



AERODYNAMICS

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BUSINESS CLASS

Don't Miss It! AER International O&M Conference & Meeting 2017

Join colleagues from around the world from July 19-22, 2017, at the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the AER International Orientation & Mobility Conference & Meeting 2017. Not only is close to 100 hours of programming planned, but you can earn up to 24 continuing education hours. What's more, two conference highlights this year are a Tactile Map Competition and Rick Welsh Memorial Luncheon.



Visit the [conference website](#) for schedule and registration details.

Mark Your Calendar! AER Ontario Chapter Fall Conference

By Doug McJannet, President

The Ontario Chapter of AER is planning a Town Hall meeting and Conference on November 10, 2017, at the W. Ross Macdonald School for the Blind in Brantford, Ontario. This conference is in the early planning stages and the Ontario Board is interested in your feedback regarding desired content. We are planning to offer Continuing Education (CE) credits and a day full of learning and networking opportunities. Please fill in the below questionnaire,

by June 16, and send it directly to Doug McJannet, President, at: dougmcjannet2017@gmail.com.

Ontario Chapter Questionnaire

- What topics would you like to see addressed at a Town Hall Meeting?
- Suggested Keynote Speaker?
- Suggested topics for breakout sessions?
- Would you be willing to present at this conference and what is your area of expertise?

Please include the following information:

Name: _____ Title: _____

Employer: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Thank you for your valuable input, and we will be in touch very soon!

The World "I" Live In: Deafblindness & Intervention

Please join us October 4-5, 2017, as staff from W. Ross Macdonald School, Deafblind Resource Services, presents the two-day conference, "The World 'I' Live In: An Introduction to Deafblindness & Intervention." The conference brings together educators, intervenors, parents and professionals in the field of deafblindness. This year's conference features:

- Introduction to Deafblindness & Intervention
- Total Communication Approach, Calendar Systems, Experience Tools, Conceptual Development
- Deafblindness and sensory integration
- Supporting students within the academic stream
- Transitioning to adult services
- Guest speakers
- Tour of W. Ross Macdonald School

Program and registration details to follow. Visit:

<http://psbnet.ca/eng/schools/wross/news/2017/021617.html> for more information.

2017 CNIB Braille Conference

As CNIB embarks on its 100th year, it has announced its 2017 National Braille Conference—A Century of Change: Inspired by Braille—to be held October 27-28, 2017, at the CNIB Centre, Toronto, Ontario.

The conference will offer a variety of workshops, roundtables, panels and presentations. CNIB invites session proposals that fall within one of the three broad conference themes: Interactive Literacy; Children & Youth; and Employment. Proposals must be submitted by July 7, 2017. Visit the [conference website](#) to view examples of session topics, the Call for Papers and more.

Save the Date! Seeing Beyond the Horizon 2018

The 15th biennial Canadian Vision Teachers' Conference, "Seeing Beyond the Horizon 2018," will take place May 3-5, 2018, at a new venue, Nisku Inn and Conference Centre, just minutes from the Edmonton International Airport, in Edmonton, Alberta. There will also be preconference workshops on May 2 and award presentations during an evening event.

Registration officially opens August 2017, and the call for papers is open until November 3, 2017. For further details, including the Call for Papers, visit: <https://sites.google.com/site/2018cvtc>.

It's a Wrap: First-Ever CIVRC

By Susan J. Leat, Professor, School of Optometry & Vision Science

The first Canadian Interdisciplinary Vision Rehabilitation Conference was held at the University of Waterloo School of Optometry & Vision Science March 25-26, 2017. By all accounts it was very successful. There were a total of 149 registrants, including optometrists, ophthalmologists, opticians, orientation & mobility instructors, occupational therapists, independent living specialists, high tech assessors, itinerant vision resource teachers/special education consultants, CNIB managers, counsellors, students, and University faculty members/researchers. Attendees came from almost every province across Canada and even internationally, including optometrists from the U.S. and Hong Kong.

The wide variety of presentations ranged from lectures, workshops, collaborative workshops and grand rounds.

