

White Cane

FEBRUARY 2012 ISSUE

CCB The Voice of the Blind™ in Canada

Magazine

*"The white cane
a symbol of ability,
not disability."*

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 5** Welcome To White Cane Week 2012
- 7** Governments Not Seeing Vision Care Issues
- 8** Leonard Triffo CCB Person Of The Year
- 9** Presidents Award
- 10** Gifted Guitarist Takes Tactile Approach
- 12** Jim Sanders And Life After CNIB
- 13** The New AMI
- 14** What's New In Assistive Technology
- 15** A Blind Approach To Gone Fishin'
- 16** CCB Chapters
- 17** CCB Board Of Directors And National Office Staff
- 18** Inside Sports And Recreation
- 21** CCB In The News
Blind Out Of Sync With Rare Sleep Disorder, Ontario Gets
New Photo ID Card, AMI Rebrands, Gillis Receives Advocate
Award, Accessible Bank Notes Are Here, Registered Disability
Savings Plan (RDSP)
- 23** CCB Thanks Our Sponsors
- 26** Blind And Partially Sighted Resource Guide



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WHITE CANE WEEK 2012

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Welcome to White Cane Week™ 2012



The celebration of White Cane Week 2012 marks the ninth year The Council assumes sole responsibility for this event. We are even more committed 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 ask to "Help promote accessibility... measure me by my capabilities not my disabilities."

During White Cane Week our members and volunteers participate in many different public events at the chapter division and national levels. All events are 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 AMI Canadian Vision Impaired Curling Championship held in Ottawa is returning with more exciting competition. This event will again provide a platform to demonstrate the abilities and skills within our community.

The Council is committed to managing the Week as a public awareness program and is seeking corporate support to cover its costs.

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.

I look forward to an exciting week. I know the CCB members and volunteers will do a fantastic job of raising the awareness of the blind and visually impaired to the public. So let's get out there and make a difference, let our abilities shine through and above all else, have fun!

Louise Gillis
National President
Canadian Council of the Blind

Blind Individuals with Recurrent Sleep Problems Needed for Clinical Research Study and Survey

Individuals who are totally blind with recurring sleeping or napping problems are needed to answer a survey and/or take part in a clinical research study.

For each completed survey, \$25 will be donated to organizations that support people with blindness.

Eligible volunteers who take part in the clinical research study will be compensated for their time and will receive all study-related investigational medication, medical evaluation and transportation at no cost.

Sleep problems and napping occur in some individuals who are totally

blind. This may be caused by the lack of light needed to reset the “body clock”. The result is recurrent sleep problems similar to jet lag.

Eligible volunteers are:

- between 18 and 75 years old
- totally blind
- having recurrent trouble sleeping at night or experience daytime sleepiness or napping

If you are interested, please call toll free 1-888-389-7033

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As population ages, neglect of eye care
will become a much bigger health issue

GOVERNMENTS NOT SEEING VISION CARE ISSUES



Quick now – what would be your most feared disability: loss of vision, hearing, a leg or an arm?

According to a recent poll conducted for the Canadian Council of the Blind (CCB), there's an overwhelming choice.

More than four out of five Canadians, 82 percent, most fear loss of vision, compared to loss of hearing at 3 percent, loss of a leg at 4 percent and loss of an arm at 2 percent.

The difficult reality, however, is that for Canadians who reach old age, about one in four will have that most-feared disability come true. Fully one quarter of older Canadians can expect to experience serious impairment of vision, enough to significantly impede their daily activities.

Unfortunately, not only are we not ready to handle the increased cases of serious vision impairment that will occur as our population ages, we are not even doing an adequate job now. Far from it. That's why the CCB has launched a new campaign to publicize this shortfall, with the theme "The Vision Care We Deserve."

Let's start with the fact that that in most provinces vision care is only minimally part of our universal healthcare system. Your annual physical check-up is covered, but not your eye exam. Why should our health system ignore such a basic part of our health, and one that is clearly so valuable to all of us? The same CCB poll showed that almost three-quarters of Canadians (70 percent) believe regular eye exams should be covered as part of medicare. This is not just a matter of helping people get better prescriptions for eyeglasses. Regular eye exams can detect and prevent serious eye diseases such as glaucoma that, if detected too late, result in serious vision and health consequences and costs.

But our Federal and Provincial Governments' lack of vision on vision care issues doesn't stop there. The CCB poll showed that 92 percent of Canadians agree (moderately or strongly) that as a society we should ensure persons who are blind or visually impaired are given every treatment, aid and service that could help them. This is far from the reality faced by the visually impaired today. Most provincial health systems provide very little in terms of assistive devices and other technology – which

keeps getting better and is able to do amazing things to help the visually impaired. The visually impaired are, in effect, abandoned by our health system to fend for themselves, relying for assistance on charitable organizations such as the CCB and others.

How would we react as a society if, when someone was diagnosed with cancer or diabetes, we simply told them to rely on groups such as the Canadian Cancer Society or the Canadian Diabetes Association to get the care and help they might need? Good as those groups are, that is not and should not be their role, yet that is the unsustainable burden put on the charitable groups that help those with vision impairment.

The indifference and troubles facing the treatment of vision loss by our healthcare system is exemplified by one current example. The leading cause of adult-onset vision loss is wet age-related macular degeneration (AMD). Fortunately, research has now produced a very effective treatment for wet AMD. Lucentis

has been approved by Health Canada and is considered cost-effective by the Common Drug Review because of its ability to stop and even reverse vision loss in many persons with wet AMD. Despite this, however, governments in British Columbia and Nova Scotia sanction through their provincial plans

the off-label use of the cancer drug Avastin for persons with wet AMD, simply because it costs less, even though it has not been approved by Health Canada for that use and in spite of another recent study showing potential safety issues with using this cancer drug for injections in the eye.

If we continue in this direction, governments are potentially impeding research and development of treatments of eye disorders such as wet AMD; as well as stalling treatments in the pharmaceutical pipeline for future patients.

This is just one example of how Canadians with serious vision impairment are short-changed by our public health system. That is why the CCB is calling on Canadian health systems to give much greater priority to vision-health issues and provide the examinations, treatments, equipment and devices that can prevent vision loss and help those with it to live much more fulfilling and productive lives. That is why the CCB believes that Canadians should get "The Vision Care We Deserve."

Mike Potvin
Editor

*Governments are potentially
impeding research and
development of treatments of
eye disorders.*

2012 WHITE CANE WEEK PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD

LEONARD TRIFFO

By **Mike Potvin**, *Editor*

The Canadian Council of the Blind is pleased to name Leonard (Len) Triffo of Regina, Saskatchewan as this year's White Cane Week Person of the Year, along with a very substantial honourable mention to Charlotte Triffo, Len's wife.

Len is an energetic and dedicated worker on behalf of blind and visually impaired people, and we are honoured to present him with the 2012 CCB Person of the Year Award.

Born Leonard (Len) Wilfred Triffo on December 12, 1939 with a severe visual impairment on a farm near Silton, Saskatchewan, Len's early education was divided between the local public school and the Ontario School for the Blind at Brantford, Ontario.

After finishing his studies there, Len returned to Saskatchewan and for a time, helped with farming operations.

As a young man Len found work with CNIB's Cater Plan service and took up residence in Regina. He rose through Cater Plan's ranks quickly and operated one of Cater Plan's spots as his own business until his retirement.

Len soon joined the Canadian Council of the Blind's Regina White Cane Chapter and settled in for a life of long

and dedicated service to his chapter, the Saskatchewan Division and CCB National.

Len took a keen interest in the recreational aspect of the CCB chapter's activities, excelled as a bowler and later

the organization. With their experience in food services, they took on the responsibility of providing food for chapter events, an unofficial portfolio that in retirement, he holds to this day.

As time went on Len was elected Chapter President and/or President of the Division, holding these positions both individually, and often simultaneously.

In 1974 Len was elected to the CCB National Board where he was appointed to the position of National Director of Recreation, serving a total of nine two-year terms on the Board. When CCB needed someone to act as custodian of its national bowling tournaments, Len offered his services and CCB national bowling tournaments have continued uninterrupted.

Len was also the Award of Merit recipient in 2010 at the Biennial

Convention, held in Sydney, Nova Scotia.

The Award of Merit, the highest honour that the CCB can bestow, is a prestigious award that is only presented every 2 years to a person recommended for outstanding service to the blind, with recommendations having been made by their chapter or division.

In bestowing this honour the CCB would like to thank Len for his tireless dedication, determination and inspiration to the blind community. □



CCB's 2012 White Cane Week Person of the Year
Len Triffo and wife Charlotte.

enthusiastically took up curling. He began organizing events in these venues, and soon found himself Director of Recreation.

In 1965 Len married Charlotte Thomas and became the father of a lovely daughter and is now the doting grandfather of four beautiful grandchildren.

Together Len and Charlotte set about expanding the services they could offer

A Renewed and Improved AMI Receives Inaugural CCB Presidents Award

Canadian Council of the Blind President Louise Gillis has given the inaugural CCB Presidents Award to Accessible Media Inc., in recognition of their outstanding success in *"making media accessible"* to the great benefit of blind and partially sighted Canadians.



By **Michael Baillargeon**

The Presidents Award is given annually to an individual or organization that, in their work or service with or for the blind and partially sighted, has made a real difference in improving the quality of life of our community in Canada. The Presidents Award recognizes important contributions made, the advancement of opportunities and leadership qualities. These attributes serve to showcase acceptance and understanding, recognizing that those persons who are blind and partially sighted are contributing members of the Canadian community.

AMI is the first recipient of the Presidents Award. CCB President Louise Gillis stated "I could think of no more appropriate or prestigious organization on which to bestow this Award." Gillis went on to point out that "AMI has and will continue to make a real impact on CCB, its members and the Canadian blind and partially sighted community as a whole."

It wasn't easy. Back in 1989, when AMI, then known as the National Broadcast Reading Service, began its reading service Canada was not nearly as accessible a nation for people with disabilities as it is today. Things have changed. AMI audio is now recognized as a world leader in broadcast accessibility, bringing local, regional and international news and information to millions of Canadians with vision and other impairments. Thanks to AMI blind and partially sighted Canadians have access to the kinds of in-depth news and information all citizens

in a democracy must have to make today's informed decisions while at the same time enhancing their quality of life.

This achievement is an example of how various supporters including government, the CRTC, broadcasters, publishers, advocacy groups such as CCB and others can enthusiastically work together. Without this support a dedicated AMI could not have gone on to its success in "making media accessible."

I could think of no more appropriate or prestigious organization on which to bestow this Award.

AMI's next success came in the mid-1990s when they began pioneering a high-quality, inclusive approach to Described Video (DV) that could be enjoyed equally by sighted and non-sighted audiences alike. This DV process involves adding to the film or program's soundtrack the voice of a narrator, who unobtrusively describes to blind and low vision viewers the key activities happening on screen so they can better follow just what is happening.

Now more than a decade later, comes AMI's "making media accessible", the launch of AMI-tv. This was the world's first TV service to broadcast a wide range of popular programming including

movies, series, specials, current affairs and original programs all with both "open described video" and "closed captioning."

The digital era has brought more opportunities and AMI is readying to "make media accessible" across all platforms, including tablets, smart phones and any future medium that comes along. CCB and AMI are united in the assumption that their audiences want access to media just like sighted Canadians. They want to interact, socialize, consume, and they want to watch and view and listen to their media on their time not unlike every other Canadian does.

So in the weeks, months and years ahead the CCB and others look for Accessible Media to increase content offerings at AMI online (www.ami.ca) and to roll out and increase offerings at AMI mobile and AMI tablet as the non-profit broadcaster reinforces its leadership position and expertise within the Canadian broadcasting system and around the world.

In bestowing the award Gillis offered "Without the support and contributions of such individuals and organizations, persons who are blind and partially sighted would not be where there are today. AMI is an excellent example of this. They are helping to bring persons who are blind forward by providing access to information, something essential to our community. We need more organizations like them." □



INNER VISIONS: GIFTED GUITARIST TAKES TACTILE APPROACH

LUCAS HANEMAN

By **Peter Hum**

Lucas Haneman has what he considers to be a different approach to playing guitar.

"It's so tactile," the 24-year-old Ottawa musician says. "I wouldn't have it any other way," he adds.

And yet, Haneman relies so heavily on touch only because he can barely see. After his mother's appendix burst, Haneman was born two months early, with his retinas detached — although he had much more serious health issues than blindness. Weighing less than two pounds, he spent the first six months of his life in an incubator and was given only a 40-percent chance of survival.

Against those odds, Haneman has established himself as an up-and-coming musician in Ottawa and Montreal — where he graduated from Concordia University last year — and he will mark a career milestone May 20 when he launches *This Is What's Up*, his first CD. The disc features Haneman with several young Montrealers tackling his original compositions, and the playing and writing are rooted in jazz. But

Haneman's early passions for blues, funk, rock and folk are apparent too, in his guitar sounds and melodies. There's even a rollicking solo version of Neil Young's Ohio. Haneman's loved that tune since his childhood, and he's been attracted to guitar just as long.

I was immediately struck by his incredible enthusiasm for the guitar.

Haneman took up the instrument when he was six, inspired by his father Wayne, a tech company executive who played guitar as a hobby. As a result, the sound of guitar "was always ingrained in my subconscious," Lucas says. It has always instantly taken him to "a happy place."

On his own, Lucas absorbed a lot of music. He learned to play scales, he says, by imitating Eric Clapton solos. He got Calypso stylings and aspects of country

playing under his fingers, despite the fact that his left eye, with its detached retina, doesn't work, and his right eye, with its re-attached retina, sees poorly — about 20/200, Haneman says.

Legally blind, Haneman titled one of his compositions Tunnel Vision — the blues tune that opens his CD — as a nod to his condition. Last August, a month before he recorded his disc, Haneman won the CNIB national iFactor contest for musicians with vision loss.

At 10, Haneman began studies with Ottawa guitarist Wayne Eagles, who stoked his interest in blues and jazz playing. "I was immediately struck by his incredible enthusiasm for the guitar and his interest in a range of musical styles — characteristics that still define him," Eagles says. "Lucas was already playing well beyond his years."

Haneman has a tremendous ear; giving him the ability to mimic lines, chord voicings and chord progressions, says Eagles. "His musical memory is remarkable."

Since Haneman couldn't read music,

he taped all his lessons with Eagles — and quickly progressed. “There was a period of adjusting some unconventional fingerings and technique, but he adapted easily,” Eagles says. “Of course, Lucas was blessed with an incredibly supportive and encouraging family. Their influence can’t be underestimated.”

At 13, Haneman attended the Ottawa JazzWorks summer camp, which has boosted and inspired jazz lovers from Juno-winning singer Kellylee Evans to weekend jazz warriors content to jam at the Carleton Tavern. “I was this crazy sponge,” Haneman says. Exposed to teachers such as Ottawa bassist John Geggie and saxophonist Rob Frayne, Haneman left thinking, “This is the type of music I would like to play.”

Wayne Haneman is quick to give credit to Ottawa’s musical community and to music more generally for bolstering his son socially.

Lucas was immediately encouraged at Ottawa jam sessions and open stages, Wayne says. “It helps you feel involved, accepted.”

Before he attended high school, Lucas did not have a lot of friends, his father adds. “Kids weren’t that accepting. Music really helped to bridge that gap.” Wayne notes that Lucas flourished at Earl of March, which he chose over a school for the blind in Brantford, Ont.

Haneman attended Concordia University, where one of his teachers was Ottawa guitarist Roddy Ellias.

“What continued to amaze me for the three years of guitar lessons and other

*I thought it’s important
for me to keep those
things alive.*

courses as well, was, and is, Lucas’s depth — his depths as a musician and his depth as a person,” Ellias says. “I guess when you think about it, one reflects the other.

“Lucas was a dream to teach because he always brought more to the lesson than the task or question at hand — and he was a total inspiration to work with, says Ellias. The teacher and his student a few years ago performed a night of duets at Café Paradiso on Bank Street.

At Concordia, Haneman says he began to find his artistic direction almost as a



reaction against his studies. “The way that music is taught, it boxes us in,” he says. As immersed in jazz as Haneman was at Concordia, he came to realize that he couldn’t abandon his early love of funk, blues and folk. “I thought it’s important for me to keep those things alive. Otherwise, I wouldn’t be true to myself.”

Haneman takes voice lessons these days and calls himself a “closet singer-songwriter.” He performs in a duo called Go Long! with singer/instrumentalist Danielle Allard. He appears on two other forthcoming CDs: a folk-reggae project with Montrealers, and an indie-rock outing with the Montreal singer Angela Galuppo, who sings on two tracks on Haneman’s disc.

Both of those songs, Haneman’s original Smiling Faces and the jazz standard If I Should Lose You, are dedicated to Haneman’s late mother Darcy. She died in June 2009 after a

three-year battle with cancer.

Her passing had a huge and immediate impact on Haneman’s music. “It has opened up a gateway into a deeper form of expression,” he says. “Right after my mother passed away I can remember experiencing a deep pocket of inspiration that made me want to practice with a ferocious amount of organization, and to work harder than I ever had before. As a result, I had a religious and almost ritualistic connection with my guitar for a few months, and I experienced the most drastic shift in my playing that I had ever felt.”

Almost two years later, Haneman says the loss of his mother still informs his playing.

“Her passing still has a continuous impact on the way I perceive and play music. It is an impact that ebbs and flows, but it is always there in one form or another when I pick up my instrument.” □

—Reprinted from the Ottawa Citizen

AN INTERVIEW WITH JIM SANDERS: LIFE AFTER CNIB

By **Mike Potvin**, Editor

Jim Sanders is coming up on two years since retiring as President/CEO of the CNIB, following forty-two years of service. He is currently the volunteer Executive Director for the Sir Arthur Pearson Association of War Blinded (SAPA).

"My involvement with SAPA extends back to 1989," states Sanders. "I simply, on a volunteer basis, maintained this role following my retirement on May 1st, 2010, from CNIB. I consider my continuing work with SAPA a privilege."

As an individual Veterans' Association, SAPA has made many appearances before Parliamentary Committees on matters related to blindness resulting from military service since its inception in 1925, and has worked diligently on behalf of Canadian veterans in general.

"When you look at the history of SAPA and what it stands for, it really is a symbol of hope," says Sanders. "In 1914-1918, to say blind people had the right to work, to marry, to raise a family, to contribute to the community—this was not a common attitude in society—but this was Sir Arthur Pearson's approach."

When approximately 350 blinded war veterans returned to Canada from the First World War, no national services for the blind existed, including rehabilitation services.

Veterans attempted to assimilate into the blind school in Halifax, but this attempt was unsuccessful, due to cultural differences in life between soldiers and civilians. The federal government recognized this issue; and felt pressured to act.

During this time, Colonel Baker, a returning war-blinded veteran who had received training through Sir Arthur Pearson—a blind entrepreneur; was helping to foster an emerging attitude that being blind did not relegate you to a life of unemployment, isolation, inactivity and segregation.

