechasse,
Montreal, QC H1T 2A4
Phone: 514-259-9470
Fax: 514-254-5079
E-mail: info@aveugles.org
Website: www.aveugles.org
Product: Sports and leisure, housing, education, research and development

Guide Dog Users of Canada

181 Bank Street, Ottawa, ON K2P 2L9
Contact: Sue Archibald
Phone: 613-416-236-1796
Fax: 416-236-4280
E-mail: guidedogs@gduc.ca
Website: www.gduc.ca
Product: Education, peer support

Multi-Ethnic Association for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities

6462, boul. St-Laurent,
Montreal, QC H2S 3C4
Phone: 514-272-0680
Fax: 514-272-8530
E-mail: ameiph@ameiph.com
Website: www.ameiph.com
Product: Employment assistance, integration, skills training

Neil Squire Foundation

220-2250 Boundary Road,
Burnaby, BC V5M 3Z3
Phone: 604-473-9363
Fax: 1-604-473-9364
E-mail: info@neilsquire.ca
Website: www.neilsquire.ca
Products: Learning and rehabilitation programs, research and development of adaptive devices.

Resource Centre for Manitobans who are Deaf-Blind

295 Pembina Hwy,
Winnipeg, MB R3L 2E1
Fax: 204-452-0688
Products: Advocacy, education, rehabilitation and skills training

Saskatchewan Abilities Council

2310 Louise Avenue,
Saskatoon, SK S7J 2C7
Branches: Regina, Swift Current, Yorkton
Contact: Dana Kingsbury
Phone: 306-374-4448 Fax: 306-373-2665
E-mail: provincialservices@abilitiescouncil.sk.ca
Website: www.abilitiescouncil.sk.ca
Product: Rehabilitation and training services, recreation

Self-Help Resource Association of British Columbia

306-1212 Broadway Street,
Vancouver, BC V6H 3V1
Phone: 604-733-6186
Fax: 604-730-1015
E-mail: shra@telus.net

Website: www.selfhelpresource.bc.ca
Product: Skills training, peer support, referral, education

AWARENESS

Alberta Committee of Citizens with Disabilities

#707 Princeton Place
10339 - 124 Street NW
Edmonton, AB T5N 3W1
Phone: 780-488-9088
Toll Free: 1-800-387-2514
TDD/TTY: 780-488-9090
Fax: 780-488-3757
E-mail: accd@accd.net
Website: www.accd.net

Alliance for Equality of Blind Canadians:

Box 20262 RPO Town Center
Kelowna, BC V1Y 9H2
Toll Free: 1-800-561-4774
Email: info@BlindCanadians.ca
Website: www.blindcanadians.ca

AMD Alliance International

1929, Bayview Avenue,
Toronto, ON M4G 3E8
Phone: 877-AMD-7171
E-mail: info@amdalliance.org
Website: www.amdalliance.com
Product: Advocacy, education

Association des Personnes Handicapees de la Peninsule Acadienne

643 Boul. St-Pierre O.,
Caraquet, NB E1W 1A2
Phone: 506-727-6095
Fax: 506-727-4831
E-mail: aphpainc@nbnet.nb.ca
Website: www.jeunessepacadienne.org
Product: Advocacy, employment assistance

Association des Personnes Handicapees Visuelles

230-380 rue Richard,
Rouyn-Noranda, QC J9X 4L3
Branches: Gatineau,
Phone: 819-762-2823
Fax: 819-762-8403
E-mail: aphvrn@cablevision.qc.ca
Website: www.cablevision.qc.ca/aphvrn
Product: Adaptive equipment, advocacy, education

British Columbia Coalition of People with Disabilities

204-456 West Broadway Street,
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1R3
Phone: 800-663-1278
Fax: 604-875-9227
E-mail: feedback@bccpd.bc.ca
Website: www.bccpd.bc.ca
Product: Advocacy

Canadian Braille Authority (CBA)

c/o The CNIB Library for the Blind,
1931 Bayview Ave., Toronto, ON M4G 3E8
Phone: 416-480-7522
Fax: 416-480-7700
E-mail: joy.charlton@cnib.ca
Website: www.canadianbrailleauthority.ca
Product: Advocacy, Braille

Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work

401-111 Richmond Street,
Toronto, ON M5H 2G4
Contact: Carole Barron
Phone: 416-260-3060
Fax: 416-260-3093
E-mail: cjbarron@ccrw.org
Website: www.ccrw.org
Product: Advocacy, skills training, employment assistance

Canadian Disabled Individuals Association

8623 Granville Street,
Vancouver, BC V6P 5A2
Phone: 604-301-1029
Fax: 604-301-1049
E-mail: info@disabledindividuals.ca
Website: www.disabledindividuals.ca
Product: Advocacy, education, housing

Canadian National Society for the Deaf-Blind

405-422 Willowdale Avenue,
North York, ON M2N 5B1
Fax: 416-223-0182
E-mail: cnsdb@canada.com
Website: www.cnsdb.ca
Product: Advocacy, adaptive equipment

Citizen Advocacy

495 Glengarry Avenue,
Windsor, ON N9A 1P5
Phone: 519-966-5010
Fax: 519-966-5015
E-mail: info@citizen-advocacy.ca
Website: www.citizen-advocacy.ca
Product: Advocacy, peer support, animal therapy

Citizen Advocacy of Ottawa:

1 Community Place, 312 Parkdale Avenue
Ottawa, ON, K1Y 4X5
Phone: (613) 761-9522
TTY: (613) 725-6175
Fax: (613) 761-9525
E-mail: info@citizenadvocacy.ca
Website: www.citizenadvocacy.ca

Coalition of Persons with Disabilities

1-160 Traders Blvd. East,
Mississauga, ON L4Z 3K7
Phone: 800-270-3861
Fax: 905-755-9953
E-mail: coalition.pwd@sympatico.ca
Website: www.disabilityaccess.org
Product: Advocacy, employment assistance



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Confederation des Organismes de Personnes Handicapées du Québec (COPHAN)

1210-1055 Boul. René-Levesque E., Montréal, QC H2L 4S5
Phone: 514-284-0155
Fax: 514-284-0775
E-mail: cophan@qc.aira.com
Website: www.cophan.org
Product: Advocacy, Peer Support, Education

Council of Canadians with Disabilities

926-294 Portage Avenue,
 Winnipeg, MB R3C 0B9
Phone: 204-947-0303
E-mail: ccd@ccdonline.ca
Website: www.ccdonline.ca
Product: Advocacy

International Society of the Handicapped of Greater Vancouver

125-8880 no. 1 Road,
 Richmond, BC V7C 4C3
Phone: 604-271-8387
Fax: 604-271-8343
E-mail: ishbc@vcn.bc.ca
Website: www.vcn.bc.ca/ishbc
Product: Advocacy

Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities

105-500 Portage Avenue,
 Winnipeg, MB, R3C 3X1
 Telephone: (204) 943-6099
 (Voice/TTY) Fax: (204) 942-3146
Website: www.mlpd.mb.ca

Nova Scotia League for Equal Opportunities

1211-5251 Duke Street,
 Halifax, NS B3J 1P3
Branches: Sydney, New Glasgow, Truro
Phone: 866-696-7536
Fax: 902-454-4781
E-mail: nbleo@eastlink.ca
Website: www.msnet.org/leo
Product: Advocacy, adaptive equipment

PEI Council of the Disabled

25 University Avenue,
 Charlottetown, PE C1A 8B9
Phone: 902-892-9149
E-mail: peicod@peicod.pe.ca
Website: www.peicod.pe.ca
Product: Advocacy, education, employment assistance

REACH Canada

400 Coventry Road, Ottawa, ON K1K 2C7
Phone: 800-465-8898
Fax: 613-256-6605
E-mail: reach@reach.ca
Website: www.reach.ca
Product: Advocacy, education, fundraising

Regroupement des Associations de Personnes Handicapées de l'Outaouais

127, rue Jean-Proulx,
 Gatineau, QC J9Z 1T4
Phone: 819-770-0535
Fax: 819-770-7006
E-mail: rapho115@videotron.ca
Product: Advocacy, education

Regroupement des Aveugles et Amblyopes du Montréal-Métropolitain:

5215, rue Berri, bureau 200
 Montréal (Qu. bec) H2J 2S4
Téléphone: (514) 277-4401
Télécopieur: (514) 277-8961
Courriel: info@raamm.org
Website: www.raamm.org

Sam Sullivan Disability Foundation

770 Pacific Blvd. South,
 Vancouver, BC V6B 5E7
Phone: 604-688-6464
Fax: 604-688-6463
E-mail: info@disabilityfoundation.org
Website: www.disabilityfoundation.org
Product: Advocacy, rehabilitation, recreational activities, sports

Saskatchewan Voice of People with Disabilities

984 Albert Street
 Regina, SK S4R 2P7
Tel/TTY: (306) 569-3111
Fax: (306) 569-1889
Toll Free: 1-877-569-3111
E-Mail: voice@saskvoice.com
Website: www.saskvoice.com

Union Francophone des Aveugles

1111 rue St-Charles Ouest, 3e étage
 Longueuil, QC J4K 5G4
Téléphone: 450-463-9899
Courriel: info@unionfrancophonedesaveugles.org
Website: www.unionfrancophonedesaveugles.org

ASSISTANCE

EmployAbility Partnership

500 George Street, suite 250
 Sydney, NS B1P 6R7
Tel: (902) 539-5673
Fax: (902) 539-6226
Toll-Free: 1-888-336-1135
E-Mail: info@employabilitypdpa.ca
Website: www.employabilitypdpa.ca

Saskatchewan Abilities Council

2310 Louise Avenue
 Saskatoon, SK S7J 2C7
Tel: (306) 374-4448
Fax: (306) 373-2665
E-mail: provincialservices@abilitiescouncil.sk.ca
Website: www.abilitiescouncil.sk.ca

CHILD SERVICES

Between Friends Club

304-501 18th Avenue SW,
 Calgary, AB T2S 0C7
Phone: 403-269-9133
Fax: 403-269-3919
E-mail: info@betweenfriends.ab.ca
Website: www.betweenfriends.ab.ca
Product: Recreational activities, youth camp, support

EDUCATION

Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority

5940 South Street
 Halifax, NS B3H 1S6
Tel./TTY: (902) 424-8500
Fax: (902) 424-0543
Website: www.apsea.ca

The Hadley School for the Blind

700 Elm Street,
 Winnetka, IL 60093 – 2554, USA
Phone: 800-323-4238
Fax: 847-446-9916
E-mail: info@hadley.edu
Website: www.hadley-school.org
Product: Integration, advocacy, instruction and skills training

W. Ross MacDonald School for the Blind

350 Brant Street,
 Brantford, ON N3T 3J9
Phone: 519-759-2522
Fax: 519-759-1036
Type: Education
Product: Integration, advocacy, instruction and skills training

EMPLOYMENT

ATN

504-141 Dundas Street,
 London, ON N6A 1G3
Phone: 519-433-7950
Fax: 519-433-0282
E-mail: atn@skillcentre.on.ca
Website: www.atn.on.ca
Type: Employment
Product: Employment assistance, skills training

Career Flight

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 Miramichi, NB E1N 1B2
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 Phone: 780-454-9656
 E-mail: stanf@chrysalis.ab.ca
 Website: www.chrysalis.ab.ca
 Product: Employment assistance, skills training

Durham Region Employment Network

60 Bond Street West, 8th Floor
 Oshawa, ON L1G 1A5
 Tel: (905) 720-1777
 Fax: (905) 720-1363
 E-Mail: dren@dren.org
 Website: www.dren.org

