



# AERODYNAMICS

The AER Canada Newsletter

A publication of the Association for Education and Rehabilitation  
of the Blind and Visually Impaired

September 2017

Volume 3, Number 3

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## BUSINESS CLASS

### AER Adopts New Mission

The AER Board of Directors has adopted a [new mission](#) for the organization: "The mission of AER is to serve and empower professionals to deliver standards-based practices that lead to improved educational and rehabilitative outcomes for individuals with visual impairment and blindness." This mission embodies what we do, the importance of our work, and will serve as a guide for the organization's services and support for members.

### The World "I" Live In: Introduction to Deafblindness

On October 4 and 5, 2017, the W. Ross Macdonald School in Brantford, Ontario, will host the World "I" Live In: An Introduction to Deafblindness & Intervention, a conference for parents, students, educators and other professionals. The conference will feature a number of plenary and breakout sessions, a tour of the WRMS Deafblind Program, and guest speakers from Deafblind Ontario Services and the Canadian Deafblind Association. Guest student speakers from WRMS will also be presenting. Registration ends September 20, 2017. [Select this link](#) for additional details.

### A Century of Change: 2017 CNIB Braille Conference

As CNIB celebrates its 100th year, this fall's National Braille Conference will focus on A Century of Change: Inspired by Braille. Taking place at the CNIB Centre in Toronto from October 27-28, this event's highlights include: a lunchtime presentation to the winners of the CNIB Braille Reading and Writing Accuracy Competition; excursions to CNIB's new Community Hub; and hands-on, interactive workshops and discussion panels. Tickets are available for an early-bird price and can be purchased online. Please RSVP by October 13. For more information, [click here](#).

## **AER Canada in Pittsburgh**

By Carole Williams, AER Board Canadian Representative, & Doug McJannet, AER Ontario President

It was refreshing and inspiring to have the opportunity to meet and chat with fellow Canadians at the AER International Orientation & Mobility Conference 2017 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, this past summer. We all shared our stories,

successes and accomplishments, but we also brainstormed about some challenges we face across the country.



During a special Canadian luncheon, pictured here, we discussed new technological advances, personnel shortages and professional liability insurance. In attendance were members from Ontario and Quebec (back row from left: Jordan Dumoulin, Ontario, Marc Boulianne, Quebec, Doug McJannet, Ontario, Dave Hewitt, Ontario, Bill Phung, Ontario; front row from left: Anne Evrard, Quebec, Deborah Gold, Ontario, Barb Ennis, Ontario, Carole Williams, Ontario). We all agreed that it's imperative that O&M professionals across the country keep up-to-date on learning new devices and smartphone applications, as well as new teaching methods and strategies.

The Pittsburgh conference provided AER Canada members with the opportunity to share best practices, embrace new technology and grow as professionals. The AER International O&M Conference not only met our expectations, it exceeded them. We strongly encourage fellow Canadians to continue the dialogue in an effort to strengthen our field and provide the best possible service to our students and clients.

## **CHAMPion Speakers Set for 2017 NE/AER Conference**

By Stephanie Bissonette, NE/AER 2017 Co-Chair

The 2017 NE/AER Conference, taking place November 15-17, 2017, at the Downtown Waterfront Hilton Hotel in Burlington, Vermont, will host two outstanding guest speakers! As our Wednesday's opening keynote speaker, we will welcome Angela Winfield, who "despite being declared legally blind at age 10, being suicidal at 14 and going totally blind at 20, completed high school at the top of her class, graduated from two Ivy League institutions and became an attorney, author, community leader and successful entrepreneur." Angela is an inspirational speaker who will "help you tap into your human spirit, so you can realize your dreams and find your own happiness and unlock your true potential." Our Thursday guest speaker will be Haben Girma, the first deafblind graduate from Harvard Law School: "Haben is a talented storyteller who helps people frame difference as an asset."