The next event in history which further influenced social policy for the blind in Canada was the Halifax explosion. The disaster left many individuals vision impaired.

At this point Canada now had growing numbers of blind, a shared attitude of inclusion, and now the Halifax explosion—all of this coalesced, prompting the federal government to finally approve the CNIB Charter on March 30th, 1918 and provide a grant for vision rehabilitation. This grant gave CNIB a foothold



as a service organization; and through CNIB, both the civilian blind and war-blind began to receive training.

"Looking back at the history of advocacy work for the blind in Canada, I doubt that CNIB alone would have had access to the Prime Minister, the Ministers and the policy makers at the federal level," states Sanders. "It took EA Baker, a war-blinded veteran, and CEO of CNIB, coupled with senior veterans with amputations and in wheel chairs, working together with a concerted voice to effect change. This was a wonderful example of the cross-disability sector working together, with each individual need being considered."

Sanders further notes, the work of War Blinded Canadians has directly shaped social policy on disability in this country.

"When blinded war veterans returned to Canada, and wanted to lead productive lives, Canadians recognized that these individuals gave their eyesight for this country, and deserved a quality of life," states Sanders. "This attitude carried over to blind civilians as well; prompting social change and an attitudinal shift."

Blind persons were the first to receive Old Age Security [pensions] prior to age 70. Blind persons were the first to receive an income tax deduction/credit due to their blindness, a "blind persons allowance" [BPA], Duty and Federal Tax exemptions on importation of specialized technology and more. All due to the advocacy lead by War Blinded and CNIB.

War-blinded veterans returning from the Second World War continued in this positive direction when they helped form the Canadian Council of the Blind, with the objective of providing a social and recreational outlet for blind Canadians.

In May 2010, the history of SAPA was released. The book, by noted author and historian, Dr. Serge Durflinger and published by UBC Press titled, "Veterans with a Vision: Canada's War Blinded In peace And War", is available in braille, DAISY audio and large print.

SAPA can provide DAISY copies of the book at no charge to members of CCB; and a Braille version is available on-loan through the CNIB library. A large print version is available to CCB members for \$25, including shipping.

For more information please contact The Sir Arthur Pearson Association of War Blinded. □

*Canadians recognized
that these individuals gave
their eyesight for
this country.*

Now Available on the New AMI

Great Movies, Articles from Canada's Top Newspapers and Magazines, Favorite TV Series, Exclusive Web Content, Original Programs of Progress, Inspiration and Hope, and Much More. And all of Them Made Accessible.



WHAT'S ON AMI-tv, the world's first channel to broadcast all programming with Open Described Video (DV) and

Closed Captioning (CC).

- Hit contemporary Canadian shows: *Flashpoint*, *Rookie Blue*, *Mansbridge One On One*, *W5*, *Little Mosque On the Prairie*, *Being Erica*, *Corner Gas* and *Murdoch Mysteries*.
- Classic favorites: *Perry Mason*, *All in the Family*, *Matlock*, *Magnum PI*, *I Love Lucy* and *Law and Order—Trial by Jury*.
- Hollywood blockbusters such as *A League of Their Own* and *The Bourne Supremacy*.
- Classic films such as *Casablanca* and *Gone With the Wind*.
- Great made-for-TV favorites like *Columbo*.
- French-language programs, including *Little Bear*, *Franklin and The Border*.
- Family and children's programs, such as *Franklin*, *Emily of New Moon*, *The Black Stallion* and *Are You Afraid of the Dark?*
- Special Live Description simulcast events: *Battle of the Blades*, *the Royal Wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton* and *the Federal Election results*. And coming to AMI-tv in 2012: *Hockey Day in Canada* on February 12, plus celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee and Canada Day.

AMI original programming featuring stories of progress, inspiration and hope.

Such as:

- **Accessibility In Action**, an empowering new show about people living with disabilities. It explores topics of disability rarely discussed, from raising blind or deaf children to living on limited incomes. Each episode offers interactive advice aimed at breaking down barriers.
- **A Whole New Light**, the ground breaking documentary about the latest exciting advances in vision care.
- **Sharp Focus**, a compilation of features from AMI studios across Canada. Individual features also air throughout our program day, and many are available at www.ami.ca.



WHAT'S ON AMI-audio, the world's largest broadcast reading service, making local, national and interna-

tional news and information accessible.

Most of AMI-audio service consists of verbatim readings of current articles from newspapers and magazines packaged into topical segments, usually 30 minutes in duration. For example: *The National Report* — the day's headline news stories — airs weekday mornings. Business, sports, health and science, lifestyles and leisure, regional news and old-time radio shows are included in the program line-up, as are Described Audio presentations of favorite movies and TV shows.

Daily, Volunteers read and record articles that are broadcast on TV and online into more than 10 million Canadians homes. Together, staff and Volunteers produce and broadcast more than 125 hours of new programming every week.

In addition, AMI broadcasts special audio original programs to mark noteworthy events throughout the year — such as White Cane Week, Black History Month, UN International Day of Disabled Persons and many others. As well, AMI produces *Contact*, an award-winning weekly interview program, where we put the focus on disability issues along with profiles of interesting people who have a story to tell.

AMI has recently been recognized for its audio programming excellence through:

- Four golds and a lifetime-achievement award from the International Association of Audio Information Services
- The Gord Sinclair Award for Live Special Events from the Radio-Television News Directors Association of Canada

WHAT'S ON AMI-online at www.ami.ca

AMI channels in your area, AMI program schedules, latest AMI news, a special archive of articles and videos, and a growing number of new features. □

An essential aspect of Accessible Media Inc. - AMI's mission is to deliver quality information and programming that our audiences can enjoy and/or be informed by through all AMI media platforms.

Above is a brief sampling of the kinds of terrific offerings available at AMI-tv (formerly TACTv), AMI-audio (formerly VoicePrint) and AMI-online (www.ami.ca).

AMI invites everyone to watch us at AMI-tv, listen to us at AMI-audio and visit us at AMI-online. Discover for yourself what greater media accessibility is all about and just how much it enhances the lives of Canadians who are blind or low vision. We also invite you to visit www.ami.ca to learn more about our non-profit organization, how you can access AMI, the AMI channel listings of your cable or satellite TV provider, give us feedback and more.

What's New in Assistive Technology?

Google has made its Docs, Sites and Calendar services friendlier to the blind by enhancing their accessibility features

Search giant Google has made its Docs, Sites and Calendar services friendlier to the blind by enhancing their accessibility features.



Google Accessibility technical lead T.V. Raman said the enhancements include improved keyboard shortcuts and support for screen readers.

"While our work isn't done, we've now significantly improved keyboard shortcuts and support for screen readers in several Google applications, including Google Docs, Google Sites and Google Calendar," Raman said in a blog post.

On the other hand, Raman said the features should particularly come in handy for blind students who use Google Apps to take quizzes, write essays and talk to classmates.

"Yet blind students (like blind people of all ages) face a unique set of challenges on the web. Members of the blind community rely on screen readers to tell them verbally what appears on the screen. They also use keyboard shortcuts to do things that would otherwise be accomplished with a mouse, such as opening a file or highlighting text," Raman said.

We've now significantly improved keyboard shortcuts.

Raman also said the updates are the result of working with advocacy organizations for the blind to improve Google's products with more accessibility enhancements.

"In the weeks and months ahead, we'll continue to improve

our products for blind users. We believe that people who depend on assistive technologies deserve as rich and as productive an experience on the web as sighted users, and we're working to help that become a reality," Raman said. □

New Daisy Reader

HumanWare is pleased to introduce the Victor Reader Stratus, an exciting new family of desktop DAISY CD players that will replace the popular Victor Reader ClassicX line.

The Stratus is the evolution of HumanWare's 13 years experience developing simple, easy to use audio book players. Compared to its predecessor, the VR ClassicX, the VR Stratus comes with a new look enclosure that is smaller and lighter on the outside yet smarter and better sounding on the inside.

"The Stratus continues to be the simplest and most user-friendly digital book player on the market but now with more choices than ever", says Gerry Chevalier, Victor Reader Brand Manager.

All Stratus models feature large, tactile, high-contrast keys, a built-in speaker or headphone, and self-voicing controls. You can take Stratus anywhere with its comfortable carrying handle and rechargeable and replaceable battery.

Do you like to go to bed with your favorite book?

The Stratus Sleep timer lets you specify how long Stratus should play before it shuts off.

Choose a basic 4-arrow keypad or the advanced 12-key for navigation in highly structured books.

A removable keypad cover is also available. It hides all but the most essential keys to simulate a

traditional cassette player.

With Victor Reader Stratus, HumanWare once again brings unparalleled access to DAISY books, recorded commercial books, music, and computer documents. Whether you are young or young at heart, whether your reading needs are simple or complex, whether you are at work, school, or at home, there is a Victor Reader Stratus that will fit your needs.

For more information visit www.humanware.com/stratus or call toll free: 1-888-723-7273. □



A man with a beard and a hat is smiling while holding a large, silvery fish horizontally in front of him. The background is a natural, wooded area.

LAWRENCE EUTENEIER

A BLIND APPROACH TO GONE FISHIN'

By Kelly Egan

Lawrence Euteneier, 47, is a blind fisherman. He doesn't see the one that got away.

But this is nothing. He used to hunt, too - bear, in particular.

"In the end, I'd have to get pretty close," he said, without a hint of comedy or alarm, referring to a time when he still had some vision, and still carried a gun. And how to ensure it was a bear? "Well, if it was big, black, and not talking," that was usually a clue.