Thanks to generous sponsorship from Chadwick Optical Inc., Optelec Canada Inc. and Brook and Braddock Opticians, conference awards were presented to nine students and residents, enabling them to attend the conference. The first Canadian Low Vision Achievement Award was presented to Dr. Graham Strong who has advocated for low vision rehabilitation for over 40 years, and for acknowledgment of his extensive work to obtain coverage of visual aids for people with low vision of all ages through the Assistive Devices Program. This helped change the landscape of low vision service provision in Ontario and continues to serve as a model across Canada.

The inaugural George Woo lecture was given by Dr. Joan Stelmack of the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary, where she is Director of the Low Vision Service. Dr. Woo has served (and led) numerous national and international optometry organisations and has been a recognized leader in optometry and health sciences for 30 years. Closer to home, he was responsible for initiating our own Low Vision Clinic and was founding Director of the Centre for Sight Enhancement from its opening in 1985 to 1987. Dr. Stelmack spoke about the effectiveness of the LOVIT (low vision intervention trial) studies, which demonstrate the effectiveness of a two-tiered approach to low vision rehabilitation.



Anne Riddering and Walter Wittich

The two keynote speakers were Dr. Walter Wittich, School of Optometry, University of Montreal and Anne Riddering, Director of Rehabilitation Services for Henry Ford Health System's Visual Rehabilitation and Research Center of Michigan. Dr. Wittich spoke about dual sensory loss (hearing and vision), emphasizing the

unrecognised high prevalence of this condition, while Dr. Riddering spoke of the importance of recognising the contribution of all the professions that provide vision rehabilitation, particularly with the projected increasing prevalence of visual impairment.

From attendees to conference content, the CIVRC truly lived up to being interdisciplinary.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Three New Facebook Groups

By Randy Reed, CVRT, Lighthouse of Manasota, Florida

As an alternative and/or supplement to listservs, there are now Facebook groups available for Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapists (CVRT), Certified Assistive Technology Instructional Specialists (CATIS), and Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialists (COMS). While not affiliated with ACVREP, these groups are for professionals who hold or are seeking to earn certification through the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals. Their purpose is to share knowledge and resources, as well as to network with other colleagues in the field.

CVRT: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1780472825548813/>

CATIS: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/400320037025957/>

COMS: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/356591488030515/>

These are closed groups, so you will need to request membership. Since I administer and moderate these groups, I can tell you that requests are approved fairly quickly. Enjoy!

New Network of Ph.D.s Who Are Blind or Low Vision

By Natalie Martiniello, CVRT, Ph.D. Student, University of Montreal

This open Facebook group is for anyone who is planning to pursue, currently pursuing, or who already has obtained a Ph.D. in any field, and who happens to also be blind or low vision. We welcome both those working in academia and those working in other areas (industry, etc.). Please feel free to tell others who may be interested in joining!

The purpose of this group is to provide a venue to share resources and strategies, and to ask questions related to obtaining a Ph.D. (and working after obtaining a Ph.D.) that may be particularly relevant to individuals who are blind or who have low vision (e.g. accessible data analysis software, accessing academic material, navigating conferences, obtaining employment etc.).

You can find the group at: <https://m.facebook.com/groups/blindphd>.

COAST TO COAST

Canada 150 \$10 Bank Note

To mark the 150th anniversary of Confederation, the Bank of Canada has released a commemorative \$10 bank note celebrating our country's history, land and culture. On June 1,

Calendar of Events

July 19-22, 2017 – [AER International Orientation & Mobility Conference & Meeting 2017](#), Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania USA

October 4-5, 2017 -- [WRMS Deafblindness Conference](#), Brantford, Ontario, Canada

October 27-28, 2017 – [CNIB Braille Conference](#), Toronto, Ontario, Canada

November 10, 2017 – AER Ontario Conference, Brantford, Ontario, Canada

November 15-17, 2017 -- [Northeast AER Conference](#), Burlington, Vermont, USA

May 3-5, 2018 -- [Seeing Beyond the Horizon \(CVTC\)](#), Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

July 25-29, 2018 – AER International Conference 2018, Reno, Nevada, USA

2017, 40 million commemorative notes entered circulation through Canada's financial institutions. The Canada 150 note has the same suite of accessibility features as other polymer notes—recognizable by tactile feature, large numerals and electronic signal (a software adaptation is required for the most recent bank-note reader model). The Canada 150 \$10 note circulates alongside the regular \$10 note. The commemorative note features enhanced colour contrast, as well as raised ink on both sides, whereas the regular \$10 note has raised ink only on the portrait side.

Information and described videos on the Canada 150 note are available at <http://www.bankofcanada.ca/banknote150>, 1-800-303-1282, <mailto:info@bankofcanada.ca>.

Annual National AccessAbility Week

By The Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities

As Canada's Minister responsible for Persons with Disabilities, I believe that our country's diversity is our strength—and when we include people with disabilities, we create a stronger Canada for everyone.

It was my pleasure to announce, launching this spring, for the first time in many years, an annual national week devoted to inclusion and accessibility. From May 28 to June 3, 2017, National AccessAbility Week celebrated, highlighted and promoted inclusion and accessibility in our communities and workplaces across the country.

We've made great strides in promoting inclusion for Canadians with disabilities, but there is still much work to do. To create a truly inclusive society, we need to change the way we think, talk and act about barriers to participation and accessibility—and we need to do it right from the start, not as an afterthought. An inclusive Canada is one where all Canadians can participate and have an equal opportunity to succeed.

National AccessAbility Week aims to bring this perspective to the forefront for Canadians, and highlight some of the important initiatives this government and its partners are undertaking to bring about this change.

I hope you joined us in celebrating National AccessAbility Week. I invite you to host events in your own local communities, and participate on social media next year. More information about activities is available on [Accessible Canada](#) on Facebook. I encourage you to follow [@AccessibleGC](#) on Twitter and follow the hashtag #AccessibleCanada and #AccessAbility for the latest information.

Together, let's continue working towards an Accessible Canada!

THE JOURNEY

ASIC: A 20-Year Legacy

One of Canada's most successful blindness-related, consumer-driven advocacy groups is closing after 20 years of fighting for equal access. On May 2, 2017, British Columbia's Access (formerly

Advocates) for Sight-Impaired Consumers issued an email with the subject line, "It's time to step back and move on." The email gave ASIC's end date as May 31, 2017.

"ASIC leaves behind a legacy of independence and access initiatives that will benefit persons who are blind, deafblind or partially sighted for generations to come," reads the email. Its successful advocacy has included:

- High-contrast tactile platform edging on all Metro Vancouver SkyTrain and Canada Line platforms.
- Automated stop announcements on all conventional transit and community shuttle routes operated by the Coast Mountain Bus Company in Metro Vancouver.
- Universally accessible bus stops in the Metro Vancouver area with appropriate features to assist transit users with various disabilities (including blindness).
- Expansion of the Taxi Bill of Rights throughout BC, which was voluntarily adopted by 33 taxi companies.
- Pilot installation of taxi meters with optional audio output by the Vancouver Taxi Association. The success of the pilot project has resulted in the BC Passenger Transportation Board establishing guidelines for the implementation, installation and operation of Soft Meters (tablet-based) with optional audio output.
- Descriptive video and closed captioning services in Famous Players theatres that expanded into identical services in Cineplex Entertainment complexes.
- Audio ATM machines at Vancouver City Savings branches.
- Accessible prescription medication information in an audio format from 10 pharmacy chains throughout BC.

At the close of ASIC's final meeting, Chair Rob Sleath summarized the past two decades by saying: "The past 20 years has given many caring and compassionate individuals an opportunity to give back to their community by volunteering time and energy toward the goal of improving the independence and access for British Columbians who are blind, deafblind or sight-impaired. It has been an honour and a privilege to work with these individuals, and we hope our efforts will enhance the independence of all British Columbians for years to come. To all those who supported Access for Sight-Impaired Consumers with donations, gifts-in-kind, financial support and/or through their donations of time and energy, I extend a simple but most sincere thank you! We could not have achieved so much without your generous and valued support."

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Views herein represent those of the authors and not necessarily those of AER, its Board of Directors, staff, members or Editor. Likewise, any products or services mentioned do not necessarily represent endorsement.

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