We hope you can join us "CHAMPions" (pun intended, referring to the Lake Champlain lake monster named Champ) at the 2017 NE/AER Conference. For program and registration updates, visit <http://www.neaer.umb.edu/?page=conference>.

## Save the Date! Seeing Beyond the Horizon 2018

The 15<sup>th</sup> 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 in September, and the call for papers is open until November 3, 2017. For further details, including information about the Call for Papers, visit: <https://sites.google.com/site/2018cvtc>.

## Renew Your Membership on AER's Website



AER's website allows members access to their member records for online renewals, address updates, and to members only sections of the website for resources such as *JVIB*. If you have not

set up your personal user name and password, locate your member number/contact ID to get started.

- Go to <https://my.aerbvi.org> and select Register Now at the bottom of the page
- Select quick Activation by Contact ID on the next page.
- Enter your member number, first name, and last name.
- Choose your own user name and password. Keep it handy!
- When you return to the site and log in, select My Account at the top of the page to view your record.

## ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

### Crossing at Modern Traffic Signals

Ever noticed that today's signalled intersections are different from in the past? Using traditional O&M techniques can put blind people at risk. Research has found that blind people using traditional O&M techniques sometimes begin crossing when traffic has the right-of-way across their crosswalk or do not have enough time to complete their crossing before the signal changes!

"Crossing at Modern Traffic Signals" is a new online self-study guide developed by Dona Sauerburger, Gene Bourquin and Bonnie Dodson-Burk. The guide is free and ACVREP-approved! It has all the information you need to know about teaching at today's intersections with traffic signals and friendly, easy-to-read text with videos and pictures.

[Click here](#) to get started or find out more. And don't miss the free [online self-study guide](#) for uncontrolled crossings, which also provides ACVREP credit.

### Calendar of Events

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

April 5-7, 2018 – AFB Leadership Conference, Oakland, California, USA

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

July 25-29, 2018 – [AER International Conference 2018](#), Reno, Nevada, USA

## Diabetes and Visual Impairment

Do you want to add to your knowledge of adaptive tools and techniques in order to aid your clients with diabetes manage their condition independently? “Diabetes and Visual Impairment” is a new online course from the Hadley Institute for Professional Studies that presents information about diabetes, visual impairment and adaptations that will enable you to assist your clients. The course is currently tuition-free and has nine assignments with an expected completion timeframe of five months. For more details, [click here](#).

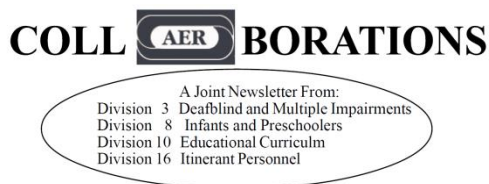
## FLIGHT PATHS

### Interpersonal Skills for Itinerant Teachers

By Tracy Hallak and Jill Brown

Reprinted from [CollAERborations](#), Summer 2017

One of the biggest challenges you may have as an itinerant TVI is building positive relationships with school personnel and helping them to understand our students’ unique needs, especially when you are not on campus. Some teachers resent us coming into their classroom and giving suggestions to change their teaching styles. But as VI professionals, we are trying to help the teachers enable access to the visual environment when working with our mutual students. Here are some strategies to help facilitate positive interactions:



- Be visible and available. Try to meet with the child’s teacher(s) before school starts to help them understand the child’s visual abilities. If possible, meet with the teacher on a regular basis to just listen to them and their concerns.
- Approach is important: Try to make suggestions, never demands.
- Offer to teach a lesson to the class. This will give the teacher a 30-60 minute break. Your lesson can be on the topic of visual impairment (great science lesson) or whatever you both agree on. This helps the other students in the classroom get to know you.
- Be an extra pair of hands to help in the classroom when you are there. This also helps your student to not feel isolated, as you are helping others.
- Occasionally leave a candy bar or vending-machine money in the teacher mailbox for them as an appreciation for the extra work they do.
- Get to know each school’s principal and front-desk receptionist. They will most likely be the ones to help you find available rooms to work in.
- Thank-you notes always go a long way.
- Talk with other itinerant teachers who have been in that school previously to see what has worked in the past.

Select [this link](#) for the full issue.

# ALL SYSTEMS GO

## iHabilitation Canada Launches Eyes-Free Academy

iHabilitation Canada is pleased to announce the launch of the Eyes-Free Academy, providing online multi-media content via a fully accessible Learning Management System. The first course, offered free of charge, is titled iPhone Eyes-Free Mind's-Eye Navigation on the iPhone Touch-Screen. You can visit the academy here: <http://www.ihabilitation.thinkific.com/>

This introductory iPhone Eyes-Free course is inclusively designed and provides detailed audio/video real-time demonstration along with PDF documentation to suit a wide range of accessibility needs. With this approach, almost anyone can become familiar with iPhone touch-screen navigation using the Voiceover screen-reader rather than looking at the phone.

A promotional video on YouTube describes the course and the philosophy behind iHabilitation Canada. You can find the video here: <https://youtu.be/NRvnj-wkt5E>. The channel will also showcase future course material.

## GTT Email Discussion List

Get Together with Technology (GTT) is an exciting initiative of the Canadian Council of the Blind, founded in 2011, comprised of assistive technology users and those interested in using assistive technology to help blind and visually impaired people level the playing field. GTT groups interact through social media and periodically meet in-person or by teleconference to share their passion for assistive technology and to learn what others can offer from their individual perspectives.

The CCB's GTT program now offers an email discussion list. To subscribe, send an email to [gttsupport+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:gttsupport+subscribe@groups.io), put "subscribe" in the subject line and leave the body of the email blank. When you get a return email, simply reply to confirm. A second return email will welcome you as a list member and give instructions on how to post messages to the list. For questions about the list, contact [gttsupport+owner@groups.io](mailto:gttsupport+owner@groups.io). For more information about GTT, visit <https://gttprogram.wordpress.com/> or email [gttprogram@gmail.com](mailto:gttprogram@gmail.com).



## COAST TO COAST

### Darleen Bogart Appointed to Order of Canada

On June 30, 2017, on the eve of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Confederation, His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, announced 99 new appointments to the Order of Canada. Darleen Bogart, longtime braille advocate, CNIB National Braille Convenor and Representative to the Braille Authority of North America, was among them. She was named an Officer of the Order of Canada. Congratulations, Darleen Bogart!





## Hands Off Our Harnesses!

The Canadian General Standards Board has drafted a set of standards that, if implemented, would impose conditions on the training and use of service dogs, including guide dogs. But both American and Canadian schools find these standards at odds with their training and use of guide dogs. If these standards are implemented, American schools might stop accepting Canadian applicants, forcing them to apply to the few extant Canadian schools, thus greatly increasing wait times. It is imperative that the standards, as they currently exist, are not accepted.

Although the official commenting period is over, we encourage you to join the discussion, as strategy development for a community response is ongoing in advance of the CGSB committee's next meeting in late September. To join the discussion, read media articles or various submissions, go to the Hands Off Our Harnesses blog at <http://handsoffourharnesses.wordpress.com>.

## Creating Accessibility Legislation: What We Learned

In the summer of 2016, Canada's largest and most accessible consultation on disability issues ever began. It ended in early 2017. Minister Carla Qualtrough, Canada's first-ever Minister responsible for persons with disabilities, led the consultation and asked, "What does an accessible Canada mean to you?" More than 6,000 Canadians across the country participated in person and online in a variety of languages and accessible formats. What the government learned, summarized in this report, will help it create new accessibility legislation. For the report, as well as a Message from the Minister, [click here](#).

AERODYNAMICS, the AER Canada Newsletter, is published four times per year—in March, June, September and December. Please send all items for publication to the Editor at [saralb@sympatico.ca](mailto:saralb@sympatico.ca) by February 25 for the March issue, May 25 for the June issue, August 25 for the September issue, and November 25 for the December issue.

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