Euteneier, a Sandy Hill resident in Ottawa, lost his sight in stages from the age of eight and can now only make out bright light. He gets along with a guide dog, a Bernese Mountain named Maestro.

Sight is wasted on the sighted, his life suggests. Married, six children, master's degree, job in the public service, sponsored fishing gig, skier, sailor, paddler, woodworker; advocate for the disabled, breaker of barriers.

And a big, tall smiley dude.

"Feel the bite" is his tag line, a summary of the blind man's approach to fishing.

"There aren't too many things that a blind person can do as well or better than a sighted one," he says. "But fishing is one of them."

The secret is the blind man's focus and feel, he explained.

"A fishing rod is just a white cane with a reel on it. It's all about the feel."

He started fishing as a kid, literally with a long pole, he said, in a trout-stocked pond on his father's property near Collingwood.

By the time he went quite blind, in his 20s, he knew all about fishing: the knots,

the lures, the species, the right seasons, the types of habitat. It was just a matter of adapting.

For starters, he has lures that are labeled in braille, telling him colour and type. He threads his line through leaders or lure rings by using his fingers and the tip of his tongue.

His boat, meanwhile, is a floating sensor. It is only 12-feet long, foldable and made of sturdy plastic, for those invisible rocks and stumps. "It's very stable. It bounces off stuff."

For navigation, he is equipped with

*I'm one of the few guys
in fishing who doesn't
mind talking about my
feelings.*

a speakable GPS and a bow sensor that detects, from about 12 metres, any object in the water.

Generally, when faced with a new waterway, he will first travel with a sighted person to mark the best fishing spots. Once put into the memory of the GPS, he can then say "dock" or "island" to set a course. The device emits commands as to whether he is headed in the right direction, such as "400 metres, 12 o'clock."

His depth sounder is also audio-equipped.

A blind fisherman, he argues, is not distracted by many things in the environment. As a consequence, he pays more attention to the "feel" of the line,

the kind of strike, easily learning the difference between a genuine hit and the lake bottom.

"I'm one of the few guys in fishing who doesn't mind talking about my feelings," he jokes.

Indeed, he says he can usually tell what kind of fish is on the line before it arrives at the surface.

When landing a fish alone, he has a technique. He follows the line with his hand until he feels the leader or lure, then checks out the outline of the head, only to find the belly. Like any fisherman, he then uses pliers or a tool to unhook the fish and release it.

It isn't always so simple. He was fishing in the ocean surf one time when he pulled in a stingray. A fellow fisherman alerted him just as he was about to put his paws all over it.

An adventurous sort, he'll try just about any kind of fishing. He's jigged for cod on the east coast, caught a 300-pound shark off the shores of Miami, fly-fished in the Columbia River, wrestled a giant sturgeon on the Fraser River, scooted over to the Ottawa River at Wendover.

Last year, he entered 17 tournaments, scoring well in a half-dozen. He's done so well, he now has about a dozen sponsors.

Euteneier was asked, after all this time, whether he'd like his vision back. He'd like a little more, he answered, but not the full panorama he once had. Been blind too long, one supposes. It is what he is.

"A good day is when I don't think about being blind. And when I'm fishing, I don't think about being blind." □

—Reprinted from the Ottawa Citizen

New CCB Chapters

The CCB would like to extend a warm welcome to its two newest Chapters!

The Prince George BC Blind Curling Chapter joined after taking part in last year's AMI Canadian Vision Impaired Curling Championship. The Itatu Orphan Care Chapter was founded by Jennifer Douma, a vision-impaired teacher from Toronto. Itatu Orphan Care has been operating in Malawi, Central Africa since July 2008 providing food, clothing and financial support to orphaned children so that they may attend school. The goal of the chapter is to find, identify and support vision impaired children along with other children that are in desperate need of assistance. Jennifer uses her summer vacation each year to working directly with the children of Malawi.

For more information or to reach a National Board member, please contact the Canadian Council of the Blind at our national office:
toll-free; 1-877-304-0968
email; ccb@ccbnational.net



BRITISH COLUMBIA

CCB 100 Mile House Chapter
100 Mile House, BC

CCB Cariboo Chapter
Williams Lake, BC

CCB Chilliwack Chapter
Chilliwack, BC

CCB Comox Valley Chapter
Courtenay, BC

CCB Dogwood Chapter
Coquitlam, BC

CCB Festival of Friends Chapter
Kelowna, BC

CCB Kamloops Chapter
Kamloops, BC

CCB Kelowna Chapter
Kelowna, BC

CCB North Shore Chapter
North Vancouver, BC

CCB Parksville & District 69 Chapter
Qualicum Beach, BC

CCB Penticton Chapter
Penticton, BC

CCB Powell River Chapter
Powell River, BC

CCB Prince George Blind Curling Chapter
Prince George, BC

CCB Prince George Chapter
Prince George, BC

CCB Sunshine Coast Chapter
Sechelt, BC

ALBERTA

CCB Calgary Chapter
Calgary, AB

CCB Edmonton Chapter
Edmonton, AB

CCB Edmonton Fantastix Chapter
Edmonton, AB

CCB Order of Inner Sight Chapter
Edmonton, AB

SASKATCHEWAN

CCB Moose Jaw Chapter
Moose Jaw, SK

CCB Regina Chapter
Regina, SK

ONTARIO

CCB Club 60 Barrie Chapter
Barrie, ON

CCB Cornwall Chapter
Cornwall, ON

CCB Glenvale Players Chapter
Willowdale, ON

CCB Hamilton Chapter
Hamilton, ON

CCB Itatu Chapter
Toronto, ON

CCB Kawartha Chapter
Lindsay, ON

CCB Kingston Friendship Chapter
Kingston, ON

Canadian Council of the Blind Board of Directors

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CCB NCVISA (National Capital Vision
Impaired Sports Association) Chapter
Ottawa, ON

CCB Oshawa Humoresque Chapter
Oshawa, ON

CCB Ottawa Blind Curlers Chapter
Ottawa, ON

CCB Ottawa Chapter
Ottawa, ON

CCB OVIG (Ontario Vision Impaired
Golfers) Chapter
Across Ontario

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Pembroke, ON

CCB SSM White Cane Matinee
Chapter
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CCB Toronto Curlers Chapter
Toronto, ON

CCB Waterloo Chapter
Waterloo, ON

CCB Windsor/Essex Chapter
Windsor, ON

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Bathurst, NB

CCB Chess Chapter
Moncton, NB

CCB Fredricton Chapter
Fredericton, NB

CCB Miramichi Chapter
Miramichi, NB

CCB Moncton Chapter
Moncton, NB

CCB Restigouche Chapter
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CCB Saint John Chapter
Saint John, NB

CCB Shippagan-Caraquet Chapter
Caraquet, NB

NEWFOUNDLAND

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Avondale, NL

CCB Helen Keller Chapter
Grand Falls-Windsor, NL

CCB Helen Keller Chapter
Happy Adventure, NL

CCB HV-BI Chapter
Corner Brook, NL

NOVA SCOTIA

CCB Halifax Chapter
Halifax, NS

CCB Sydney Chapter
Sydney, NS

PEI

CCB Prince County Chapter
Miscouche, PE

CCB Queensland Chapter
Stratford, PE

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 enjoys working with President Louise Gillis and the Board to effect all the positive changes to the CCB. Jim looks forward to continuing to strengthen the organization's capacity; enhancing our ability to support more blind and visually impaired individuals into the future.

JANET MCIVOR

Executive Administrator

Janet manages the daily operations of the national office and interacts closely with the Board and all CCB members to ensure issues are addressed and needs are met promptly. Janet is pleased to work with the diverse and interesting individuals who make up the Board of Directors, staff and chapter members. She looks forward to the future with CCB moving ahead in a positive direction as current programs and events continue to enhance 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 Accessible Sports and Recreation program and the Peer Mentor program. Mike enjoys working closely with members of the community, advocating to improve quality of life for the blind, and working to increase accessibility in all areas. Mike looks forward to working with members on a cooperative basis to strengthen our programs; and to continue to enhance communications throughout the organization.

CAITLIN JACKSON

Accountant

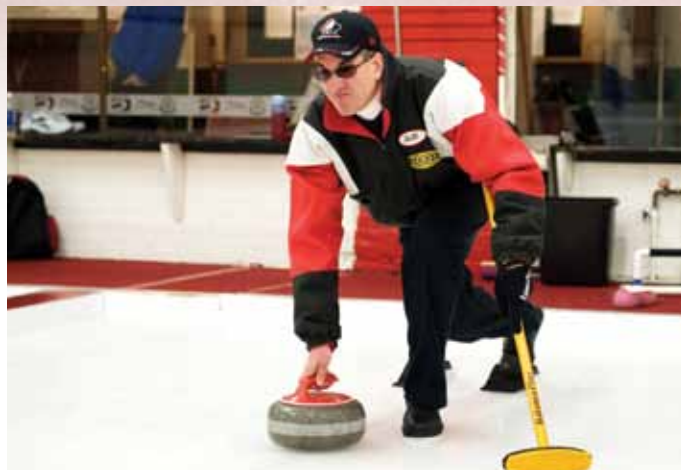
As the Accountant at the Canadian Council of the Blind, Caitlin is responsible for all accounting functions. Caitlin enjoys the breadth of work and all the individuals that she gets to work with at the CCB. This is Caitlin's first experience working with a Not for Profit which she is enjoying immensely and is looking forward to her first White Cane Week!

DODY DESJARDINS

Administrative Assistant

As our Administrative Assistant, Dody makes sure the newsletter is mailed out on time and looks after travel arrangements, donations and provides office support. As our receptionist, Dody is the friendly voice on the line when you reach CCB. She enjoys spending time with her family, especially her four granddaughters.

SPORTS & RECREATION



House Call: Visually Impaired Curling

By Kim Perkins

In recent years curling has been touted as a life sport. It can be played by children, adults and seniors, and there are very few stages of life when the sport is not an option. But aside from being a life sport, curling is also easily accessible to those with disabilities, including the visually impaired.

Louise Gillis, of Sydney, Nova Scotia, threw her first curling stone in 1974. Thirty-seven years later she's back on the ice but, for her, the game has changed. Gillis is now visually impaired and the president of the Canadian Council of the Blind. Her team is made up of four visually impaired curlers, all with different levels of sight.

I'd like to see it become an international sport.

"You really do listen a lot more. You can tell how fast (the stone) is going by how it sounds," explains Gillis about how the game changes for the visually impaired.

A visually impaired curling team is made up of a coach, a guide, and four curlers. The guide is actually on the ice with the curlers, sometimes holding a lighted broom anywhere from just in front of the thrower near the close tee-line to just near the hog-line. The guide lines their broom up with the skip's broom at the other end so the thrower can tell where to aim. Depending on the amount of sight the thrower has, the guide may also line up the player's body.

"A lot of visually impaired people have a fear of walking on the ice," explains Gillis about barriers to the sport. However, according to Gillis, visually impaired curlers are actually less likely to fall because they use more caution on the ice.

Bill Mohrmann-Watson, President of the Ontario Blind Curlers Association, who has been curling for 20 years and currently plays with a vision impairment, says for those who don't wish to use a

slider or get down in the hack, the curling stick is a great option and has kept many individuals in the game.

"You might think you have to stop (playing because of a visual impairment), but you really don't," says Mohrmann-Watson with apparent enthusiasm for the game.

Terry Pipkey, a visually impaired curler from Prince George, B.C. thinks it's great that there are opportunities for the blind to take part in the sport of curling. Each year he and his team vie for a spot at the Canadian Vision Impaired Curling Championship held in Ottawa.

"I'd like to see it become an international sport," says Pipkey, going on to explain that with enough exposure it could become part of the disabled games which normally take place pre or post Olympics. Visually impaired curling needs to become more popular across the pond for this to happen.

Individuals looking to get involved with visually impaired curling should contact the Canadian Council of the Blind at 1-877-304-0968 or by e-mail at ccb@ccbnational.net or speak to their provincial curling organization. □

CCB Atlantic Sports Weekend Report

By Linda Sobey, CCB 2nd Vice-President and National Board Member, New Brunswick

The CCB Miramichi Chapter members attended the Annual Atlantic Sports Weekend in Halifax on May 19th to 23rd.

The six (6) Blind/Vision Impaired members participated with the help of guides and drivers in a variety of activities throughout the weekend. Thanks to the helpers.

Jim Cunningham participated by singing and playing guitar in the CCB Idol contest on Friday evening and came in 3rd place for this event. Other members won door prizes during the evening as well. Saturday morning the team bowled. No winning in this event, but we shared the enthusiasm of participating with members from various chapters in the four Atlantic provinces.

The Track and Field events were held in Dartmouth on Saturday afternoon and some members brought home ribbons: Jim Cunningham- PB/51 & over -Discus - 1st, Shot Put - 3rd and Washer Toss - 2nd; Linda Sobey PB/51 & over -Javelin - 3rd. Later that evening everyone attended a Social & Dance with great music and of course more prizes.

On Sunday morning everyone socialized while playing Darts and Table Bowling. This is where Donnetta Harris shined by bringing home the High Score for Totally Blind with a score of 118 and Catherine Guitar came in 2nd with a 112 score.

Sunday afternoon Cribbage resulted in Linda Sobey with 2nd place and Cecilia Despres with 3rd place plaques.

Sunday evening we attended the Awards Banquet followed by a social in the hospitality room at the Citadel hotel. On Monday morning we said our goodbyes and headed home to the Miramichi a little tired from the busy and hectic time but felt we had a super weekend which we all enjoyed.

We must give credit to the drivers, guides and volunteers who helped make this a successful weekend. They deserve our sincere thanks and appreciation because without them we would not be able to focus on our abilities instead of our disabilities related to sight impairment.

Our sincere thanks go to the host Chapter, Halifax, who spend so much of their time in the past year to make this event happen. Our hats are off to the Chapter as well as all their volunteers for accomplishing this Endeavour. A "Great Time" was enjoyed by all. □

Sand Lake Triathlon Report

The Canadian Council of the Blind would like to thank the Government of Canada for their support, through the disability component of the Social Development Partnerships Program, in helping make the Sand Lake Triathlon fully inclusive for persons with disabilities.

On August 27, 2011 the Sand Lake Triathlon was held in Westport, Ontario. Support from SDPP-D's Accommodation Project gave athletes with vision loss an opportunity to fully participate in the event. The athletes swam 750m in the beautiful open water of Sand Lake, tandem-biked their way through the 21k challenging ride to Canoe Lake and back, and then finished off their race with a 7k run through the beautiful countryside.

12 athletes participated in the event who would not have been able to without the accommodations that we secured with the support of HRSDC. The support allowed us to obtain 8 fully equipped Cannondale racing tandems—equipment required to make the event inclusive for all.

Not only were the paratriathletes able to participate, but the quality of the equipment allowed them to participate to their full ability. Their results spoke volumes, as Ron Hackett, who took 1st place, shaved 21 minutes off his race time from last year!

Paratriathletes from 3 different provinces took part in the event, so the impact was felt on a national scale.

The new equipment not only made the Sand Lake Triathlon event accessible and inclusive, but it will enable future events to be accessible as well.



Blind first place finisher Ron Hackett and his guide Marc Lemieux.

Congratulations to all the athletes, and thanks to Jan Ditchfield for her efforts in coordinating the event. □

World Lawn Bowling Championships

By Heather Hannett

The World Lawn Bowling Championships were held in Pretoria, South Africa, May 3 - 12, 2011. What an experience! The greens were situated in Wingate Park Country Club; where there were 5 greens in the park next to a golf course. The whole environment had a peaceful atmosphere.

Lawn bowlers from Australia, Canada, England, Hong Kong, Israel, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Scotland, Singapore and South Africa all took part in the event. It was a great feeling raising the Canadian flag at the opening ceremonies while the Canadian anthem played. And it was definitely a proud moment being part of the Canadian Lawn Bowling Team and sharing the same love of the sport as others around the world.

Lawn Bowls is quite similar to curling except much warmer.

The competition was fierce due to the fact that there were skilled lawn bowlers from all countries. The nine Canadian lawn bowlers' and Directors' did quite well bringing back two silver medals. Vivian Berkeley, Ontario, brought home a silver medal in the Lady's Single B1 category and Robert White, New Brunswick brought home a silver medal in the Men's Single B4 category.

If you enjoy curling as a player or an observer you will definitely enjoy the game of lawn bowls. Lawn Bowls is quite similar to curling except much warmer and on very short grass. In curling you aim to be closest to the four foot circle removing opponent's stones to earn points. In lawn bowling, you aim to be the closest to a jack removing opponents lawn bowls to score points.

Lawn Bowling is known as the friendliest sport so come out and lawn bowl with us! □



68 Year old blind athlete Myra Rodrigues and her guide Eva Mohan.

We are changing what it means to be blind.



The white cane a symbol of ability, not disability.

"Unfortunately, negative and the all too often unconscious stereotypical attitudes remain among the sighted community about blind and visually impaired persons. As a result the blind and visually impaired community is the most marginalized disabled group in Canada, both socially and economically."

Canadian Council of the Blind

Blind Out Of Sync With Rare Sleep Disorder, Ontario Gets New Photo ID Card, AMI Rebrands, Gillis Receives Advocate Award, Accessible Bank Notes Are Here, Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP)

RARE SLEEP DISORDER LEAVES THE BLIND OUT OF SYNC

By Michael Baillargeon

So much for drinking a warm glass of milk or counting sheep when you cannot sleep. Those remedies may work for others who toss and turn at night, but not for people who have a rare and under recognized sleep disorder called Non-24-Hour Sleep Wake Disorder.

Non-24-Hour Sleep-Wake Disorder (N24HSWD) is a chronic circadian rhythm sleep disorder that occurs when individuals are unable to synchronize their internal clock to the 24-hour light-dark cycle. As a result, the sleep-wake cycle of these individuals moves gradually later and later each day if their circadian period

is more than 24 hours or earlier and earlier if it is less than 24 hours. This condition occurs almost entirely in individuals who are totally blind and lack the light sensitivity necessary to reset the circadian clock.

In sighted individuals, exposure to daylight provides cues to the brain that help organize daily life. It sets the hands of the body's master clock, a tiny pair of nerve clusters in the center of the brain that anchor body rhythms to the earth's 24-

hour light/dark cycle. In individuals who are blind, lack of environmental cues, like daylight, block an important signal to the brain that enables synchronized patterns.

People with N24HSWD suffer from cyclic insomnia and sleep deprivation which may lead to difficulties with concentration and memory, as well as an increased risk of errors and accidents. For some totally blind individuals, the sleeplessness and daytime fatigue have significant impacts on their social and occupational lives and are considered the most disabling aspect of their blindness.

At this time, there is no treatment approved by a pharmaceutical regulatory authority for N24HSWD in blind individuals without light perception. The good news is that help may be on the way.