EmployAbilities

4th Floor, 10909 Jasper Avenue
 Edmonton, AB T5J 3L9
 Tel: (780) 423-4106
 Fax: (780) 426-0029
 E-Mail: employ@employabilities.ab.ca
 Website: www.employabilities.ab.ca

IAM Cares Society

102-5623 Imperial Street,
 Burnaby, BC V5J 1G1
 Branches: Surrey, North Vancouver
 Phone: 604-436-2921
 Fax: 604-436-9100
 E-mail: jennifer@iamcares.com
 Website: www.iamcares.com
 Product: Employment assistance

Link Up Employment Services for Persons with Disabilities

55 Eglinton Avenue East, Suite 502
 Toronto, Ontario M4P 1G8
 Tel: (416) 413-4922
 Fax: (416) 413-4927
 TTY: (416) 413-4926
 E-mail: info@linkup.ca
 Website: www.linkup.ca

Path Employment Services:

Effort Square, 140 King Street East, Suite 7
 Hamilton, ON L8N 1B2
 Phone: (905) 528-6611
 TTY: (905) 528-3336
 Fax: (905) 528-2181
 Email: info@pathemployment.com
 Website: www.pathemployment.com

Reaching E-Quality Employment Services

305-1200 Portage Avenue,
 Winnipeg, MB R3G 0T5
 Contact: Teresa Andreychuk
 Phone: 204-947-1609
 Fax: 204-947-2932
 E-mail: info@re-es.org
 Website: www.re-es.org
 Product: Employment assistance, rehabilitation, skills training

GUIDE DOGS

BC Guide Dog Services

#10-4767 64th Street,
 Ladner, BC V4K-3M2
 Phone: 604-940-4504
 Fax: 604-940-4506
 E-mail: guidedog@telus.net
 Website: www.bcguidedog.com/
 Type: Guide Dogs
 Product: Guide dog training, fundraising

Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind

4120, Rideau Valley Drive N.,
 Manotick, ON K4M 1A3
 Branches: Richmond, Victoria, Kingston
 Phone: 613-692-7777
 Fax: 613-692-0650
 E-mail: cgdb@sympatico.ca
 Website: www.guidedogs.ca
 Product: Guide dog training, fundraising

Canine Vision Canada

P.O. Box 907, Oakville, ON L6J 5E8
 Phone: 905-842-2891
 Fax: 905-842-2891
 E-mail: info@dogguides.com
 Website: www.dogguides.com
 Product: Provides dog guides for the blind or visually impaired

Fondation Mira

1820, rang Nord-Ouest,
 Ste-Madeleine, QC J0H 1S0
 Phone: 450-795-3725
 Fax: 450-795-3789
 E-mail: info@mira.ca
 Website: www.mira.ca
 Product: Guide dog training

Guide Dog Users of Canada (GDUC)

1460 Merivale Rd., P.O. Box 78026, Merilene P.O.,
 Ottawa, ON K1P 5P0
 Phone: 613-830-1398
 E-mail: guidedogs@gduc.ca
 Website: www.gduc.ca
 Product: Guide dog assistance

Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides

152 Wilson Street, Oshawa, ON
 L6K 3H2
 Phone: 905-842-2891
 Fax: 905-842-3373

E-mail: info@dogguides.com
 Website: www.dogguides.com
 Product: Guide dog training, fundraising

Western Guide Dog Foundation

14550, 116th Avenue,
 Edmonton, AB T5M 3E9
 Phone: 877-252-9433
 Fax: 780-944-9571
 E-mail: info@guidedog.ca
 Website: www.guidedog.ca
 Product: Guide dog training

HOUSING

Bethany Care Society

1001 17th Street NW, Calgary, AB
 T2N 2E5
 Phone: 403-210-4600
 Fax: 204-947-2932
 E-mail: info@bethanycare.com
 Website: www.bethanycare.com
 Product: Housing, skills training

LAW

ARCH Legal Clinic

110-425 Bloor Street E.,
 Toronto, ON M4W 3R5
 Phone: 866-482-ARCH
 Fax: 1-866-881-ARCF
 E-mail: archlib@lao.on.ca
 Website: www.archlegalclinic.ca
 Product: Legal services

PROVINCIAL TECHNICAL AIDS AND DEVICES FUNDING PROGRAMS

Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL)

10030 - 107 Street,
 Edmonton, AB T5J 3E4
 Branches: Edmonton
 Phone: 780-427-2631

Ontario Assistive Devices Program (ADP)

Suite M1-57, Macdonald Block,
 900 Bay Street, Toronto, ON M7A 1R3
 Phone: 800-268-1154
 Website: www.health.gov.on.ca

Quebec Programme D'aides Visuelles

1125, chemin Saint-Louis,
 Sillery QU G1S 1E7
 Phone: 418-646-4636

Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living (SAIL)

3475 Albert Street, Regina, SK S4S 6X6
 Phone: 800-667-7766 (Saskatchewan only)
 E-mail: webmaster@health.gov.sk.ca

PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL ADVISORY COUNCILS & CONTACTS

Alberta

Office: Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities
 301-11044 82nd Ave.
 Edmonton, AB T6G 0T2
 Contact: Terry Keyko
 Phone: 780 422-1095 (and TTY)
 Toll-Free: 800-272-8841 (and TTY)
 Fax: 780-422-9691
 E-mail: pcspdp@planet.eon.net
 Website: www.premierscouncil.ab.ca



