



# AERODYNAMICS

The AER Canada Newsletter

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

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## NOW BOARDING

### Hope for the Holidays

By Sara Bennett, Editor

It's hard to believe it's nearly a new year and that COVID has been with us for almost two years. But things are looking brighter. In-person conferences are planned, while other events take advantage of remote meetings in order to "open their doors" to more attendees. Ontario optometrists are once again seeing OHIP-insured patients—at least for now. More accessible payment terminals are rolling out in retail stores across the country and, perhaps most importantly, young braille users in Canada still have time to write to Santa and receive a reply—but only until December 12!

But seriously, check out AER News for details on the December 8 AER eLearning Year End Celebration, and be sure to check out the item on Vision Research in Review, which takes place on December 9. You will have to register for these events ASAP if you wish to attend. I hope you enjoy these and other newsletter items.

Have a restful, and hopeful, holiday season.

The submission deadline for the March 2022 issue of AERODYNAMICS is February 25, 2022. Please email me at: [saralb@sympatico.ca](mailto:saralb@sympatico.ca)

## Message From Your Canadian Rep

Greetings Canadian AER members,

Thank you to all of you who have connected with me to ask questions or to propose a topic to investigate that is pertinent to our relatively small group.

I would like to share a message from a Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialist (COMS) in Alberta, below, who is interested in meeting some more Canadian COMS. Please respond directly to her if you are interested. I am sorry to report that liability insurance for Canadian AER Members has not been made a benefit of membership at this time.

As we near the end of the year, I hope each of you will be able to take some time to rest and to consider ways AER can support you in your work moving into 2022. We have access to varied content on AER's e-learning site, <https://aerelearning.org>. Creating Canadian content for this learning site is a possibility. I welcome your thoughts and will do my best to assist.

Sincerely,

Laurie Watson  
Teacher of Students who are Visually Impaired (TSVI)  
Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialist (COMS)  
AER Canadian Representative  
Cell: 647-321-6951  
Email: [lauriewatson@me.com](mailto:lauriewatson@me.com)

## COMS Connection

Are you a private contractor? Have you considered private contracting?

I would like to meet you and talk about where you are in your process. We are such a big nation and there are so few of us that perhaps we can find a way to meet and share the good and bad around this career path.

Sincerely,

Angela Leavens  
TVI, COMS (M. Ed.)  
Phone: 403-801-5521  
Email: [angela@visionlossrehab.com](mailto:angela@visionlossrehab.com)

## FIRST CLASS

### **Santa Responds to Braille Letters in Canada!**

Would any of your young students or clients like to send a braille wish list to Santa Claus and receive a reply? If so, they can send a letter to him by December 12. (If letters are sent after that date, he might not have enough time to respond before December 25!)

Santa Claus has teamed up with T-Base Communications to respond in braille to children who are blind or low vision who send him a letter.

Please mail all letters to:  
Santa Claus  
North Pole H0H 0H0  
Canada

[To learn more, including letter-writing tips and templates, click here.](#)

To get more information about the Santa letter program, including the more than 35 languages in which Santa can reply, email: [santamail@canadapost.ca](mailto:santamail@canadapost.ca)

## BUSINESS CLASS

### **Extra! Extra! AER News**

- Join the AER eLearning Center on December 8 at 7 PM EST in our Year End Celebration! As we close 2021 and the first year of our eLearning platform, gather with some of the most popular presenters from our programs to learn how they develop their ideas for presentations, adult learning strategies they utilize, techniques and tips for visually impaired presenters and participants, and how to design programs with accessibility for all.  
Contributors include Lauren Lieberman Ph.D., Neva Fairchild MS, Maurice Belote, Hillary Keys M.Ed., Chris Tabb MA COMS, and Leslie Thatcher M.Ed.  
[Click here to register or to learn more, such as about system requirements.](#)
- 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 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.
- In case you missed it, Jill Brown, AER Conference Committee Chair, has recently whet our appetites for next year's Biennial International Conference by letting us know that the Union Station Hotel in downtown St. Louis, which will host AER's conference, was once a train station servicing the "gateway to the west". Today, however, it is the stylish and modern home to the St. Louis Aquarium, St. Louis Wheel, Mini Golf, Mirror Maze, Carousel, and Rope Course. And you will not go hungry—there are six restaurants from which to choose! Stay tuned for information on conference registration, exhibitor/vendor opportunities and sponsorship options in the New Year.

### **Register Now for Vision Research in Review!**

Fighting Blindness Canada's final View Point webinar of 2021, Vision Research in Review, will take place December 9, 2021, from 3-4 PM eastern time. Join us as we recap exciting research developments, share a special research announcement and answer your questions.

We need you to do two things:

1. Send your questions about vision research, clinical trials and more, for this and future View Point sessions, by emailing us at: <mailto:education@fightingblindness.ca>
2. Join us on December 9, 3-4 PM eastern time as we try to answer as many questions as we can!

[Register for the webinar.](#)

### **Registration Now Open for IOMOS 2022!**

The next International Orientation and Mobility Online Symposium (IOMOS) will take place January 26-28, 2022. Registration is now open. Get a global perspective on current orientation and mobility (O&M) strategies and earn continuing education units (CEUs) from the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP)—all without leaving home!

