



# AERODYNAMICS

The AER Canada Newsletter

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

September 2021

Volume 7, Number 3

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## NOW BOARDING

### Curve Balls & Lemons

By Sara Bennett, Editor

I recently heard someone say, "If life throws you a curve ball, make lemonade." I think that sums up the past 18 months or so quite nicely.

Not only have we experienced a pandemic and a great sense of disconnect as a result, but we have also experienced a great coming together of people to cope and find solutions; in short, to try to "make the best of" the situation.

With September comes school, work, and deadlines, so I'll alert you to three items in the newsletter that are particularly time sensitive: The Elderly Eye Care Symposium takes place on September 17, which also happens to be the deadline for submitting a presentation proposal for the International Orientation & Mobility Online Symposium (IOMOS). Last, but not least, September 30 is the registration deadline for the American Printing House for the Blind Annual Meeting (Learning & Literacy Corner).

The submission deadline for the December 2021 issue of AERODYNAMICS is November 25, 2021. Please email questions, comments, ideas and submissions to me at: [saralb@sympatico.ca](mailto:saralb@sympatico.ca)

## FIRST CLASS

### Celebrating Banting's Legacy

This year, 2021, marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the discovery of insulin, a discovery that has revolutionized the treatment of diabetes. Thanks to the work of Dr. Frederick Banting, along with colleagues Dr. John Macleod, student Charles Best and Dr. James Collip at the University of Toronto in 1921, insulin has saved the lives of countless people with diabetes both in Canada and around the world.

To celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of these four men's achievement, the Royal Canadian Mint is introducing two commemorative two-dollar coins into circulation this year.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the discovery of insulin, which resulted in Canada's first Nobel Prize, or for more information about the commemorative coins.

## BUSINESS CLASS

### Extra! Extra! AER News

- [The AER eLearning Center](#) is excited to announce that recorded sessions from the AER School Year Start Up Summer Camp—Outdoors Day, Indoors Day and Opening Doors Day—are now available for your enjoyment and edification. While you're there, check out the September resources from the American Printing House for the Blind's (APH) ConnectCenter, along with VisionAware, FamilyConnect and CareerConnect. Many of the resources are relevant to Canada and Canadians. [View our entire calendar](#) of upcoming live events and [search for recorded courses to fit your needs](#).

AER Membership benefits include special Member Pricing on all sessions and CE credits. Be sure to login to your membership account to access these special rates! [Contact Megan Doty](#) for any questions or if you would like to present a webinar.

- Don't forget that AER members can also get continuing education hours and receive a 20% discount on all Perkins Self-Paced Tutorials! Access the Perkins School for the Blind Learning Catalogue and choose from nearly 160 self-paced videos! To get started, go to: <https://aerbvi.org/professional-development/perkins-e-learning-aer-member-discount/>
- And remember that AER has implemented new membership dues for Canadian members. Now, when you renew your AER membership, you will automatically be directed to the reduced rates in our online renewal system. Visit us [here to log in and renew online](#). If you prefer to renew with the membership form, simply complete the special [Canadian Membership Form](#) and return it to us at [memberservices@aerbvi.org](mailto:memberservices@aerbvi.org)

or mail to: AER, 5680 King Centre Drive, Suite 600, Alexandria, VA 22315 USA.

## **Virtual NE/AER 2021 Conference Open to All**

The Northeast Chapter of the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (NE/AER), which includes Quebec and Atlantic Canada, is putting together a two-day unique virtual conference full of engaging sessions and a virtual evening opportunity. The conference, “Navigating Our Way Together”, will take place November 4-5, 2021, and is open to all. Although the Call for Papers has closed, you can keep abreast of program and registration updates at: <https://www.nercve.org/ne/aer-2021-conference>

## **Register Now for Connecting the Dots!**

Join us virtually for Connecting the Dots, Canada's largest educational and professional development conference focused on education, technology and employment for people who are blind or partially sighted: October 15-16, 2021 (French Event) and October 22-23, 2021 (rescheduled English Event)!

Participants without internet access can still attend the conference via telephone but will not have access to the Exhibitor Hall. Telephone participation is only enabled for conference seminars.

For more information on the conference or to register, please visit:

<http://www.cnib.ca/connectingthedots>

## **ACVREP and Google Launch Free Chromebook Accessibility Training Program**

Successful completion of the eight-module training program will result in you being awarded the Chromebook A11Y Expert digital badge that can be displayed on your emails, social media and personal website

Professionals will be able to hone their skills in using and teaching use of the Chromebook, and consumers can expand their professional opportunities and be more skilled in using this well-priced computer with built-in accessibility.

To download and view the instructions for the Chromebook Accessibility Expert Training in a PDF file format or to log in/register, visit the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals' (ACVREP) website: <https://www.acvrep.org/newsitem?id=80>

## **ACVREP Approves New CATIS Eligibility Path**

The Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP) has given final approval to CATIS (Certified Assistive Technology Instructional Specialist) Category 3, and welcomes the World Services for the Blind as the first technical education program meeting the requirements under this category.

The ACVREP welcomes the World Services for the Blind (WSB) Assistive Technology for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ATBVI) program, which has met the requirements under the new CATIS Category 3 Eligibility path. Its program was reviewed in detail by the CATIS Subject Matter Expert Committee.

Sharon Giovinazzo, WSB President, stated, “World Services for the Blind is honoured to be approved by ACVREP for our Assistive Technology Instructor Program. This certification will not only open the doors for future employment of people who are blind; it will also ensure the quality of instruction and transparency.”

Eric Yarberry, WSB Director of Education and Training, upon learning of the approval, said, “WSB is honoured to have a hand in developing the field of assistive technology instruction for the blind and visually impaired. We look forward to bringing the field of assistive technology for the blind and visually impaired closer together, providing valuable opportunities for professional development, and developing confident instructors.”

The ACVREP looks forward to welcoming graduates from WSB into the CATIS family. For further information, email [kzeider@acvrep.org](mailto:kzeider@acvrep.org)

Editor’s Note: For information about World Services for the Blind, visit: <https://www.wsblind.org/>

### **Act Now: September 2021 Elderly Eye-Care Symposium!**

“Elderly Eye Care: Towards a Better Quality of Life (EQOL 2021)” is our first-ever symposium, which will feature 18 speakers From various domains of the elderly health-care sector in Canada, the United States, Australia and India. This virtual event will take place September 17, 2021, and will cover:

- Prevalence and causes of vision impairment in the elderly, disabilities and non-communicable diseases
- Age-related changes and how we can make the environment more visually accessible
- Identification of risk factors and development of effective prevention strategies for falls
- How to address issues related to vision impairment and driving in the elderly
- Ways to differentiate between dementia and forgetfulness
- Challenges from dual sensory loss in the elderly
- Management of low vision and provision of occupational therapy for the elderly
- Reasons for reduced physical activity in the elderly and its implications

Attendees will leave this symposium with new insights and a better understanding of how to recognize, screen and manage the gamut of issues related to elderly care in a more effective

and complementary manner. Come and join the academic feast as we aim to promote and strive for the healthy and happy aging of our elderly population!

To learn more, or to register, visit:  
<https://www.lvpei.org/events/2021/elderly-eye-care/index.html>

Vijaya Gothwal  
Institute for Elderly Eye Care, EQOL Organizing Team

### Call for Papers: IOMOS 2022!

The next International Orientation and Mobility Online Symposium (IOMOS)--January 26-28, 2022, is accepting presentation proposals until September 17, 2021!

As an attendee, you will get a global perspective on current orientation and mobility (O&M) strategies and earn continuing education units (CEUs) without leaving home! Gather with friends all around the world as you learn and laugh together. Everything presented is meant to help you be the most impactful O&M Specialist possible. IOMOS is a proud partner with the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP).

To learn more, visit:  
<https://orientationandmobilitysymposium.com/>



### Plan for Vision 2022 in Dublin!

Due to the COVID-19 postponement of Vision 2020 and Vision 2020+1 over the past couple of summers, Vision 2022 will now take place July 5-8, 2022, at the Convention Centre Dublin (CCD) in Ireland.

Conference organizers are delighted that Keynote Speakers Prof. Jane Farrar, Prof. Rupert Bourne and Prof. Pearse Keane will be there next year. They are also appreciative of the support and patience you have shown throughout this uncertain and turbulent time.

### Calendar of Events

September 17, 2021 -- [Elderly Eye Care: Towards a Better Quality of Life \(EQOL 2021\)](#), Virtual

October 6-8 & 13-15, 2021 -- [Learn Your Way American Printing House for the Blind \(APH\) Annual Meeting](#), Virtual

October 15-16, 2021 -- [Connecting the Dots Conference \(French Event\)](#), Virtual

October 22-23, 2021 -- [Connecting the Dots Conference \(English Event\)](#), Virtual

November 4-5, 2021 -- [Navigating Our Way Together NE/AER Chapter Conference](#), Virtual

November 8-10, 2021 -- [Tickling Your Taste Buds Association of Vision Rehabilitation Therapists \(AVRT\) Conference](#), Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, USA

December 1-4, 2021 -- [Getting in Touch with Literacy Conference](#), St. Pete Beach, Florida, USA

January 26-28, 2022 -- [International Orientation & Mobility Online Symposium](#)

July 5-8, 2022 -- [Imagining the Impossible 13th International Low Vision Conference by the International Society for Low Vision Research & Rehabilitation \(ISLRR\)](#), Dublin, Ireland

July 21-25, 2022 -- [Gateway to Community AER International Conference](#), St. Louis, Missouri, USA

“Imagining the Impossible” remains the theme of Vision 2022, the 13th International Conference of the International Society for Low Vision Research and Rehabilitation (ISLRR), which will be hosted by the Vision Impaired Service Provider’s Alliance (VISPA).

For further details on Vision 2022, visit: <https://vision2022dublin.com/>

## ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

### Learning & Literacy Corner

Check out these learning and literacy opportunities!

- “Learn Your Way” is this year’s theme for the American Printing House for the Blind’s (APH) Annual Meeting, to be held virtually October 6-8 and 13-15, 2021. Planned general sessions include “Levelling the Educational Playing Field” and “Advocating for Learning”, with a number of Product and Service Showcase Sessions also on the docket. Attendees can also enjoy APH Awards ceremonies and the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. Registration ends September 30, 2021! For further details, including a draft agenda, visit: <https://www.aph.org/>
- Were you unable to attend Braille Literacy Canada’s first braille symposium, “From Braille Literacy to Empowerment,”, which took place virtually on June 4, 2021? Perhaps you would like to listen to one or more of the presentations again? The event featured “Creating Empowerment Through a Joy of Reading and Writing” by Cay Holbrook, “How Many Braille Readers?” by Frances Mary D’Andrea, “An Introduction to the Museum of the American Printing House for the Blind” by Director Mike Hudson, and “An Instant Translation—Creating Printed Math Output on the BrailleNote Touch Plus” by HumanWare’s Peter Tucic, along with time for questions and answers. And let’s not forget Trivia! To access the recordings, please visit: <https://www.brailledliteracycanada.ca/en/programs/workshops/symposium2021>
- From April 29-30, 2021, the Tactile Reading Conference took place online, with pre-conference sessions on April 28. A number of recordings are available online including “The Next Milestone for Braille”, “The Bumpy Road to Literacy”, “New Technology, New Opportunities”, “LEGO Braille Bricks Pedagogical Concept”, “To Abbreviate or Not to Abbreviate? A Question for the Reader or the Producer?” and “Building Tactile Graphics Literacy: Findings and Implications from Two Studies”. Visit: <https://www.statped.no/tactilereading2021>
- This year’s Getting in Touch with Literacy (GITWL) Conference will be held in person at the TradeWinds Island Grand Resort in St. Pete Beach, Florida, from December 1-4, 2021. This biennial conference brings together the most current thinking on all forms of

literacy for people who are blind or visually impaired including print, braille, auditory, tactile graphics comprehension and the use of assistive technology. GITWL is a great opportunity for Teachers of the Visually Impaired and other blindness professionals to learn about research and practice in all areas of literacy. For program details and to register, visit: <http://www.gettingintouchwithliteracy.org/>

## **ALL SYSTEMS GO**

### **CELA and NLS Exchange Thousands of Titles**

The Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA) and the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS), at the Library of Congress in the United States, have partnered to exchange accessible books, thanks to the Marrakesh Treaty, which allows for the exchange of accessible books across national boundaries for people with print disabilities around the world. Canada was the key 20th country to enter into the Marrakesh Treaty in 2016, bringing the treaty into force and allowing for worldwide exchanges. The US acceded to the agreement in 2019, laying the groundwork for the CELA-NLS exchange.

CELA will be receiving over 80,000 titles in audio and braille, while NLS will receive more than 2000 titles. The agreement between CELA and NLS is ongoing, and the organizations will continue to exchange new titles as they become available. CELA users will find the NLS titles in CELA's collection beginning in September 2021. Some CELA titles that NLS has already received are so popular that they have already been downloaded by NLS readers more than 10,000 times! [Click here to learn more.](#)

## **COAST TO COAST TO COAST**

### **Voting Inaccessible for Electors with Sight Loss**

Canadians are headed to the polls on September 20 to exercise their democratic right to vote, either at advanced polls, using a mail-in ballot or on election day. But for Canadians with sight loss, voting isn't as simple as walking into a voting booth or requesting a mail-in ballot and checking off a name.

This is particularly problematic in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic when many Canadians will choose to vote using the mail-in ballot process. Elections Canada predicts that as many as four million Canadians will choose the mail-in ballot during a pandemic election.

However, the 1.5 million Canadians who are blind or partially sighted cannot avail themselves of this option, as mail-in ballots do not come with the accessible tools and

services available at polling locations that can help an elector with a print disability independently mark their ballot.

Elections Canada has made some improvements over the years, including tactile overlay templates, braille and large print lists of candidates, as well as magnifying glasses for electors with sight loss—but there is still so much work to be done to ensure Canadians with sight loss can independently mark and verify their ballots.

“Canadians with sight loss still don’t have the ability to mark and independently verify their ballots,” says Duane Morgan, executive director of CNIB Newfoundland and Labrador and New Brunswick, who regularly consults with Elections Canada's Advisory Group for Disability Issues. “Sighted Canadians can vote in secret, but individuals who are blind must show their ballots to a sighted person to make sure it’s marked the way they want. That has to change and there's no reason why it can't.”

[Click here to read more.](#)

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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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