

# AERODYNAMICS



## The AER Canada Newsletter

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### NOW BOARDING

#### Finally!

**By Sara Bennett, Editor**

As I was just about to put the final touches on this edition of AERODYNAMICS, I received word that the Federal Government unanimously voted to enact the country's first national accessibility law--the Accessible Canada Act—late on Wednesday evening, May 29, 2019. While many say there are problems with the legislation, it is a first step towards removing barriers to full participation of those with disabilities in Canadian society.

The other talking point is the first-ever appearance of the Toronto Raptors in the NBA basketball finals. Why do I mention this? Because it's making history and it's putting Canada "on the map", so to speak. And it's making memories for millions of fans, regardless of whether the Raptors beat the Golden State Warriors or not. "Warriors" are experienced and skilled fighters. "Raptors" can be defined as "birds of prey." Birds of prey use great skill to hunt. Both must continually adapt to survive. We do the same, as do our students and clients. We help those we serve to make their own history and future; we help them make memories.

Let's celebrate the history this country has made in the Accessible Canada Act and the appearance of the Raptors in the NBA Finals, and let's celebrate the history, future, and memories we are helping students and clients to make!

## **Note from the Executive Director**

### **By Janie Blome**

I am so happy to be able to serve you as the Executive Director of AER! The last few months have been exciting, challenging, rewarding and, well, a lot of fun. I am a passionate believer in AER and have been a member for over 30 years. My vision for AER is that it will be the recognized leader in providing resources, supports, standards and professional development for professionals working with children and adults who are blind and visually impaired, leading to optimal outcomes for those individuals we serve. I know that AER can be a vital, energetic and relevant membership organization for ALL of our members, providing programs and services that will demonstrate our commitment to our members and the important work they do each day.

“ALL of our members” includes you and other members outside of the United States. We know there’s room for improvement in the services and offerings we provide to our Canadian members, and I want to assure you that Carole Williams, your Canadian Representative to the AER Board, and I are working on increasing your member benefits, being more responsive to your needs and adding value to your AER membership. There are a number of things “cooking” on the stove right now, and we’ll soon be able to plate those up and offer them to you.

We are creating an advocacy working group to address legislative issues at the local, state, national and international levels. This group is charged with creating a legislative agenda for AER and also for refining our processes so that we can be proactive in supporting our members and also more agile in responses when issues arise. I am looking for a Canadian member or two to be a part of that group. If you are interested, please contact me at [janie@aerbvi.org](mailto:janie@aerbvi.org)

Thank you for your support of AER. The AER staff and Board of Directors are committed to making AER an organization so strong and relevant that everyone in the field will want to be a part of it. Please let me know how we can make AER that kind of an organization for you!

## **Greetings from AER’s President**

### **By Emily Coleman**

Quickly moving from President-Elect to President of AER has me learning a lot, including about our engagement in Canada. Although I have much to discover, I’ve enjoyed hearing from Carole Williams about the needs and perspectives of Canadians. AER is in a unique position to engage professionals from many different nationalities and to compare and contrast services for clients and students who are blind and visually impaired. This intrigues me.

I entered this field upon the birth of my son 14 years ago, have worked as a teacher of students with visual impairments (TSVI), and am now an administrator at the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. In all my roles I’ve strived to improve educational outcomes for students and have found that common thread among fellow AER members. As a result, much of my knowledge has come from within this group. I am always learning, as are many of you. Feel free

to reach out to me with any questions, innovations or new ideas. I hope to hear more from our northern neighbours! Email: [colemane@tsbvi.edu](mailto:colemane@tsbvi.edu)

## **BUSINESS CLASS**

### **AER Ontario: “STANDING AT THE CROSSROADS”**

Date: Thursday, November 14, 2019

Location: W. Ross Macdonald School, Brantford, Ontario

Keynote Speaker: To be announced

You don't want to miss this outstanding opportunity to explore, learn and apply Transition Strategies for your students and clients at all stages of their lives. Network with leaders in the field of Visual Impairment who have the expertise and first-hand knowledge of the challenges that face our unique population. Video conferencing will be available for those who cannot attend in person! Who should attend:

