



AERODYNAMICS

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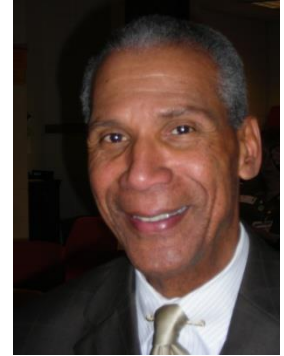
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NOW BOARDING

Thanks for the Memories!

By Lou Tutt, Executive Director



When I announced in April 2018 that I would be retiring as AER's Executive Director at the end of December, I didn't realize how quickly that time would go!

I have been a member of AER since 1984 when AER was established, but I started out in this field in 1971 as a teacher at the then Michigan School for the Blind in Lansing. Over the years, I have worked at four different specialized schools in various positions. Then I joined AER on April 1, 2011. I am grateful to Pat Leader, who was then AER's President, and her Board of Directors for hiring me as AER's 5th Executive Director. Coming to AER has been the highlight of my career.

The Canadian members of AER have played a significant role in the success of AER and make AER an international association! The revival of the Canadian newsletter, AERODYNAMICS, has been excellent! In my tenure as AER's Executive Director, I have

had the professional pleasure of working with Canadian AER Board members Doug McJannet, Deborah Gold and Carole Williams, who have all represented Canadian AER members well! I well remember, when I was President & CEO of the Maryland School for the Blind, attending the 2002 AER International Conference in Toronto, one of AER's most outstanding conferences (it's time to return to Canada)! And, finally, thanks to Doug and Carole, I will never forget my attendance at, and enjoyment of, the 2015 AER Ontario Chapter Conference, which was combined with the CNIB National Braille Conference, also in Toronto!

To all my Canadian friends, thanks for all your support during my seven years as AER's Executive Director!

BUSINESS CLASS

Extra! Extra! News from CNIB

- CNIB has changed its name to the CNIB Foundation, in order to emphasize that it is a charitable organization and not a government-funded one.
- Its new brand is as inclusive and as accessible as possible. The new look includes a high-contrast colour palette using just black and yellow and a new logo that's entirely black, making it as readable as possible for people with vision impairments.
- It's introducing a range of new programs, from [technology programs](#) to [career internships](#) to a [coast-to-coast guide dog program](#) – with more to come in the years ahead.
- In November 2018, it saw its first graduating class of guide dogs and handlers. They live in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Ontario and Nova Scotia.
- Besides its original hub in Toronto, it has recently opened community hubs in London, Ontario, and Montreal, Quebec, with plans for ten more across the country in the next one to three years.

Save the Date! The 2019 Online O&M Symposium

The second International Orientation & Mobility Online Symposium (IOMOS) will take place from January 30 to February 1, 2019, Eastern Standard Time, from the comfort of your own home or office!

IOMOS is a community driven virtual conference for Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Specialists. We serve O&M professionals through live video conference presentations, and we host one presentation at a time. At the 2019 event, participants will have the option of attending a given presentation live or watching a replay of the presentation within a week's time. It is very much like being in a regular conference, except that you don't have to leave your house or office to be able to present or to watch a presentation.

The inaugural online symposium, which took place at the beginning of 2018, brought together O&M specialists from all around the world including China, Thailand, India, Bermuda, Australia, the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada. O&M Specialists learned and shared some of the most cutting-edge, research-based and effective O&M strategies while earning continuing education credits from the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP).

The 2019 symposium is shaping up to be even better than the first! For further details, including schedule updates and registration information, visit <http://www.orientationandmobilitysymposium.com>.

Call for Papers! The 2019 AEBC Conference

The 2019 Conference and Annual General Meeting of the Alliance for Equality of Blind Canadians will take place at the Albert at Bay Suite Hotel in Ottawa, Ontario, from April 26-28, 2019.

The theme for our upcoming conference is: "Does Accessibility Equal Inclusion?" As in previous years, we will devote Friday to a series of workshops and we welcome your proposals. The conference committee seeks submissions from but not limited to consumers who are blind, deafblind or partially sighted, researchers, government, private enterprise, not-for-profit and/or charitable organizations, with a particular focus on removing barriers to accessibility, and promoting inclusion for all.

Presentation proposals are due by January 25, 2019. For further details, including possible presentation topics and the application form, please email submissions@blindcanadians.ca or visit: <http://www.blindcanadians.ca/programs/conf/2019/abstracts>

The APH & AFB Press

The American Printing House for the Blind is excited to be taking stewardship of the American Foundation for the Blind Press titles! During this transition, a number of AFB books can be purchased through our website. For a list of these books, visit: <https://www.aph.org/afb-press/>

ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

Registration for the 2019 Lake Joe season is now open!

Summer Camp (ages 8-17) Monday, July 1–Saturday, July 6, 2019

Choose your specialization for the week as you learn new skills while developing confidence and independence in a safe and supportive environment. Activities include waterskiing, music, outdoor discovery, sailing and many more. Take part in camp-wide activities or an optional overnight campout.

Leaders-In-Training (ages 16-19) Monday, July 1–Saturday, July 6, 2019

Focus on skills development in the morning with canoeing, waterskiing or nature discovery. In the afternoon, work on your leadership skills by supporting younger campers in activities and participating in LIT workshops.

Camp Abilities (ages 8-18) Monday, July 29–Saturday, August 3, 2019

Want to try a triathlon, or work on paddling skills? This goal-based program is aimed at athletic development. You'll get one-on-one coaching from experts and instructors who'll help guide you to achieve your performance goals through specialized sports programs.

Calendar of Events

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

February 25, 2019 – Submission
Deadline for March 2019
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February 28-March 1, 2019 – [American
Foundation for the Blind Leadership
Conference \(AFBLC\)](#), Arlington, Virginia,
USA

April 24-26, 2019 -- [Penn-Del AER
Conference](#), Harrisburg, Pennsylvania,
USA

April 26-28, 2019 – [2019 Alliance for
Equality of Blind Canadians \(AEBC\)
Conference & AGM](#), Ottawa, Ontario,
Canada

July 22-26, 2020 – [AER International
Conference 2020](#), St. Louis, Missouri,
USA

Pushing Limits for Active Youth (PLAY) (ages 8-18) Monday, July 29–Saturday, August 3, 2019

This is for those that want to discover new sports at Lake Joe. Learn sailing, goalball, five-a-side soccer, judo, paddling, swimming or biking. Or just try them out. Health and wellness workshops including independence, healthy eating and personal care complement this adaptive sports program.

Wilderness Immersion for Leadership Development (WILD) (ages 15-19) Monday, July 29–Saturday, August 10, 2019

This is a two-week adventure program where you'll work on skills like canoeing, hiking, rock climbing and high-ropes course elements while refining leadership skills. Supported by experienced guides and staff, you'll prove yourself on a multi-day canoe trip in Algonquin Park, test your mettle through treetop trekking and go white-water rafting on the Ottawa River. It's wild! Only eight spots available.

Family Programs

Our family program gives people with sight loss and their families an opportunity to enjoy the splendour of Muskoka on beautiful Lake Joseph in a safe and inclusive environment. Activities are available for all ages and there are also events just for adults, youth and kids. Go for a dip in the lake, take a tandem bike for a spin, go fishing, cruise the lake or relax by the campfire.

Week 1: Sunday, July 21–Saturday, July 27, 2019

Week 2: Sunday, August 4--Saturday, August 10, 2019

Week 3: Friday, August 23--Thursday, August 29, 2019

Call toll Free: 1-877-748-4028, email <mailto:lakejoe@cnib.ca> or visit:

<https://cnib.ca/en/programs-and-services/play/lake-joseph-centre-lake-joe?region=on>

PILOTS & PROJECTS

Survey Shows Blind People Significantly Underemployed Around the World

Toronto, November 15, 2018–New research from the CNIB Foundation, Vision Australia and the Blind Foundation of New Zealand found people with sight loss are significantly less likely to be employed full time compared to their sighted counterparts.

In a survey of blind and partially sighted adults across three countries, results showed Australia had the lowest full-time employment rate at 24 percent, followed by Canada at 28 percent, while New Zealand had the highest with only 32 percent. However, the full-time employment rate among the general public in these countries is, in some cases, nearly double that.

"In this day and age, it's shocking to see such a stark disparity when it comes to full-time employment rates for people who are blind," says John Rafferty, president and CEO for the CNIB

Foundation. "With all the technological advancements and educational opportunities available, people with sight loss shouldn't be disadvantaged when trying to find a job."

The study did offer three promising insights on opportunities to boost employment for people who are blind or partially sighted.

The survey found a strong link between educational background and full-time employment rates for people with sight loss. In Canada, only 5.5 percent of people with sight loss who don't have a high school diploma are working full time, versus 35 percent with a post-secondary degree, compared with Australia, where the statistics were 10.6 percent versus 28 percent. In New Zealand, 15 percent of people with sight loss who don't have a high school leaving qualification are working full time versus 42 percent with a degree.

"This research tells us something we've known for some time in the international sight loss community: education drives employment outcomes," says Ron Hooton, CEO for Vision Australia. "Our kids need comprehensive supports delivered by specialists who understand blindness and its unique impacts on learning, to help them thrive in school and succeed in their future careers."

The research also points to the need for a shift in employer attitudes and business practices to help make workplaces more accessible for people who are blind or partially sighted. The survey showed 43 percent of Australian respondents identified their workplace's inaccessibility as a barrier compared to 58 percent of Canadians and New Zealanders. Additionally, more than 60 percent of respondents in all three countries believe employer attitudes are one of the main barriers to full-time employment—and half reporting feeling they had not been hired because of their sight loss.

"We see a great opportunity in supporting employers to make changes that result in more inclusive workplaces for people with sight loss," says Sandra Budd, Chief Executive for the Blind Foundation of New Zealand.

"This is the same at the government level—systemic change in accessibility and inclusion will help to move us forward."

The three organizations are calling for national accessibility legislation and related funding programs to be strengthened and enforced in their respective countries, to effectively motivate and support employers in making their workplaces truly inclusive to people with sight loss. Moreover, pan-disability employment support models should be reviewed to better meet the unique needs of the blind community.

The survey took place from April to July 2018, with a total of 1,924 Canadians, Australians and New Zealanders with sight loss participating online and via telephone interviews.

COAST TO COAST TO COAST

Cannabis and MS

According to the MS Society of Canada, this country has one of the highest rates of multiple sclerosis in the world. This degenerative disease affects the central nervous system—the brain, spinal cord and also the optic nerve—and a majority of those it affects either currently use, or have considered using, medical marijuana to alleviate symptoms.

While medical cannabis has been legal since 2001, its side effects are unclear. Some studies have indicated that cannabis might cause cognitive impairments, though it's difficult to determine if these impairments are due to the cannabis or to the MS itself. More research has become more necessary, however, with the legalization of recreational cannabis for adults across Canada on October 17, 2018.

Examples of cognitive impairment have included difficulties with memory, planning and problem solving. Besides the fact that people with MS might already have vision impairments, cognitive difficulties could adversely affect their ability to learn in educational and rehabilitative settings. This difficulty could become even more important in lessons where safety is paramount.

The MS Society has created a Hot Topics page on its website, providing information on medical cannabis, relevant research in Canada, research challenges, and more. For further details [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 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.

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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