A wide range of sessions is scheduled. To register or to see the list of sessions, visit:

<https://orientationandmobilitysymposium.com/>

## **CVI: Collaboration for Change Conference**

Save the date! There is power in meaningful collaboration. Together, we can tackle Cortical/Cerebral Visual Impairment's (CVI's) most pressing questions. You're invited to join a wide range of stakeholders in the CVI community—individuals with CVI, families, medical professionals, researchers, educators, therapists, practitioners—to learn about current CVI research, promising practices and advocacy.

“CVI: Collaboration for Change” will take place June 26-28, 2022, at Perkins School for the Blind in Boston, Massachusetts.

[Learn more](#)

## **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.

“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/>

### **Calendar of Events**

December 9, 2021 -- [Vision Research in Review Fighting Blindness Canada View Point Webinar](#), Virtual

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

June 26-28, 2022 – [CVI: Collaboration for Change, Perkins School for the Blind](#), Boston, Massachusetts, USA

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 20-24, 2022 – [Gateway to Community AER International Conference](#), St. Louis, Missouri, USA

## ECONOMY CLASS

### **Ontario Optometrists and Government Enter Negotiations**

[Reprinted from the Ontario Association of Optometrists' \(OAO\) website.](#)

(Editor's Note: Ontario optometrists suspended service to OHIP-insured patients at the beginning of September 2021 due to lack of funding from the Provincial Government. This meant that children, seniors and people with existing eye conditions went without service—until now.)

The Ontario Association of Optometrists (OAO) and the Ministry of Health have agreed to enter formal negotiations regarding OHIP funding of optometric care. As a sign of good faith, the OAO is pausing its job action as of November 23, 2021, ensuring that millions of Ontarians insured by OHIP can again benefit from the expertise of their optometrist during these negotiations.

On October 6th, Minister Elliott stated in the Ontario Legislature: “We don’t expect optometrists to pay out of pocket for the services that they provide,” offering a public commitment that the government will ensure that the cost of delivering OHIP-insured services is not borne by optometrists. The OAO is committed to negotiating a sustainable funding model that aligns with how optometric care is funded in other Canadian jurisdictions.

The OAO expects robust talks to begin immediately, noting that the swift resolution of this issue is a top priority for both optometrists and their patients.

## ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

### **Canada’s Most Accessible Payment Terminals!**

To help provide a more inclusive customer experience, Moneris Core payment terminals are equipped with enhanced accessibility features.

Consumers can enable an interface on Moneris Core payment terminals with features designed to help people independently navigate the terminal without having to share their pin or ask for assistance.

To activate the accessibility mode on the Moneris Core payment terminals, users can either touch the accessibility icon on the top right-hand corner of the terminal screen or press the “5” key on the numeric keypad.

When the accessibility mode is enabled, you will automatically hear step-by-step audio prompts coming from the payment terminal and will be able to switch to a high-contrast screen to improve readability, with better colour contrast and larger fonts.

With funding from the Government of Canada, this year-long project was a collaboration with Moneris, CNIB and members of the sight loss community.

To learn more about the new accessible payment terminals, [watch this short video](#).

Ask your local store if they have a Moneris Core terminal to make your payment transaction a more accessible one.

## **COAST TO COAST TO COAST**

### **Come Celebrate Braille in January!**

In celebration of World Braille Day, Braille Literacy Canada (BLC), the Canadian Council of the Blind (CCB), the CNIB Foundation, the Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA), the National Network for Equitable Library Service (NNEELS) and the Provincial Resource Centre for the Visually Impaired (PRCVI) are organizing a series of online events in January 2022.

This celebration of braille is open to people of all ages who are curious about braille, either practically, professionally or somewhere in between! The celebration will be conducted virtually on Zoom. Events will include:

Looking Through the Crystal Ball: Innovations in Braille Technology for the 21st Century and Beyond

Saturday, January 8, 2022

10 am Pacific/11 am Mountain/12 noon Central/1 pm Eastern/2 pm Atlantic/2:30 pm NST

[Register online](#) by Tuesday, January 4, 2022 (World Braille Day)

Target Audience: This event will be especially of interest to all braille users, but is open to anyone including technology developers and others in the field of visual impairment.

Language of Delivery: English

Building Braille Inclusion in Libraries

Thursday, January 13, 2022

10 am Pacific/11 am Mountain/12 noon Central/1 pm Eastern/2 pm Atlantic/2:30 pm NST

[Register online](#) by Monday, January 10, 2022

Target Audience: Librarians and library staff; Library users, including families.

Everyone is welcome.

Language of Delivery: English

Tools for Your Toolbox: Braille Resources for French Speakers of All Ages

Thursday, January 20, 2022

10 am Pacific/11 am Mountain/12 noon Central/1 pm Eastern/2 pm Atlantic/2:30 pm NST

[Register online](#) by Monday, January 17, 2022

Target Audience: TVIs and members of students' educational teams.

Language of Delivery: French

Refreshing and Rethinking Braille Awareness Presentations with a Focus on Equity and Accessibility

Thursday, January 27, 2022

10 am Pacific/11 am Mountain/12 noon Central/1 pm Eastern/2 pm Atlantic/2:30 pm NST

[Register online](#) by Monday, January 24, 2022

Target Audience: While the session is geared to educators, students who read braille are also welcome to attend!

Language of Delivery: English

For specific descriptions of these events, visit:

<https://nnels.ca/world-braille-day>, or please email: [braille@nnels.ca](mailto:braille@nnels.ca)

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