



# AERODYNAMICS

The AER Canada Newsletter

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of the Blind and Visually Impaired

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## NOW BOARDING

### Opportunities Galore

By Sara Bennett, