



AERODYNAMICS

The AER Canada Newsletter

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of the Blind and Visually Impaired

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NOW BOARDING

Note from AER's President

By Janie Blome

Hello, Canadian AER members! I am so excited to begin my tenure as AER President. I am looking forward to getting to know more of you, getting more of our members actively involved in AER, and working together to build strong collaborations that lead to better outcomes for all—for we as professionals, as well as for the students and clients we serve. I hope to attend as many Chapter Conferences as I can, so don't hesitate to contact me if I can make a contribution in any way. Please email me at jblome@aph.org.

The 2018-2020 AER Board of Directors is happy that Carole Williams is returning to the Board as the Canadian Representative and that she has agreed to serve on the AER Finance Committee for the next two years. I know that she will be a valuable asset to the Committee and will bring us fresh perspectives on behalf of our Canadian members. Please feel free to contact me or any member of the AER Board if you have questions, concerns, brilliant ideas or if you want to become a more active member of your professional organization!

For the full list of Officers, Division, District and Additional Representatives on your AER Board of Directors, please visit, <https://aerbvi.org/about/leadership/board-of-directors/>

Message from Your Canadian Rep

By Carole Williams

I am honoured and excited to begin another two-year term as your Canadian Representative on AER's International Board of Directors. There is a lot of work to do as we move towards implementation of AER's new Strategic Plan for its members. I am looking forward to hearing from

members across Canada to discuss how we can better provide exceptional member benefits and professional development opportunities. Thank you for your continued support!

Some exciting news to share with you...

1. The British Columbia/Yukon Chapter has officially merged with AER members in Alberta to form a consolidated Chapter named the BC/Yukon/Alberta Chapter. It is hoped that this merger will encourage collaboration between professionals in Western Canada and perhaps draw in new members. It is hoped that such increased membership will also afford Canadians the same AER membership benefits as our American colleagues, specifically professional liability insurance. Huge thanks to all those involved with this merger, especially the hard work and dedication of Laurie Watson, President of the BC/Yukon/Alberta Chapter.
2. The Ontario Chapter of AER honoured Mary Maureen Atkin with the prestigious “Spirit Award” at its Annual General Meeting in May 2018. This award is intended to recognize outstanding career achievements in the field of blindness and ongoing dedication to AER. Congratulations Mary Maureen!
3. An exciting new book is now available from one of our longest-standing AER members, Florence Carter! “Dare to Dream: Turning Stumbling Blocks Into Stepping Stones” is now available from CNIB. For over seven decades, Florence has made an incredible difference in the lives of those living with visual impairment as a Rehab Teacher, Professor at Mohawk College and volunteer at CNIB. The “Queen of Rehabilitation” not only gives an accurate description of life as a blind person with a fulfilling career, but has written a beautiful book full of humour and poignant memories. A must read!



Dare To Dream

Looking forward to hearing some exciting news from across this great country from our Canadian AER members! Please keep in touch! Call my cell at 416-523-8807 or email: carolewilliams2017@gmail.com

BUSINESS CLASS

Extra! Extra! Canadian News from the AER Conference

- Carole Williams, Orientation & Mobility Specialist/Accessibility Consultant at Ontario’s Peel District School Board, returns as Canadian AER Representative for 2018-2020.
- Olga Overbury, Ph.D., of the University of Montreal’s School of Optometry and Masters of Science Visual Impairment & Rehabilitation program, returns as the AER Related Services Division Rep.



- With respect to AER Divisions, **Kim Zebehazy joins the Nominating & Elections Committee** of AER's Orientation & Mobility (O&M) Division. Zebehazy is an Associate Professor at the University of British Columbia where she runs the O&M Graduate Certificate.
- M. Cay Holbrook, of the University of British Columbia's Department of Education and Visual Impairment Program, receives the Mary K. Bauman Award. This award was established in 1982 to honour an individual who has made significant and outstanding contributions to the education of children and youth who are blind or visually impaired. Over the course of her career, Holbrook has created the biennial Getting in Touch with Literacy Conference with Janie Blome, the Learning Media Assessment tool with Alan Koenig, and Building on Patterns, a literacy product, with the American Printing House for the Blind.
- And of possible interest to Canadians... At its poster session, AER's International Services & Global Issues Division signed up 17 new members. Way to go!