The Canadian Council of the Blind has learned that over a year ago, Vanda Pharmaceuticals, a specialty pharmaceutical company based outside of Washington, DC, launched an important clinical research study to evaluate a potential treatment for N24HSWD. The Company has made significant strides in educating the public on N24HSWD and collaborating with a number of blind advocacy groups in the United States and now Canada to make information available to people who

may suffer from N24HSWD. In addition, Vanda has developed a survey to help identify people who may qualify for their research study. The CCB has arranged that with every completed survey, Vanda will donate \$25 to the CCB. Those who are interested are encouraged to call 1-888-389-7033 or visit <https://non24registry.com/> as soon as possible.

The Canadian Council of the



Blind is appreciative of companies like Vanda that are evaluating solutions to improve the quality of life for blind individuals. For updates on progress in this area of research, please continue to check www.24sleepwake.com

For more information and references about Non-24-Hour Sleep Wake Disorder, please visit www.24sleepwake.com. □

ONTARIO ANNOUNCES NEW PHOTO ID CARD

The Canadian Council of the Blind is extremely pleased to announce that Ontario members will soon have access to a photo identification card. This new ID card will provide official identification to those who do not have a driver's license; assisting those with vision loss to easily perform activities that require official ID such as opening bank accounts and travelling.

Shelly Scott, CCB Ontario Division Coordinator, has been instrumental in advocating for the ID card, and we thank her for her persistent efforts. A job well done!

Shelly was at the CNIB headquarters in Toronto in June, for



From left to right: Paul Ting Executive Director, CNIB Ontario; Susan Eng Vice President Advocacy, CARP; Shelly Scott Coordinator Ontario Division, CCB; The Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Transportation and Jim Tokos National Board Member, CCB (Ontario)

the official announcement, along with Jim Tokos, CCB National Board Member for Ontario.

The Ontario Minister of Transportation Kathleen Wynne introduced a new photo identification card that will make it easier for people who do not have a driver's license to travel, open a bank account, and perform any other activities that require official ID.

MPP Dave Levac fought hard for the new photo ID.

"I have heard from and worked with many of my constituents, including the CNIB and the Canadian Council of the Blind

representatives, about the need to have a proper photo ID. These constituents are from all walks of life but, for some reason or other, either cannot or choose not to have a driver's license. Some just don't own a car," said MPP Dave Levac. "These fine folks find it very difficult to access the most basic services which require a particular photo ID. Some may know that many people are forced to carry their passports as a form of ID; that's not recommended."

The new, secure card will be recognized as government-issued identification for Ontarians 16 and over who do not drive.

"It is something that will benefit the blind and low vision in Ontario but in the big picture it is something that will benefit thousands of Ontarians who need it and can't get it for one reason or another. I personally don't see it as a victory for persons with disabilities but a victory for Ontario," said Bob Brown, Alliance for Equality of Blind Canadians (AEBBC).

Ontarians will be able to apply for the photo card at about 20 selected ServiceOntario centres across the province by the end of July, and at all 300 locations soon after.

Ontarians with disabilities, seniors and other advocacy groups provided input on the design and availability of the card.

QUICK FACTS

- The photo card will cost \$35 and is valid for five years.
- Approximately 1.5 million Ontarians aged 16 years and over do not have a valid driver's license.
- Ontario joins eight other provinces that offer a government-issued photo ID card.
- The Ontario photo card mirrors the same security features as the driver's license to help prevent fraud and identity theft. □

ACCESSIBLE MEDIA INC. (AMI) REBRANDS TWO WORLD-LEADING BROADCAST SERVICES FOR CANADIANS

**TACTv will now be known as AMI-tv and
VoicePrint will soon be known as AMI-audio**

By **Michael Baillargeon**

With today's media revolution offering all sorts of new devices and possibilities for greater societal inclusion for people with vision loss and other impairments, Accessible Media Inc.-AMI is in the midst of implementing the next step of an



ambitious rebranding plan that was launched in 2010 with the non-profit organization changing its name from The National Broadcast Reading Service (NBRS), which began solely as a reading service of current articles from newspapers and magazines.

"But now," says David Errington, President and CEO of Accessible Media Inc.-AMI, "the organization has an accessible TV service, an accessible website that is offering an increasing amount of audio files and videos, plus we're also developing accessible apps for tablets and smartphones. So it just seemed logical to choose a name, Accessible Media, that immediately and effectively says what we do.

"With that," adds Errington, "came the realization that we also had to link all our services under the AMI banner to aid our



AMI President and CEO David Errington

robust marketing efforts and to make it easier for our present and potential new audiences to access us and recognize all our services."

The rebranding rollout with TACtv now known as AMI-tv. At the end of March, VoicePrint will become AMI-audio. In addition, AMI will continue to strive to ensure that we are accessible on all devices such as the tablets and mobile apps.

AMI invites everyone to watch us at AMI-tv, listen to us at AMI-audio and visit us at AMI-online with details of channels in your area, program schedules, and the latest about AMI at www.ami.ca. □

CCB PRESIDENT LOUISE GILLIS RECEIVES ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR AWARD

Each year EmployAbility Partnership holds a "Diversity @ Work - Leadership and Excellence Breakfast".

The community/organizations nominate businesses prior to the breakfast who have supported persons with disabilities

in a positive way in their company. Organizations also have an opportunity to nominate a person who has advocated for persons with disabilities in the past. This year there were four businesses nominated for Employer of the Year and four individuals for Disability Advocate of the Year; including Louise Gillis.



From left to right: Advocacy Award Recipient CCB President Louise Gillis with legendary Hockey Coach Jacques Demers and Raymond Young Co-Chair of EmployAbility Partnership.

In the submission, it was mentioned that Louise had Polio at an early age; yet she pursued a career in Nursing, which was not recommended by doctors and teachers. Louise worked in the nursing field for 25 years before a sudden loss of eyesight caused her to leave work. Following this Louise became active with CCB and she began to advocate on issues relating to persons with vision loss. In 2010 she worked with the NS government to have Lucentis covered; and worked on library services for print disabled Canadians.

We would like to congratulate Louise on her award. □

BANK OF CANADA INTRODUCES NEW \$100 BILL WITH ENHANCED ACCESSIBILITY FEATURES

The Bank of Canada launched its first polymer bank note with the release of the new \$100 bill on November 14, 2011. The \$100 bill has three key accessibility features to help those with vision loss better identify bank notes.

Tactile features (raised dots that identify a note's value) present on previous bank notes, will now last longer, thanks to ►

the more durable polymer material. These dots can be found in the top left corner of the new bill.

The new bank notes also feature high contrast numbers: a dark number with a pale background on the front, and a white number with a dark background on the back. And, electronic bank note readers, which identify bills through machine-readable codes, can read both short edges of the note, not just the left edge as with previous bank notes.

The new series of polymer bills comes after a two-year collaboration between the Bank of Canada, CCB and other accessibility advocates to ensure the new series of bank notes recognizes the specific needs of Canadians who are blind or partially sighted.



PHOTO: Glyn Davies, Currency Museum, Bank of Canada.

CCB President Louise Gillis in front of Bank of Canada display

The next polymer bill will be introduced in March 2012 with the release of the \$50 bill. All remaining bills (\$20, \$10, \$5) will be released by the end of 2013.

Tactile feature recap:

This feature is made up of six-dot symbols (two columns of three) separated by a smooth surface. Their number and position vary according to the denomination:

\$5: one six-dot symbol

\$10: two six-dot symbols

\$20: three six-dot symbols

\$50: four six-dot symbols

\$100: two symbols separated by a smooth surface that is wider than that on the \$10 note

For more information call the Bank of Canada toll-free at 1-888-513-8212 and follow the prompts to hear an overview of

the features for the blind and partially sighted.

To order a bank note reader, contact the CNIB toll-free at 1-866-659-1843. □

RDSP: SIGN UP FOR THE BEST GOVERNMENT PROGRAM IN CANADA

Imagine a savings program where the federal government gives a man or woman up to \$3 for every \$1 contributed by that man or woman - to a lifetime maximum of \$70,000. Wouldn't people flock to that program? Wouldn't the Treasury be all but emptied?

Actually, there is such a program - the Registered Disability Savings Plan.

It is a wonderful program. Jim Flaherty, the federal Finance Minister, is to receive an award this week from the Council of Canadians with Disabilities for having created it. The CCD lists the program (which Mr. Flaherty hopes to improve through a public consultation announced this month) among the highlights of the past 30 years for disabled Canadians.

But disabled people are not emptying the Treasury. One poll found that nearly half of disabled Canadians hadn't even heard of it. The program was launched on Dec. 3, 2008, and today 48,000 people are enrolled - far fewer than the 500,000 that the government expects, at a cost of \$200-million a year.

That is no slight to the program. The worst thing that can be said about the RDSP is that so few people know about it.

How does it work? The government will give \$1,000 a year (for a maximum of 20 years) to those who may be too poor to make a contribution - anyone with an income under \$24,183 (indexed to inflation). Those earning up to \$83,088 receive up to \$3 to match each dollar that they, their friends or families invest for them in the savings plan (300 per cent on the first \$500, 200 per cent on the next \$1,000 in a year). There is a 10-year waiting period after the money is invested before one can withdraw money without penalty. To his credit, Mr. Flaherty persuaded most provincial governments not to claw back any federal contributions to the savings plan from their disability payments. Three provinces, however - Quebec, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island - insist that RDSP payments will be clawed back, after certain limits are reached. This is small-minded and miserly. The savings plan can help people with disabilities take some control over their lives. In New Brunswick, the annual disability benefit is \$8,670. How much control is possible on that?

The federal government, banks, non-profit groups and health-care workers should ensure that each and every disabled person who would benefit knows about this superb program. □

—Reprinted from the Globe and Mail

Our White Cane Sponsors are Helping to Change What It Means to be Blind



The Canadian Council of the Blind wishes to express its most sincere gratitude and appreciation to our sponsors, partners and friends for their important contribution and ongoing support of the CCB and White Cane Week™ 2012. Thank you!