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(519) 974-2871

GREAT WEST PROPERTY MANAGEMENT INC
(403) 252-4411

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(902) 455-0566

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(905) 639-3680

HARBOURS OF NEWPORT
(403) 295-2919

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(902) 658-2776

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(709) 922-2822

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(905) 734-4321

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(519) 782-4444

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(519) 669-1381

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(905) 547-7280

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(403) 227-4346

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(519) 432-3337

L J PATTERSON SALES SERVICE
(506) 383-4202

LA CO OPERATIVE DE BAIE STE ANNE LT
(506) 228-4211

LAFARGE CANADA INC
(780) 472-6933

British Columbia

Office: Disability Issues & Awareness, Ministry of Human Resources
614 Humbolt St., 2nd Fl.
Victoria, BC V8W 9H8
Contact: Frank Jonassen
Phone: 250-365-1716, Fax: 205-387-1610
E-mail: Frank.Jonassen@gems1.gov.bc.ca

Manitoba

Office: Family Services and Housing, Policy and Planning
219-114 Garry St.,
Winnipeg, MB R3C 4V6
Contact: Jim Derksen
Phone: 204-945-5351
Fax: 204-945-2156
E-mail: jiderksen@gov.mb.ca

New Brunswick

Office: Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons
648-440 King St.,
Fredericton, NB E3B 5H8
Contact: Randy Dickinson
Phone: 506-444-3000 (and TTY)
Toll-free: 800-442-4412 (in NB)
Fax: 506-444-3001
E-mail: randy.dickinson@gnb.ca
Website: www.gnb.ca/0048

Newfoundland

Office: Coalition of Persons with Disabilities – Newfoundland & Labrador (COD)
4 Escasoni Place,
St. John's, NF A1A 3R6
Contact: Mary Ennis
Phone: 709-722-7011, Fax: 709-722-4424
TTY: (709) 722-7998

Northwest Territories

Office: Northwest Territories Council for Disabled Persons
5014-47th St., P.O. Box 1387, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P1
Contact: Cecily Hewitt
Phone: 867-873-8230
Fax: 867-873-4124
TTY: 867- 920-2674
E-mail: disabilitynwt@yk.com

Nova Scotia

Office: Nova Scotia Disabled Persons Commission
PO Box 222, Halifax, NS B3J 2M4
Contact: Judy Hughes
Phone: 902-424-8280
Fax: (902) 424-0592
TTY: 902-424-2667
E-mail: hughesjm@gov.ns.ca
Website: www.gov.ns.ca/disa

Nunavut No listings at present.

Ontario

Office: Accessibility Advisory Council of Ontario
400 University Ave., 3rd Fl, Toronto, ON M7A 2R9
Contact: Jeff Adams
Phone: 416-314-7545
Fax: 416-314-7467
TTY: 877-877-0126
E-mail: vincenza.ronaldi@mczcr.gov.on.ca

Prince Edward Island

Office: PEI Council of the Disabled Inc.
300-25 University Ave., P.O. Box 2128,
Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N7
Contact: Anne Lie-Nielsen
Phone: 902-892-9149
Fax: 902-566-1919
Website: www.peicod.pe.ca
E-mail: peicod@peicod.pe.ca

Quebec

Office: Office des personnes handicapées du Québec
309 Brock St.,
Drummondville, QC J2B 1C5
Contact: Denis Boulanger
Phone: 819-475-8533
Fax: 514-284-0775
E-mail: pdg@ophq.gouv.qc.ca

Saskatchewan

Office: Office of Disability Issues
14-1920 Broad St., Regina, SK S4P 3V8
Contact: Daryl Stubel
Phone: 306-787-7283
Fax: 306-798-0364
E-mail: dstubel@ss.gov.sk.ca
Website: www.gov.sk.ca/odi

Yukon

Office: Department of Health & Social Services, Adult Services
PO Box 2703,
Whitehorse, YK Y1A 2C6
Contact: Leona Corniere
Phone: 867-668-3674
Fax: 867-667-3096
E-mail: Jan.Langford@gov.yk.ca
Website: www.hss.gov.yk.ca/ssframe.html

REHABILITATION

Alberta Council of Disability Services

Bay 19, 3220 - 5 Avenue NE
Calgary, AB T2A 5N1
Ph: (403) 250-9495
Fax: (403) 291-9864
Email: acds@acds.ca
Website: www.acds.ca

Center for Sight Enhancement

University of Waterloo
200 University Avenue West
Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1
Phone: (519) 888-4567 Ext. 33178
Fax: (519) 725-0784
Website: www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca

Montreal Association for the Blind

7000, Sherbrooke Street West
Montreal, QC, H4B 1R3
Tel: 514-489-8201
Fax: 514-489-3477
E-mail: mabinfo@ssss.gouv.qc.ca
Website: www.mab.ca

RESEARCH

Foundation Fighting Blindness

12th floor, 890 Yonge Street
Toronto, ON M4W 3P4
Tel: (416) 360-4200
Fax: (416) 360-0060
Toll-Free: 1-800-461-3331
E-Mail: info.ffb.ca
Website: www.ffb.ca

SERVICE PROVIDERS

Canadian National Institute for the Blind

1929 Bayview Avenue,
Toronto, ON M4G 3E8
Branches: Calgary, Edmonton, Kamloops, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Bathurst, Miramichi, Moncton, Fredericton, Saint John, Grand Falls/Windsor, St-John's, Sydney, Halifax, Brantford, Oshawa, Cornwall, Windsor, Mississauga, Hamilton, Kingston, Ottawa, Pembroke, Sault Ste. Marie, Barrie, Waterloo, Montreal, Regina
Phone: 416-486-2500 **Fax:** 416-480-7677
E-mail: info@cnib.ca
Website: www.cnib.ca
Product: Adaptive equipment, referrals, education, library services, rehab services

Children's Ability Fund

301-12431 Stony Plain Road,
Edmonton, AB T5N 3N3
Phone: 780-454-9191
Fax: 780-452-5036
E-mail: info@childrensabilityfund.ab.ca
Website: www.childrensabilityfund.ab.ca
Product: Adaptive equipment, bursaries

Children's Link Society

2-4412 Manilla Road SE,
Calgary, AB T2G 4B7
Phone: 403-230-9158
Fax: 403-230-3252
E-mail: child@nucleus.com
Website: www.childrenslink.ca
Product: Support, education, research

Institut Nazareth & Louis-Braille

1111, rue St-Charles O.,
Longueuil, QC J4K 5G4
Phone: 800-361-7063
Fax: 450-463-0243
E-mail: info@inlb.qc.ca
Website: www.inlb.qc.ca
Product: Integration, support, rehab services



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MR RICHARD KENNEDY
(506) 368-2525

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(902) 423-1952

MRS MARILYN BLAIR
(204) 727-4225

MRS PAULA BROWN
(902) 443-5333

MRS SONJA KING
(705) 722-5707

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(905) 836-9003

Intervention Manitoba Inc.

Suite 201 - 1100 Concordia Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R2K 4B8
Telephone: (204) 949-3730
Fax: (204) 949-3732
E-Mail: info@im1-mb.com
Website: www.msen.mb.ca/cdbra.html

Society of Manitobans with Disabilities

825 Sherbrook Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3A 1M5
Tel: (204) 975-3010
Toll free: 1-866-282-8041
TTY: 1-800-225-9108 - Canada/US
Fax: (204) 975-3073

SOCIAL

Connectra

Suite 207 - 3077 Granville Street
Vancouver, BC, Canada V6H 3J9
Tel: (604) 688-6464
Fax: (604) 688-6463
E-Mail: info@connectra.org
Website: www.connectra.org

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Alberta Sport and Recreation Association of the Blind

7-15 Colonel Baker Place NE
Calgary, AB T2E 4Z3
Tel: 403-262-5332
Fax: 403-265-7221
Toll Free: 1-888-882-7722
E-Mail: marilyn@asrab.ab.ca
Website: www.asrab.ab.ca

Association Quebecoise de Loisirs pour Personnes Handicapees

4545, av. Pierre-De Coubertin
C.P. 1000, succursale M
Montréal, QC H1V 3R2
Tél.: (514) 252-3144
Télec.: (514) 252-8360
E-Mail : info@aqlph.qc.ca
Website: www.aqlph.qc.ca

BC Disability Games

20505 - 120 B Avenue
Maple Ridge, BC V2X 1A9
Phone: 604-465-7738
Fax: 604-465-7759
E-mail: info@bcdisabilitygames.org
Website: www.bcdisabilitygames.org
Type: Sports and recreation
Product: Coaching, sports and recreation

British Columbia Blind Sports and Recreation Association

#330 - 5055 Joyce Street,
Vancouver, BC V5R 6B2
Phone: 604-325-8638
Fax: 604-325-1638
E-mail: info@bcblindsports.bc.ca
Website: www.bcblindsports.bc.ca/
Product: Coaching, sports and recreation

Blind Sailing Canada

45 Brahms Avenue, Toronto, ON
M2H 1H3
Phone: 416-496-5089
Fax: 416-489-8221
E-mail: info@blindsailing.ca
Website: www.blindsailing.ca
Product: Sailing

Canadian Blind Sports Association

7 Mill Street, Lower Level,
Almonte, ON K0A 1A0
Phone: 613-256-7792
Fax: 613-256-8759
Product: Sports and recreation

Central Ontario Developmental Riding Program

584 Pioneer Tower Road,
Kitchener, ON N2P 2H9
Phone: 519-653-4686
Fax: 519-653-5565
E-mail: codrp@sentex.net
Website: www.codrp.com
Product: Therapeutic horseback riding, youth camp

Centre de Loisirs Metropolitain pur Personnes Handicapees

7350 de la Nantaise
Anjou, QC, H1M 1B5
Tel: (514) 354-8840

Manitoba Blind Sports Association

200 Main Street, Winnipeg, MB
R3C 4M2
Contact: Cathy Derewianchuk
Phone: 204-925-5694
Fax: 204-925-5703
E-mail: blindsport@shawbiz.ca
Website: www.blindsport.mb.ca
Product: Sports and recreation

National Capital Visually Impaired Sports Association

223 Deerfox Drive Ottawa, ON K2J 5H5
Tel: (613) 829-3183
Email: tenanga@quixnet.net
Website: www.ncscd.ca/NCVISAPage.html

Zone Loisirs Monteregie:

3800, boulevard Casavant Ouest
Saint-Hyacinthe, QC J2S 8E3
Téléphone: (450) 771-0707
E-Mail: jlemonde@zlm.qc.ca
Website: www.zlm.qc.ca

SUPPORT

Family Support Institute Manitoba Blind Sports Association

300-30 East Sixth Avenue,
Vancouver, BC V5T 4P4
Phone: 604-875-1119 Fax: 1-604-875-6744
E-mail: fsi@bcacl.org
Website: www.familysupportbc.com
Product: Family support

TEXT CONVERSION

La Magnetotheque

301-1055 Boul. Rene-Levesque,
Montréal, QC H2L 4S5
Phone: 800-361-0635 Fax: 514-282-1676
E-mail: info@lamagnetotheque.qc.ca
Website: www.lamagnetotheque.qc.ca
Product: Converting written literature to audio format

T-Base Communications

19 Main Street, Ottawa, ON K1S 1A9
Phone: 613-236-0484 Fax: 613-232-6881
E-mail: tbadm@tbase.com
Website: www.tbase.com
Product: Converting text to Braille and audio formats



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(306) 565-3750

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Products of Interest to the Blind

Optelec FarView, ScripTalk Station, Victor Reader Stream 3.0, Accessible iPhone, Oracle Talking Glucose Meter, and the PenFriend Labeling Device

Optelec FarView

Whether the needs are for on-the-go portability, viewing street signs, storing class notes, reviewing important documents, reading the morning newspaper or sharing information, the Optelec FarView puts freedom and independence in the palms of the user.

