



AERODYNAMICS

The AER Canada Newsletter

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of the Blind and Visually Impaired

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NOW BOARDING

Time "Marches" On

By Sara Bennett, Editor

Welcome to the first issue of AERODYNAMICS for 2020!

It's hard to believe it's already March and that winter will soon be over. Indeed, many organizations are already sending out their scholarship and summer camp notices with March, April and May application deadlines, so be sure to check out those items in this newsletter. Before you know it, the deadlines will have come and gone. There are other great opportunities for professionals and students/clients alike in these "digital" pages, so I encourage you to read it "cover to cover", including the Calendar of Events.

As always, you can reach me at: <mailto:saralb@sympatico.ca>

Message from Your Canadian Rep

By Carole Williams

Spring is just around the corner and there are so many wonderful things to look forward to in 2020!

Firstly, registration is now open for this year's Canadian Vision Teachers' Conference (CVTC), May 6-8, 2020, in Toronto, Ontario. We have some exciting keynote speakers, as well as Terry Kelly and the W. Ross Macdonald School for the Blind choir performing during the gala Night on May 7. Don't miss this outstanding opportunity to network with colleagues from across this vast country, share best practices and learn from leaders in the field. It's filling up fast so book your hotel room and get registered TODAY!

During the CVTC pre-conference, the AER Ontario Chapter will be holding its Annual General Meeting, along with Board elections. Consider running for a leadership position with AER Ontario by submitting your name or nominate a deserving colleague. Please feel free to join us and have your voice heard!

The AER International Board has approved a NEW Canadian membership rate, effective immediately! Due to some member benefits not being on par with benefits available to our friends to the south, AER has lowered the Canadian membership rate to only \$150 USD from \$175 USD. Go online and claim your new membership rate or contact AER Member Services directly at 703-671-5875.

Lastly, I would like to thank you, the Canadian membership, for giving me the opportunity to represent you on the AER International Board of Directors. It has been an incredible learning experience and a rewarding opportunity over the past four years! As of July 31, 2020, I will have fulfilled two terms as the Canadian Representative, and I look forward to passing along the torch to the next deserving Canadian AER member!

BUSINESS CLASS

Extra! Extra! AER News

- Registration is now open! The Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) International Conference, “Gateway to Community”, July 22-26, 2020, Union Station Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri, will be the best ever! New this year: Symposium Day, July 23, a day devoted to full- and half-day presentations and open to all attendees. Conference registration includes Symposium Day sessions on Thursday, daily educational breakout sessions Friday-Sunday and so much more. Visit: <https://aerbvi.org/event/gateway-to-community-aer-international-conference-2020/>
- The 2020 Call for Award Nominees is now open! Why not nominate a colleague? The submission deadline for all awards is April 1, 2020. For further details, please visit: <https://aerbvi.org/professional-development/aer-awards/>
- AER's History & Memorial Committee invites you to submit the names of colleagues in our “professional family” who have passed away in the 2018-2020 biennium. The Committee will present the Memorial List at the Opening Session of the AER International Conference 2020. Please submit all names at: bit.ly/2018-2020Memorial
- And check out this new opportunity to earn CE hours--for AER members only! You can now access the Perkins School for the Blind Learning Catalog and receive a 20% discount on all Perkins Self-Paced Tutorials. Choose from nearly 160 self-paced videos! To get started, go to: <https://aerbvi.org/professional-development/perkins-e-learning-aer-member-discount/>

Register Today! CVTC 2020

Registration is now open for the Canadian Vision Teachers’ Conference, “21st Century Learners”, May 6-8, 2020, at the Sheraton Toronto Airport Hotel & Conference Centre, located just five minutes from Toronto, Ontario’s Pearson International Airport.

May 6 will see an all-day pre-conference, "What It Takes: Skills Worth Sharing", where "a collection of 60-90-minute expert talks and panels will draw on the research and life experience of individuals in the field of blindness/visual impairment education. These experts will tackle barriers to inclusion, employability and well-being across a lifespan."

The main conference will take place on May 7, with the agenda yet to be released; check the website regularly for updates. That evening's Gala will include a silent auction, awards presentation, dinner and entertainment by Terry Kelly and the W. Ross Macdonald School for the Blind choir.

For more details, including the impressive and expanding list of keynote speakers, or to register, [click here](#).

Introducing the Community of Practice in Deafblindness

The Community of Practice in Deafblindness (CoPD) is a joint and bilingual program between Institut Nazareth et Louis-Braille–Institut Raymond Dewar (INLB-IRD), facilities of the CISSS de Montérégie-Centre and the CIUSSS du Centre-Sud-de-l'Île-de-Montréal respectively and DeafBlind Ontario Services. It is a non-profit initiative for knowledge and information sharing. The CoPD online portal is a repository of research articles/documents for which abstracts are available. It is important that research is made available to the professional field so that it can be put into practice. Some articles are free-of-charge for downloading on the internet or open source sites. Other articles are not available online but can be accessed through your nearest library or researcher through his/her institutional library.

We invite you to join this unique Community of Practice in Deafblindness focused on specialists, researchers and intervenors working with individuals with deafblindness.

What is a Community of Practice?

Communities of Practice "are groups of people who share expertise and passion about a topic and interact on an ongoing basis to further their learning..." (Zeller, 2004; Weager, 2003).

What do Communities of Practice do?

Communities of Practice "members typically solve problems, discuss insights, and share information" while developing "tools and frameworks that become part of the common knowledge of the community..." (Zeller, 2004).

Who are the Members of the CoPD?

The Community of Practice in Deafblindness is open to anyone who is involved or interested in the topics of communication and rehabilitation by specialists, intervenors and other professionals supporting individuals with deafblindness.

What do the Members of CoPD do?

Professionals with expertise in deafblindness and concerned about the transfer of knowledge, the members of the CoPD aim to:

- (1) Gather knowledge about deafblindness emanating from members themselves and the scientific literature on a virtual platform;
- (2) Share this knowledge or co-construct new knowledge;
- (3) Interact in face-to-face or virtual mode; and
- (4) Contribute to peer support.

Each Member agrees to:

- Sign up to the platform, maintain his/her credentials and personal record in the membership list open to the public;
- Accept the principles set out in the Charter by signing the Charter online;
- Share knowledge about deafblindness; and
- Participate actively and constructively in community exchanges.

To join the CoPD portal, simply go to the website and follow the “become a member” directions:

<http://cdpsurdicecite.org/>

Important Change re Exam Administration

At the regular meeting of the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP) Board of Directors in December 2019, the Board amended the policy regarding applicants who are “no shows” for their scheduled exams.

You are required to notify ACVREP 72 hours before any scheduled exam date in order to avoid the Kryterion reschedule fee of \$90 that ACVREP collects on behalf of Kryterion. ACVREP has in the past still allowed the applicants to reschedule for that administration/take of the exam.

The policy change that has been implemented by the Board of Directors is that if you schedule your exam and do not contact ACVREP to reschedule and simply fail to show up for the exam, you will not only be charged the \$90 fee, but it will also be deemed as one administration/take of the exam.

For further details, see: <https://www.acvrep.org/newsitem?id=63>

Calendar of Events

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

April 15, 2020 -- **Call for Papers Deadline, Southeastern Orientation & Mobility Association (SOMA) Conference**, Tampa, Florida, USA

May 6-8, 2020 – **"21st Century Learners" Canadian Vision Teachers' Conference (CVTC) 2020**, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

May 10-15, 2020 -- **International Council on English Braille (ICEB) 7th General Assembly**, London, England

June 22-25, 2020 -- **Challenges for an Inclusive Society International Mobility Conference (IMC17)**, Gothenburg, Sweden

July 12-16, 2020 -- **13th International Conference of the International Society for Low Vision Research and Rehabilitation (ISLRR)**, Dublin, Ireland

July 22-26, 2020 – **"Gateway to Community" AER International Conference 2020**, St. Louis, Missouri, USA

October 7-8, 2020 -- **Connecting the Dots Conference**, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

October 16-17, 2020 -- **Connecting the Dots Conference**, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

ECONOMY CLASS

Apply Now for These Scholarships!