2012 Resource Guide for Blind and Partially Sighted Canadians

ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURER

Tetra Society

770 Pacific Blvd. South,
Vancouver, BC V6B 5E7
Branch offices: Halifax, London, Mississauga, Sarnia,
Burlington, Kingsville ON, LaSalle QC
Phone: 877-688-8672
Fax: 604-688-6463
E-mail: info@tetrasociety.org
Website: www.tetrasociety.org
Products: canes

ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT SELLING

AmbuTech

34 deBaets Street, Winnipeg, MB R2J 3S9
Phone: 800-561-3340
Fax: 204-663-9345
Website: www.ambutech.com
Products: canes

Aroga

150-5055 Joyce Street,
Vancouver, BC V5R 6B2
Branch offices: Edmonton, Montreal
Phone: 800-561 6222
Fax: 604-431-7995
E-mail: bob@aroga.com
Website: www.aroga.com
Products: CCTVs, screen magnifiers, adaptive software
and hardware, Braille writers, mobility aids, Braille
printers

Frontier Computing

406-2221 Yonge Street,
Toronto, ON M4S 2B4
Branches: Berwick, NS
Phone: 888-480-0000
Fax: 416-489-6693
E-mail: sales@frontiercomputing.on.ca
Website: www.frontiercomputing.on.ca
Products: Watches, computer software and hardware,
scanners, note-takers, magnifiers, audiobook readers,
GPS devices, daily living equipment, CCTV's, Braille
printers

Humanware

101-4141 Yonge Street,
Toronto, ON M1P 2A8
Branches: Drummondville QC
Contact: Aimee Todd
Phone: 416-221-6341
Fax: 416-221-6842
E-mail: aimee.todd@humanware.com
Website: www.pulsedata.com
Products: Magnifiers, Braille writers, audiobook reader,
GPS devices, Braille printers, computer hardware and
software

Optelec

1832, rue Marie-Victorin,
Longueuil, QC
Phone: 800-665-3005
Fax: 514-067-1462
E-mail: canadasales@optelec.com
Website: www.optelec.com
Products: Magnifiers, computer hardware and
software, cell phones, Braille translators, Braille writers,
Braille printers

Spoken Word Audio Books

350 Bay Street, Toronto, ON M5H 2S6

Phone: 416-368-1027
Fax: 416-368-0067
Website: www.spoken-word.com
Products: Talking books

ADVOCACY

Manitoba Deaf-Blind Association

295 Pembina Hwy, Winnipeg, MB R3L 2E1
Fax: 204-452-0688
Website: www.easterseals.org

ASSISTANCE

Abilities Foundation of Nova Scotia

3670 Kempt Road, Halifax, NS B3K 4X8
Contact: Derek Martin
Phone: 902-453-6000
Fax: 902-454-6121
E-mail: dmartin@abilitiesfoundation.ns.ca
Website: www.abilitiesfoundation.ns.ca
Product: Assistive devices, job training, education, summer
camps, advocacy, fundraising

Active Living Alliance for Canadians with a Disability

104-720 Belfast Road,
Ottawa, ON K1G 0Z5
Contact: Jane Arkell
Phone: 1-800-771-0663
Fax: 613-244-4857
E-mail: jane@ala.ca
Website: www.ala.ca
Product: Advocacy, education, support

Amicale des Handicapes Physiques de l'Outaouais

405 rue Notre-Dame,
Gatineau, QC J8P 1L7
Phone: 819-663-2999
Fax: 819-663-5124
E-mail: amicales.handicapes@qc.aira.com
Website: pages.videotron.com/amicales
Product: Peer support, adaptive equipment,
social events

Balance

302-4920 Dundas Street W.,
Toronto, ON M9A 1B7
Phone: 416-236-1796
Fax: 416-236-4280
Contact: Sue Archibald
E-mail: info@balancetoronto.org
Website: www.balancetoronto.org
Product: Rehabilitation and training services

CAMO pour Personnes Handicapees

404-1030 rue Cherrier,
Montreal, QC H2L 1H9
Branches: Quebec City
Phone: 888-522-3310
Fax: 514-522-4708
E-mail: camo@camo.qc.ca
Website: www.camo.qc.ca
Product: Employment assistance

Canadian Association for Independent Living Centres

1104-170 Laurier Avenue W., Ottawa, ON K1P 5V5
Phone: 613-563-2581
Fax: 613-563-3861
E-mail: info@cailc.ca
Website: www.cailc.ca
Product: Peer support, skills training, education, literacy
programs

Canadian Helen Keller Centre

210 Empress Avenue,
Toronto, ON M2N 3T9
Phone: 416-225-8989
Fax: 416-225-4871
E-mail: deafblindinfo@onramp.ca
Website: www.chkc.org
Product: Skills training

Centre de Ressource de Vie autonome – Peninsule Acadienne

183B J.D.Gauthier Blvd.,
Shippagan, NB E8S 1M8
Phone: 506-336-1304
Fax: 506-336-1322
E-mail: crvapa@nb.aibn.com
Website: www.crvpa-pa.ca
Product: Skills training and rehabilitation

Disabled Persons Community Resource

100-1150 Morrison Drive,
Ottawa, ON K2H 8S9
Phone: 613-724-5886, Fax: 613-724-5889
E-mail: info.dpcr@on.aibn.com
Website: www.dpcr.ca
Product: Advocacy programs, skills training, supportive
housing

Easter Seals Society, Ontario

706-1185 Eglinton Avenue E.,
Toronto, ON M3C 3C6
Phone: 800-668-6252
Fax: 416-696-1035
E-mail: info@easterseals.org
Website: www.easterseals.org
Products: Fundraising, scholarship, youth and family
camps

EmployAbility Partnership

250-500 George Street,
Sydney, NS B1P 6R7
Phone: 888-336-1135
Fax: 902-539-6226
E-mail: info@employabilitypdpa.ca
Website: www.employabilitypdpa.ca
Product: Job/skills training, advocacy, education

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

Suite 404 - 20 Southport Street,
Toronto, ON M6S 4Y8
Contact: C. Ferguson, Secretary
Phone: 1-877-285-9805
Fax: 416-236-4280
E-mail: guidedogs@gduc.ca
Website: www.gduc.ca
Product: Education, peer support, wellness fund

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

2012 Resource Guide for Blind and Partially Sighted Canadians

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: dkingsbury@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, 10339 - 124 Street NW
Edmonton, AB T5N 3W1

Phone: 800-387-2514

Fax: 780-488-9090

E-mail: accd@accd.net

Website: www.accd.net

Product: Education, advocacy, referral services, bursaries

Alliance for Equality of Blind Canadians:

PO Box 20262 RPO

Town Centre Kelowna, BC V1Y 9H2

Branches: Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa

Phone: 800-561-4774

Fax: 250-862-3966

Email: Smith@blindcanadians.ca

Website: www.blindcanadians.ca

Product: Advocacy

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

Confederation des Organismes de Personnes Handicapees du Quebec (COPHAN)

1210-1055 Boul. Rene-Levesque E., Montreal, 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 Ave., Winnipeg, MB, R3C 3X1

Telephone: 204-943-6099

Fax: 204-942-3146

E-mail: mlpd@shawcable.com

Website: www.blindcanadians.ca

Product: Advocacy, Education

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

5 Lower Malpeque Road, Unit #2, Landmark Plaza,
Charlottetown, PEI, C1E 1R4

Phone: 902-892-9149

E-mail: peicod@peicod.pe.ca

Website: www.peicod.pe.ca

Product: Advocacy, education employment assistance

2012 Resource Guide for Blind and Partially Sighted Canadians

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 Montreal-Metropolitain:

200 - 5215, rue Berri
 Montréal, QC H2J 2S4
 Téléphone: 514-277-4401
 Télécopieur: 514-277-8961
 Courriel: Pdussault@raamm.org
 Website: www.raamm.org
 Product: Advocacy, education

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
 Contact: Tara George
 Phone: 877-569-3111
 Fax: 306-569-1889
 E-Mail: voice@saskvoice.com
 Website: www.saskvoice.com
 Product: Advocacy, education

Union Francophone des Aveugles

240 - 3740 rue Berri
 Montréal, QC H2L 4G9
 Téléphone: 514-849-2018
 Télécopieur: 514-849-2754
 Courriel: ufa@cam.org
 Website: www.unionfrancophonedesaveugles.org
 Product: Advocacy

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
 Phone: 902-424-8500
 Fax: 902-424-5819

Email: apsea@apsea.ca

Website: www.apsea.ca

Product: Integration, advocacy, instruction and skills training

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
 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
 Product: Employment assistance, skills training

Career Flight

1753 Water Street, Suite 2
 Miramichi, NB E1N 1B2
 Tel: 506-627-4350
 Fax: 506-627-4356
 Email: career01@nb.aibn.com
 Website: www.career-flight.com
 Product: Employment assistance

Chrysalis

13325 St-Albert Trail, Edmonton, AB T5L 4R3
 Contact: Stan Fisher
 Phone: 780-454-9656
 E-mail: stanf@chrysalis.ab.ca
 Website: www.chrysalis.ab.ca
 Product: Employment assistance, skills training

Durham Region Employment Network

102 - 22 King Street W., Oshawa, ON L1H 1A3
 Tel: 905-720-1777
 Fax: 905-720-1363
 E-Mail: dren@dren.org
 Website: www.dren.org
 Product: Employment assistance, skills training, education