Optelec, the world leader in innovative and assistive technology for visually impaired and blind people, announced the release of FarView, a portable and powerful magnification solution that redefines how low vision users are able to access, store, review and share information.

The unique design of the Optelec FarView and incomparable functionality of near and distance viewing sets a new standard for other portable and desktop devices currently on the market.

Using a centralized, auto focus camera and six different viewing modes the FarView allows the user to view from a distance as well as up close. Viewing notes on the board, reading the menu at coffee shops, and traveling independently has never been easier!

The FarView enables the user to store the data for up close review in more detail at any time. Capture a complete document or multiple pages of a book or magazine. Up to 100 images can be stored on the device and accessed at any given moment.

Adjust images and text to the needs of the user through rotation, picture alignment, contrast and brightness settings.

Also, FarView offers the user flexibility to connect to an external monitor or PC, encouraging the user to access printed text and photos comfortably and efficiently, and share this information with colleagues, friends and family.

For more information, please visit:

www.optelec.com/ca_en/index.php/products/electronic-low-vision/farview/

ScripTalk Station®

Do you have trouble reading your prescriptions? Many people have difficulty reading or understanding the contents and instructions of their prescription medications. The small print and look-alike packaging of medicine vials can lead to confusion, non-compliance, and mistakes. Many are bothered by the fact that they must rely on others to read their prescription information for them, and others simply try to remember numerous directions, warnings and names.

Now there is a solution to these serious issues – ScripTalk Station. ScripTalk Station is an easy to use device that uses text to-speech and RFID technologies to provide visually impaired pharmacy customers the ability to hear their prescription information. A thin antennae and microchip embedded within the label are programmed with all the printed information. Because the data is stored in the label itself, it can go on any size bottle, box, vial, tube or other prescription container. At home, the patient uses a table top reader, which decodes the label information, to hear spoken medication information such as patient name, drug name and dosage, instructions, warnings and cautions, prescription number, pharmacy name and phone number, prescribing doctor, and patient education monographs. Individuals can now safely, privately and independently manage their prescription medications.

To talk with a pharmacist and get your prescriptions filled with ScripTalk Talking Labels, contact:

Direct Care Pharmacy

888-499-3848

www.directcarepharmacy.ca



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For more information about ScripTalk Station contact:

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www.envisionamerica.com

Humanware Unveils Victor Reader Stream 3.0

This year HumanWare announced the latest version of its popular Victor Reader Stream DAISY book player, MP3 player, and voice recorder. The latest release of software for the Stream is version 3.0. It is a free upgrade software for the tens of thousands of users who now enjoy their Stream worldwide.



Version 3.0 is a major release packed with new features that continue to distinguish the Stream as the industry leader among pocket size accessible players. Version 3.0 responds to popular requests received from many Stream customers.

New features include:

- Multi-level bookshelf navigation for Other Books, Podcasts, and Text. Now you can optionally organize these bookshelves into multiple levels of folders and navigate at those levels.
- Multi-level folder navigation within Music files. For example, now you could choose to organize your music by levels such as genre, artist, and album and navigate at those levels to more quickly find your desired music.
- Further you can now instantly create temporary playlists of any subset of your music collection and limit Random play to only that portion of your music.
- Moreover, you can turn random play on or off with a single key press like many commercial MP3 players.
- Text Search. Yes, now you can enter words to search for in your text files or text-only DAISY books.
- Bookmark alert. You can enable an optional bookmark alert feature to notify you when you are playing a book and pass over a previously bookmarked position. It will even automatically announce your audio bookmarks.
- Two text-to-speech voices. The English version

of Stream 3.0 will now include both a male and female text-to-speech voice.

- A 30 minute Time Jump feature and many other usability improvements have been added.

“With the increasing use of 8gb, 16, and even 32gb storage cards, users are managing ever increasing amounts of data on their Stream”, says Gerry Chevalier, Victor Reader Product Manager. “With thousands of music files and hundreds of podcasts or text files they have asked us to provide more efficient navigation and version 3 delivers just that.”

Says Chevalier, “The improved navigation as well as the bookmark alert, text search and other usability improvements in Stream 3.0 renews HumanWare’s commitment to our Stream customers that we would continue to enhance the Stream over time to maximize their Stream investment.”

And there’s more. HumanWare is pleased to announce that Stream 3.0 is also accompanied by a completely new-look Stream Companion software. The new Stream Companion 3.0 Windows software has a completely new menu driven interface, support for the new Bookshare zip format, and more.

The software is available on the Stream Support Page. For more information, visit the HumanWare website at: www.humanware.com

Blind Welcomes Off-The-Shelf iPhone Accessibility

An advanced screen-reader and other accessibility features on a new version of Apple’s iPhone represent an “extremely significant development” for a previously inaccessible technology, according to the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB).

‘Off-the-shelf’ features built into the iPhone 3GS allow blind and visually impaired users to send and receive text messages and emails, browse the internet, play music and make and receive phone calls.

The ‘VoiceOver’ screen-reader on the new phone also claims to be the world’s first “gesture-based screen-reader”, working with the iPhone’s touch-screen to describe or read out whatever function or piece of text the user moves their finger over, in any of 21 different languages. This allows users to read emails or text messages, and a ‘Speak Auto-text’

function will speak out letters or words being typed on the phone, suggesting possible corrections as it proceeds.

A further gesture-based 'rotor' system activated with a circular motion of the fingers switches the screen-reader mode backwards and forwards between word-by-word speech and reading out individual characters.

Additionally, a voice control function allows users to make and receive calls, play and control music through voice commands.

The RNIB says Apple has taken "a positive step" by building-in these features for free. "All too often, blind and partially sighted people have to rely on third-party assistive technology software and hardware in order to make mainstream devices such as mobile phones accessible", said Kiran Kaja, from the RNIB's digital accessibility team. "This involves an additional cost for the user. But with Apple providing a free VoiceOver screen-reader on all iPhone 3GS devices, blind and partially sighted customers can now benefit from an off-the-shelf accessible mobile phone at the same price as their sighted counterparts."

Other accessibility features on the 3GS include a zoom function that can dramatically magnify the entire screen of any application; an option to change the screen display to white on black, offering higher contrast; easily discernible tactile buttons to perform basic phone operations; and an option to use giant font sizes when reading emails.

While praising these features, Kaja said there were one or two areas where further improvements could yet be made. "While the iPhone 3GS includes very good accessibility features, RNIB would like Apple to continue to look at making the iPhone usable by those who may not be as technically savvy. They also have a role to encourage third-party application developers to make their applications compatible with VoiceOver."

On its website, Apple states that it is "working with iPhone software developers so they can make their applications VoiceOver compatible."

Talking Glucose Meter

EZ Health™ Oracle™ talking glucose meter has a revolutionary speaking function which lets people hear as well as see their glucose results.

Doctors, nurses, diabetic educators and people with diabetes are excited about this new and innovative meter.

The Oracle™ meter is particularly helpful for those with vision loss. Gerry Nelson, a counselor with vision services at the CNIB in Saskatchewan, has been a type 1 diabetic for almost forty years and has been blind since the age of 25. He said "About two months ago I was introduced to a wonderful new piece of technology from EZ Health™ called the Oracle™, a new talking blood glucose meter. Up until this time, existing technology was outdated, cumbersome to use, and also very expensive. With my new Oracle™, I can test as often as I want or as required and now I can do it in a matter of seconds. It is a must for any diabetic with limited vision!

Corie Haslbeck, an Occupational Therapist, with the Ophthalmology Program in Winnipeg described a success story with a client of hers who has had her home care visits cut from four times per day to two per day because she can now test her blood glucose level at home, on her own, using our Oracle™ monitor.

The Oracle™ meter has all the best features available: no coding, small sample size, fast results, a large screen, alternate site testing, and computer download ability. Oracle™ turns on automatically when test strips are inserted and has a single button on the front to access the memory. It even has a reminder to check for ketones if glucose levels are above 13.3.

Oracle's finest feature is its talking function. The voice level is adjustable.

You can get your free Oracle™ glucose meter at your local pharmacy when you purchase 100 test strips.

Ask your pharmacist for your free meter. For more information on the EZ Health™ Oracle™ blood glucose monitoring system, please go to www.oraclediabetes.com or call 1-866-829-7926.

PenFriend Labeling Device

Easily record, and re-record, information using this versatile, pocket-sized, easy-to-use product and the self-adhesive labels. You can instantly play back the recordings anywhere simply using the PenFriend - no computer required.



Use to label: food items, including freezer food, and even include sell by dates and cooking instructions, film and music collections, household objects or even to organize letters and other paperwork as well as record shopping lists or leave audio messages.

It can also be used as a portable notetaker, record your message and keep track of it by placing the allocated label in a small notebook or in your diary.

Use in school to label classroom equipment and resources such as skeleton models, art material storage drawers and field trip findings. Pupils can use it to organize their coursework, add entries to their homework diary and access class timetables.

- Simply allocate one of the coded self-adhesive labels and record and store your message on the PenFriend. To playback hold the PenFriend over the label - it announces recordings specific to each label

- There is no limit to the length of each message
- The pen has up to 70 hours of recording time available
- Ability to download MP3 files including books and music if desired
- Supplied with 127 labels in a mix of sizes and shapes, built in speaker, USB cable, neck lanyard and two AAA batteries.

Watch a short demonstration video on the PenFriend on YouTube at:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ePE0-U73Ajc

The PenFriend is available at some CNIB stores, or through their on-line catalogue at:
http://webstore.cnib.ca/item_detail.aspx?ItemCode=LIV0513210000 ☐



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MARK DEMONTIS' CROSS-CANADA JOURNEY RAISES \$60,000

Cross-Canada trip on rollerblades helps visually impaired kids.

By Rick Madonik, *Toronto Star*
Published On October 20 2009



FINALLY, a home-cooked meal and the comfort of his own bed. Mark DeMontis deserves as much after his accomplishment.

Back in June, he strapped on a pair of rollerblades and headed west.

Some 5,000 kilometres – and four pairs of blades – later, he reached the finish in Vancouver on Oct. 16. More importantly, he had reached his goal of raising money and awareness for hockey for the visually impaired.

“I guess I was a man on a mission. Now it’s mission accomplished,” said DeMontis, 22, who became legally blind at 17 after being stricken by Leber’s hereditary optic neuropathy, a rare optic disorder.

DeMontis traversed through 66 Canadian cities en route to raising \$60,000 and awareness for Courage Canada, a not-for-profit foundation he founded last year to help fund Learn-to-Skate programs for visually impaired youth.

He decided to embark on his roller-wheeled quest after gaining inspiration from Chris Delaney, who suffers from the same optic disorder and rode across Canada in 1996 on a two-seater bike.

Delaney’s efforts raised \$300,000 for eye research.

“I met (Delaney) in 2007 during a tough time in my life,” DeMontis said. “I remember one night laying in bed thinking about what he had done. He was a role model for me. I thought why not try and show people that it can be done, that while

you may be blind, you can still do it (rollerblade across Canada)."

Despite the good intentions, there were logistical issues to overcome.

Where would he get the sponsorship, the daily support, the organization and even the courage to leave home for more than three months to rollerblade across Canada?

It wasn't easy, beginning with the obvious physical and mental anguish. Even at 22, the trek proved difficult.

DeMontis put in about 70 kilometres each day and would go to bed with blisters, sore knees and wasted muscles.

Then there was the weather.

"When we were going through Ontario, I don't think there were two days when it didn't rain," said DeMontis, who played Triple-A hockey in the GTHL at 17 before he began to lose his eyesight.