- The Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired is now accepting applications for the William and Dorothy Ferrell Scholarship until April 30, 2020. Available every biennium in even years, this scholarship is awarded to two legally blind individuals continuing their education in the field of providing services to the blind and visually impaired. To learn more, visit: <https://aerbvi.org/resources/aer-scholarships/>
- Braille Literacy Canada's Edie Moure Scholarship competition is accepting applications until March 31, 2020. The fund is intended to assist those who are pursuing employment as a braille transcriber or proofreader, or as an educator. For more information, visit: <http://www.brailleliteracycanada.ca/en/professional-development/edie-moure-scholarship>.
- The Alliance for Equality of Blind Canadians (AEBC) is now accepting applications for its AEBC and T-Base Communications scholarship program. Application deadline: March 27, 2020. For more, see: <http://www.blindcanadians.ca/programs/scholarship>
- Blind Beginnings is accepting applications for the 2020 Lori Sheppard Memorial Fund until April 3 of this year. Applicants must be 16 years of age or older, be legally blind or have a medical condition that could lead to progressive vision loss such as diabetes, multiple sclerosis etc., and live in British Columbia. The funds may be used for payment of tuition or professional fees, purchase of adaptive equipment, or to support costs linked with the creation of a home business. Apply online at: <https://www.blindbeginnings.ca/bursary-application-form/>
- The National Educational Association of Disabled Students (NEADS) is accepting applications for the NEADS National Student Awards Program, the NEADS Holly Bartlett Memorial Award, the NEADS Christine Nieder Memorial Award, and the AMI Robert Pearson Memorial Scholarship. These awards are offered to encourage full access to post-secondary education for persons with disabilities enrolled in undergraduate, graduate or professional degree programs at recognized Canadian universities, or in certified diploma programs at Canadian colleges. Application deadline for all awards is May 8, 2020: <http://www.neads.ca/en/about/projects/ete2/scholarship/>

ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

Time to Think About Summer Camp!

- British Columbia's Blind Beginnings is offering two summer camp programs for children and youth who are blind or partially sighted and their families! Both feature a variety of outdoor activities and opportunities to connect with others living with visual impairment.

1. Camp Hornby (July 17-21) at Tribune Bay Outdoor Education Centre on Hornby Island For children and youth up to age 20. Parents and siblings welcome to accompany them until they are comfortable attending independently. Application deadline May
 2. Family Adventure Camp (August 20-23) at Camp Bying, Roberts Creek, Gibson's For children and youth of any age, accompanied by their parents and siblings. Application deadline June 19. Space is limited. First come, first served. For further details, see: <https://www.blindbeginnings.ca/blind-beginnings-2020-summer-camp-programs/>
- VIEWS Music Camp 2020, July 12-18, 2020, will take place at the W. Ross Macdonald School for the Blind in Brantford, Ontario. The campers are aged eight plus, are blind or have low vision, and come from throughout Ontario. Registration opens in April! For further details, visit: <https://viewson.ca/views-music-camp/>
 - The CNIB National SCORE program combines the joys of camp with excursions and activities geared to helping youth (ages 15-20) from across Canada learn and develop skills to pursue post-secondary education.

SCORE: Skills, Confidence and Opportunities through Recreation and Education

Date: Sunday, July 19-Friday, July 31, 2020

Locations: Toronto and CNIB Lake Joe, Ontario

Application Deadline: March 27, 2020

For further details, visit: <http://www.cnib.ca/en/programs-and-services/learn/cnib-national-score-program?region=on>

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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