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
 Product: Employment assistance, skills training

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

801 - 1075 Bay Street
 Toronto, ON M5S 2B1
 Phone: 416-413-4922
 Fax: 416-413-4927
 E-mail: info@linkup.ca
 Website: www.linkup.ca
 Product: Employment assistance, skills training, education

Path Employment Services:

7 -140 King Street E.,
 Hamilton, ON L8N 1B2
 Phone: 905-528-6611
 Fax: 905-528-2181
 Email: path2@pathemployment.com
 Website: www.pathemployment.com
 Product: Employment assistance, skills training

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

Dogs with Wings Assistance Dog Society

11343 - 174 Street, N.W. Edmonton, AB T5S 0B7
 Phone: (780) 944-8011
 Fax: (780) 944-9571
 Toll Free (877) 252-9433

2012 Resource Guide for Blind and Partially Sighted Canadians

E-mail: johnw@dogswithwings.ca
Website: www.dogswithwings.ca
Product: Guide Dogs Training

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)

Suite 404 - 20 Southport Street
 Toronto, ON M6S 4Y8
Contact: C. Ferguson Secretary
Phone: 1-877-285-9805
Fax: 416-236-4280
E-mail: guidedogs@gduc.ca
Website: www.gduc.ca
Product: Education, peer support, wellness fund

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

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: pcspd@planet.eon.net
Website: www.premierscouncil.ab.ca

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 Association of Rehabilitation Centres

2910 - 3 Avenue NE, Calgary, AB T2A 6T7
Phone: 403-250-9495
Fax: 403-291-9864
Email: aarc@albertarehab.org
Website: www.albertarehab.org
Product: Rehab services

Center for Sight Enhancement

University of Waterloo, School of Optometry
 Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1
Phone: 519-888-4708
Fax: 519-746-2337
Email: pbevers@sciborg.uwaterloo.ca
Website: www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca
Product: Rehab services

2012 Resource Guide for Blind and Partially Sighted Canadians

Montreal Association for the Blind

7000, Sherbrooke Street West
Montreal, QC, H4B 1R3
Tel: 514-489-8201
Fax: 514-489-3477
E-mail: info@mab.ca
Website: www.mab.ca
Product: Rehab services, housing

RESEARCH

Foundation Fighting Blindness

703-890 Yonge St., 12th Floor
Toronto, ON M4W 3P4
Branches: Halifax, Guelph, Ottawa
Tel: 800-461-3331
Fax: 416-360-0060
E-Mail: info@ffb.ca
Website: www.ffb.ca
Product: Eye research

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

Intervention Manitoba Inc.

Suite 201 - 1100 Concordia Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R2K 4B8
Telephone: 204-949-3730
Fax: 204-949-3732
E-Mail: g-schwartz@mts.net
Website: www.imi-mb.com
Product: Recreation, support, employment assistance

Society of Manitobans with Disabilities

825 Sherbrook Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3A 1M5
Tel: 866-282-8041
Fax: 204-975-3012
E-Mail: info@smd.mb.ca
Website: www.smd.mb.ca
Product: Support, skills training, employment assistance,
referrals, rehab services

SOCIAL

Connectra

330 Pacific Blvd. South
Vancouver, BC, Canada V6B 5E7
Contact: Kirk Duncan
Tel: 604-688-6464 ext127
Fax: 604-688-6463
E-Mail: kduncan@connectra.org
Website: www.connectra.org
Product: Social integration

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Alberta Sport and Recreation Association of the Blind

7-15 Colonel Baker Place NE
Calgary, AB T2E 4Z3
Contact: Darlene Murphy
Tel: 403-262-5332
Fax: 403-265-7221
E-Mail: asrab@telusplanet.net
Website: www.asrab.ab.ca
Product: Coaching, sports and recreation

Association Quebecoise de Loisirs pour Personnes Handicapees

4545, av. Pierre-De Coubertin
C.P. 1000, succursale M
Montréal, QC H1V 3R2
Contact: Jolyane Simard
Tél.: 514-252-3144
Télééc.: 514-252-8360
E-Mail : jsimard@aqlph.qc.ca
Website: www.aqlph.qc.ca
Product: Sports and recreation, advocacy

BC Disability Sports

322 - 1367 West Broadway Street
Vancouver, BC V6H 4A9
Phone: 604-737-3035
Fax: 604-737-3039
E-mail: info@cnib.ca
Website: www.cnib.ca
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

#325 - 5055 Rue Joyce Street
Vancouver, BC V5R 6B2 Canada
Phone: (604) 419-0480
Toll Free: 1-877-604-0480
Fax: (604) 419-0481
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 pour Handicapes Visuels

7350 rue de la Nantaise
Anjou, QC, H1M 1B5
Tel: 514-353-1115
Fax: 514-354-8840
Website: www.blindsport.mb.ca
Product: Sports and recreation

Manitoba Blind Sports Association

145 Pacific Ave., Winnipeg, MB R3B 2Z6
Contact: Cathy Derewianchuk
Phone: 204-925-5694
Fax: 204-925-5792
E-mail: blindsport@shawbiz.ca
Website: www.blindsport.mb.ca
Product: Sports and recreation

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

John Milton Society for the Blind in Canada

202 - 40 St-Clair Avenue E.
Toronto, ON M4T 1M9
Phone: 416-960-3953
Fax: 416-960-3570
E-mail: admin@jmsblind.ca
Website: www.jmsblind.ca
Product: Converting text to Braille and audio formats

La Magnetothèque

301-1055 Boul. Rene-Levesque,
Montréal, QC H2L 4S5
Phone: 800-361-0635 Fax: 514-282-1676
E-mail: info@lamagnetothèque.qc.ca
Website: www.lamagnetothèque.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: tbadmin@tbase.com
Website: www.tbase.com
Product: Converting text to Braille and audio formats



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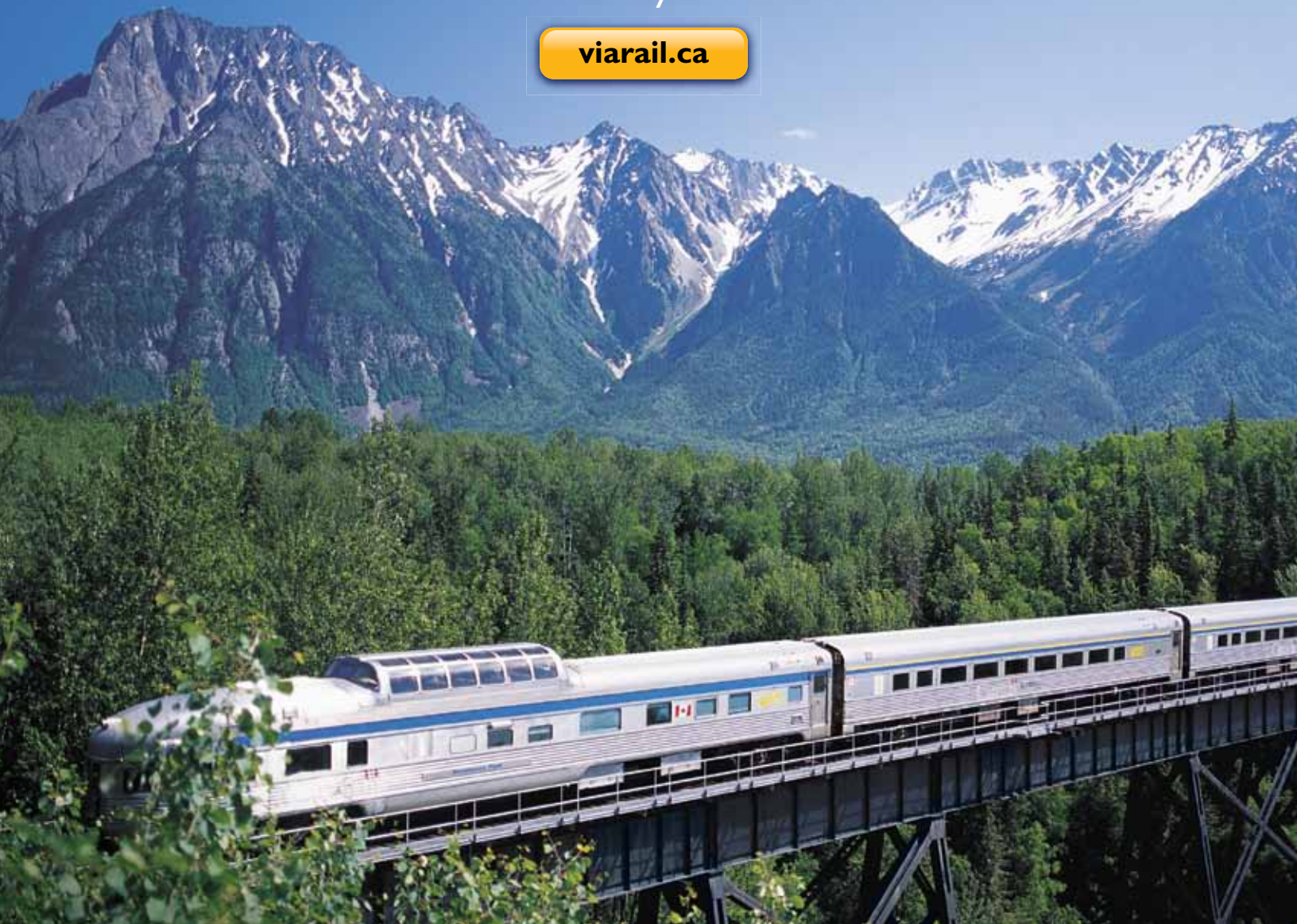
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