Despite the challenges, DeMontis had his believers.

Reebok Hockey stepped up to provide all the equipment needed and Ottawa Senators owner Eugene Melnyk came through with an RV, something DeMontis pointed out as central to the entire effort. And more corporate support came from Tim Hortons, the NHL, the Lions Club and Rogers.

There were calls of encouragement from Maple Leaf greats Ron Ellis and Johnny Bower; Walter and Wayne Gretzky showed up along the way for support, as did Trailer Park Boys actors Pat Roach and John Dunsworth, and former NHL defenceman Rick Chartraw threw in his support as well.

And every step of the way, DeMontis also had his buddies there to help him along.



Cameron Williams, a childhood friend, and P.J. Power and Jason Firestone, whom he met at the University of Western Ontario, took turns on the rollerblades to keep DeMontis focused.

"I think the hardest part was just dealing with everything and still trying to maintain your daily goals," DeMontis said. "I'm lucky to have great friends and a great family. But the biggest challenge was the mental one."

DeMontis arrived in Vancouver Oct. 16 with a host of supporters and family cheering wildly as he crossed the finish line, wearing a Team Canada hockey jersey and waving a Canadian flag.

With his journey complete, DeMontis hopes to continue acquiring sponsorships to help create more hockey opportunities for the visually impaired. One idea he is working on is organizing a motivational speaking tour.

Ultimately, he is hoping for the inclusion of hockey for the visually impaired in the Paralympics. □



Kitchens of the World: Your Passport to the World's Finest Cuisine

United Kingdom - Scones

A NEW COOKBOOK FEATURING 200 RECIPES

THE Canadian Council of the Blind (CCB), the largest membership based organization for the blind, is pleased to introduce the Kitchens of the World™ cookbook.

Jim Tokos, CCB Vice-President, states "This is a very high end product with the premise that preparing food and with whom we share it can overcome geography and politics and can lead to an appreciation of other cultures."

The cookbook features over 200 recipes donated by 102 embassies and 600 high resolution photographs contributed by 200 photographers from all over the world. Every section contains a map of each country with demographics and featuring some iconic pictures.

The cookbook is designed to raise funds for all charities and non-profit organizations and is available in hard copy or EBook versions and features recipes and colour photographs from 102 countries.

"Our partner schools like it because it serves as an educational tool for parents, students and

teachers," notes Tokos.

Mr. Tokos goes on to say, "Quite frankly, I can't think of many charities willing to share with their fundraising ventures, but we are. This is not the blind leading the blind, but the blind leading."

The theme of the cookbook is food is more than basic sustenance and nourishment. Food offers a kaleidoscope of images and inculcated values beyond the innate need for immediate gratification.

How and what we eat, how we acquire it, who prepares it and who is at the table is a form of communication that is rich in meaning which often subtly explores the culture of a specific group or country.

Food can inspire and strengthen the bonds between individuals, communities or possibly countries. From the simple dish to the most extravagant, the mere sharing and partaking in one of the most fundamental needs can unconsciously forge a commonality of interests that can create and sustain a unique attachment with others.



Switzerland - Rösti

Food can play a large part in defining family values, rules, rituals and traditions and offers a prism to our most basic beliefs about our family, community and country as well as reflections about us.

Kitchens of the World allows us to transcend the obstacles of politics, culture, geography and religious barriers, whether real or imagined, and begin or continue our exploration and understanding of each other through food.

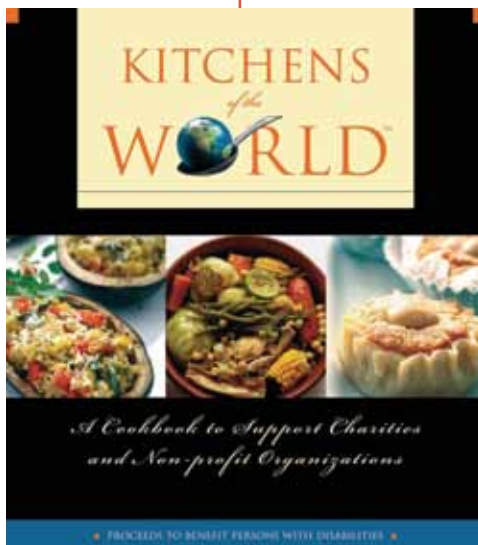
The cookbook is unique in the sense that it embraces all cultures and offers charities and non-profit organizations an alternative revenue source. Apart from charities and non-profits, the cookbook is an excellent and unique gift for corporations to employees, unions, schools, churches, etc.

Besides being unique and a one-of-a-kind product, the cookbook is very high quality which includes a soft laminated cover, 80 lb. matte, and inner coil for easy layout, colour photographs and 316 pages.

Kitchens of the World is especially relevant to Canada. The population and culture of Canadian society is becoming more diverse each year and

in many respects is a mosaic of the cookbook's target audience.

Canada is one of the leaders in cultural diversity and tolerance, and in many respects, the conception of the cookbook is appropriate to emanate from this country.



Cookbooks have a long and impressive history as proven best sellers. The market for a classic cookbook is endless, and the buying audience grows and changes with each new generation.

The cookbook is available for a \$100 donation. For those who decide the \$100 donation is too much, E versions can be downloaded for \$25 for the entire E Book, \$10 for a continent and \$5 for a country. The E-book can be downloaded from the CCB website at: www.ccbnational.net

Tax receipts are available for the hard copy and E versions and can be downloaded electronically upon receipt of the donation.

Contact the CCB national office on how your chapter or organization can participate and raise funds by email at ccb@ccbnational.net or call toll free 1-877-304-0968. □

The Canadian Council of the Blind wishes to express our deepest appreciation to our sponsors and partnership friends of White Cane Week™ 2010



CANADIAN COUNCIL
OF THE BLIND



Canadian Council of the Blind

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