Calendar of Events

September 28-29, 2018 – [North Central O&M Association \(NCOMA\) Conference](#), Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA

October 18-19, 2018 -- [CNIB Braille Conference](#), North York, Ontario, Canada

November 8-10, 2018 – [Association of Vision Rehabilitation Therapists \(AVRT\) Conference](#), Cleveland, Ohio, USA

November 14-16, 2018 -- [Northeast AER Conference](#), Newport, Rhode Island, USA

December 8-11, 2018 -- [Southeastern O&M Association \(SOMA\) Conference](#), Tampa, Florida, USA

January 30-February 1, 2019 – [International Orientation & Mobility Online Symposium \(IOMOS\)](#)

February 28-March 1, 2019 – American Foundation for the Blind Leadership Conference (AFBLC), Arlington, Virginia, USA

July 22-26, 2020 – AER International Conference 2020, St. Louis, Missouri, USA

Guiding the Way: The NE/AER Fall Conference

Come join the Northeast AER Chapter at its Fall Conference from November 14-16, 2018, at the Gurney's Newport Resort & Marina in Newport, Rhode Island. This year's conference, "Guiding the Way", is both a call for, and acknowledgment of, leadership.

Our keynote speaker, Zachary Rossetti, Ph.D., a former special education teacher and inclusion facilitator from New Hampshire, is an Associate Professor of Special Education in the Boston University Wheelock College of Education & Human Development. His research program focuses on social interaction and participation by individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

If you are a vision rehabilitation or education professional in Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island or Newfoundland & Labrador, why not join your colleagues, including those from the northeastern United States, at your NE/AER Chapter Conference this fall? Together, we can "guide the way" by sharing knowledge, ideas, and expertise! For conference program and registration updates, visit <http://www.neaer.umb.edu/?page=conference>.

ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

New AFB & APH Partnership

Several information resources founded by the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) are coming under the stewardship of the American Printing House for the Blind (APH), as the result of a new partnership between the two agencies designed to ensure the continued impact of those services and to enable AFB to focus on policy and programs geared to creating a more accessible and equitable society. One example is book publishing (AFB Press). Other resources, which APH will group under the name APH ConnectCenter, include:

1. FamilyConnect.org—connects parents of blind kids with resources and peers.
2. CareerConnect—provides employment information, career exploration tools and job-search guidance for the blind and related professionals.
3. VisionAware.org—provides information, step-by-step daily living techniques and a supportive online community for adventitiously blind adults.
4. BrailleBug.org—teaches children about braille through games and activities and provides resources for teachers and parents.
5. Directory of Services—over 3,500 agencies in Canada and the United States are listed.

For more information, visit the APH ConnectCenter.

ACVREP Modifies Certification Timeline

Adapted from <https://www.acvrep.org/newsitem?id=50>

The Board of Directors of the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP) has modified the requirements for applicants to pass the exam within the current guidelines of 24 months. Currently, an applicant must pass the certification exam within a period of 24 months from their initial exam registration date or the applicant's Eligibility is canceled, and the applicant must reapply for Eligibility if the applicant wishes to continue to pursue certification.

In reviewing exam data, the Board determined that applicants who did not pass the exam the first time were very quickly rescheduling a retake and often did not pass the second time. There have been applicants who have taken the exam 6+ times and still have not passed. As a result, the Board, in order to encourage more preparation between exam retakes, has limited the number of times an applicant can take the exam within the 24-month period to four times.

For example, if an applicant takes and fails the exam four times within, say, 18 months of their initial exam registration date, their Eligibility will be canceled even though there are six months remaining in the 24-month period. With this rule change, the Board is hoping to encourage applicants to allow enough time between their exams to study sufficiently so that they pass the certification exam within the 24-month period.

The new rule becomes effective for any applicant whose initial exam registration is October 1, 2018, or after.

ALL SYSTEMS GO

New Proposed Online CATIS Graduate Certificate

The University of Massachusetts Boston will launch its new online curriculum to support Vision Education and Rehabilitation Specialists wishing to prepare for ACVREP examination to become a Certified Assistive Technology Instructional Specialist for People with Visual Impairments (CATIS). A CATIS engages in a comprehensive approach to vision rehabilitation addressing visual, physical, cognitive and psychosocial aspects related to the training and integration of existing and emerging technologies. Methods and strategies include the use of visual and non-visual techniques, strategies and problem-solving skills through the use of various Assistive Technology devices and solutions.

Core Courses:

1. Introduction to Assistive Technology for People with Visual Impairments (3 credits) Scheduled Fall 2018 cost \$1400
2. Assistive Technology Assessment and Instruction for People with Visual Impairments (4 credits) Scheduled Spring 2019 cost \$1400
3. Configuration and Exploration of Assistive Technology Solutions (4 credits) Scheduled Summer 2019 cost \$1400
4. Technological Methods of Accessibility and Accommodations for People with Visual Impairments (3 credits) Scheduled Fall 2019 cost \$1400
5. Internship for Assistive Technology Instruction for People with Visual Impairments (4 credits) Scheduled Spring 2020 cost \$1400

To register, visit <http://sgiz.mobi/s3/UMass-Boston-CATIS-Registration>. For more information about the program, for which Canadians are eligible to apply, please email Laura Bozeman at laura.bozeman@umb.edu.

PILOTS & PROJECTS

CNIB Pilot Program with Ryerson

CNIB is pleased to offer an opportunity to take two distance education courses in entrepreneurship and small business as part of a pilot project through [The G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education at Ryerson University](#). These courses count towards a Certificate in [Entrepreneurship and Small Business from Ryerson](#). Take New Venture Startup or Entrepreneurial Behaviour & Strategy or both for only \$99 each. If you successfully complete the course(s), CNIB will refund your tuition.

For this pilot project, we will be taking up to 15 participants from across Canada. We will consider additional participants for future course offerings.

[Click here](#) for further details, including eligibility, application, and technology requirements.

COAST TO COAST TO COAST

The Accessible Canada Act

Following consultations with Canadians, Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Sport & Persons with Disabilities, introduced historic accessibility legislation to Parliament on June 20, 2018. Bill C-81, also known as the Accessible Canada Act, will ensure that people with disabilities, including those who are blind or visually impaired, can fully participate and have an equal opportunity within federally regulated jurisdictions. Once approved by Parliament, the Act would add to existing rights and freedoms for people with disabilities, including the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Canadian Human Rights Act and Canada's approval of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Government of Canada has committed to implementing the Act within five years.

For plain language versions of the proposed legislation, visit:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/accessible-people-disabilities/act-plain-language-summary.html>

INTERNATIONAL

Marrakesh Treaty Guide for Librarians

On August 27, 2018, at the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) World Library and Information Congress held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Electronic Information for Libraries (EIFL) co-launched a new practical guide to the Marrakesh Treaty for persons with print disabilities. The new guide, titled "Getting Started. Implementing the Marrakesh Treaty for persons with print disabilities. A practical guide for librarians", is mainly aimed at librarians in countries that have joined the Marrakesh Treaty, and where national implementation is completed or advanced.

The guide is jointly published by IFLA, the World Blind Union, EIFL, the Canadian Association of Research Libraries and the University of Toronto Scarborough. Available in English, French, Russian, and Spanish. Download at: <http://www.eifl.net/news/eifl-co-launches-new-marrakesh-treaty-guide>

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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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