Teachers of the Visually Impaired	ILS Instructors Orientation & Transition Coordinators
Mobility Specialists	Early Intervention Specialists
Employment Counsellors	Parents
Intervenors	



Join AER today and receive a special discounted rate! Just click here: [aerbvi.org/membership](http://aerbvi.org/membership)

Call for Papers: If you or someone you know would be interested in applying to present at this event, please email the Conference Planning Committee directly at [AEROntarioBoard@gmail.com](mailto:AEROntarioBoard@gmail.com). The deadline for submissions is Friday, September 20, 2019.

### **Parkinson's Disease Webinar for Canadians**

The Aging Division of AER is pleased to offer a free webinar for Canadian members!

Title: Visual Symptoms in Parkinson's Disease

Presenter: Laura Lieb, CRNP, MPH (nurse practitioner specializing in Movement Disorders)

Date: July 18, 12:00 pm Central Time

ACVREP Credits will be available!!!

Be on the look-out for further details!

**VISION LOSS REHABILITATION**  
ONTARIO

**RÉADAPTATION EN DÉFICIENCE VISUELLE**  
ONTARIO

### **Fifth Annual Perkins CVI Symposium**

Please join us on July 11 and 12, 2019, at the Conference Center at Waltham Woods in Waltham, Massachusetts, for a rare opportunity to listen to top experts in the field of cortical visual impairment (CVI). This event is appropriate for teachers, administrators, related service personnel and parents or caregivers. Come to learn, think, and work together to build a better future and create positive change for your students and families.

Register today! For further details, including the full schedule, visit:

<https://www.perkinselearning.org/earn-credits/onsite-training/cvi-symposium>

### **Learn This Summer About Working with VI Students!**

Are you an elementary school teacher who will have a student with a visual impairment in your classroom during the 2019-2020 school year? Perhaps you are a staff member and will have such a student on your caseload? Are you thinking that over the summer you must learn about working with a visually impaired student? Here is the perfect opportunity for you, including for Canadians.

Thanks to a grant received by Dr. Tina Herzberg at the University of South Carolina, she and the University of Arizona's Dr. L. Penny Rosenblum have developed a free, self-paced online training series. Targeted at general education teachers, the pilot of this online resource earlier this spring also proved helpful to special educators, paraprofessionals and related service providers. This training material is now available for study through September 15, 2019.

Participants will complete a short demographic survey, take a pre-test, complete 11 units each 8-12 minutes on topics related to working with an elementary aged student with a visual impairment, take a post-test and complete a follow-up survey. Participants will then have the option to receive a certificate for five hours of continuing education credit or to complete two assignments and receive a certificate for eight hours of continuing education credit instead of five.

[Click here](#) to complete the consent form and short demographic survey. Within two weeks, you will receive information on how to enter the Blackboard site. Or for further details, contact Dr. L. Penny Rosenblum: [rosenblu@email.arizona.edu](mailto:rosenblu@email.arizona.edu) or Dr. Tina Herzberg: [therzberg@uscupstate.edu](mailto:therzberg@uscupstate.edu)

### **Calendar of Events**

July 11-12, 2019 -- [Fifth Annual Perkins CVI Symposium](#), Waltham, Massachusetts, USA

November 13-15, 2019 -- [Beyond All Limits 2019 NE/AER Annual Conference](#), North Conway, New Hampshire, USA

November 13-16, 2019 -- [Getting In Touch With Literacy Conference](#), Seattle, Washington, USA

November 14, 2019 – Standing at the Crossroads AER Ontario Conference, Brantford, Ontario, Canada

December 5-7, 2019 -- [Association of Vision Rehabilitation Therapists \(AVRT\) Conference](#), Jacksonville, Florida, USA

March 26-27, 2020 – American Foundation for the Blind Leadership Conference (AFBLC), Arlington, Virginia, USA

May 6-8, 2020 – Canadian Vision Teachers' Conference (CVTC), Toronto, Ontario, Canada

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

# ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

## Time for Summer Camp!

Summer is just around the corner and families start thinking about camps, as do children and youth with visual impairments. They should get cracking on these opportunities, as registration deadlines are quickly approaching.

- Family Adventure Camp, offered by Blind Beginnings, will take place August 15-19, 2019, at Camp Whonnock in Maple Ridge, British Columbia. The application deadline is June 22, 2019. Intended for children and youth who are blind or visually impaired of any age, along with their parents and siblings, this camp will offer: exciting outdoor/adventure activities; camping instruction and training; instruction in meal prep, cooking and clean-up by Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments for all child and youth participants; and opportunities for families to meet, establish friendships and have fun together! Visit: <https://www.blindbeginnings.ca/our-2019-summer-camp-programs/>
- Music Camp 2019--for blind, partially sighted and deaf-blind youth aged 10-18 from across the province--will take place July 23 – 30, 2019, on Bowen Island in British Columbia. The registration deadline is June 30, 2019. Campers “learn the basics of playing musical instruments, build peer support networks, have fun, and gain confidence essential for full and equal participation in school band and other music programs in their communities alongside their sighted peers. Campers will explore the beginner band curriculum and will participate in an end of camp concert that their families, friends and the Bowen Island community will be invited to attend.” For further details, visit: <https://campbowen.ca/music/>
- VIEWS Music Camp 2019, July 14-20, 2019, will take place at the W. Ross Macdonald School in Brantford, Ontario, with a registration deadline of June 30, 2019. “The camp is staffed with music teachers and others who are familiar with supporting children with visual impairments. The campers, aged eight plus, are blind or have low vision, and come from throughout Ontario. The camp’s typical activities include learning music braille, ear training, choir, private vocal, piano, guitar or drum lessons, drama, dance, technology for music composition and literacy for those who are blind/low vision, games and peer socialization.” For further details, visit: <http://viewson.ca/music-camp-registration/>
- And don’t forget the CNIB Lake Joseph Centre in MacTier, Ontario. “At Lake Joe, people living with sight loss and their families can enjoy the same summer pursuits as other Canadians: canoeing, campfires, kayaking, cycling, waterskiing, swimming, sailing and fishing. Plus, there’s skills training, confidence building and support from a community that understands living with sight loss.” [Register now for Children & Youth, Family and Adult programming.](#) Email: [lakejoe@cnib.ca](mailto:lakejoe@cnib.ca)

# FLIGHT PATHS

## The Dating Game

Do you have any students or clients—regardless of age—who are ready to date and are curious about the ABCs? Meeting someone can be tricky with a visual impairment. Point them to the following resources:

1. [Blind Dating in a Digital World](#)
2. [Young YouTubers Talk About Dating with Sight Loss](#)
3. [Dating in the Digital Age: An Accessible Journey for Finding Love Online](#)

# ALL SYSTEMS GO

## Employment, Tech & Productivity Resources

1. [Getting Started with Google Suite: A Brief Overview of Google's Most Popular Productivity Apps](#), by Lisa Salinger, Kim Loftis and Chris Grabowski
2. [Book Review: Getting Started with Google Suite: A Brief Overview of Google's Most Popular Productivity Apps](#), by Bill Holton
3. [Drop into Dropbox: It's So Much More than File Storage](#), by Judy Dixon
4. [Book Review: Drop into Dropbox: It's So Much More Than File Storage](#), by Bill Holton
5. [Getting the Job Done with Shortcuts: An Introduction for Blind Users](#), by Anna Dresner
6. [Format Your Word Documents with JAWS and NVDA: A Guide for Students and Professionals](#), by David Kingsbury
7. [Download the New Venture Zone Game](#)

The Venture Zone Game is a free, new app that provides Canadians with an accessible, fun and risk-free way to gain entrepreneurial experience. It was created especially for aspiring entrepreneurs who have sight loss. Click the above link to read the article.

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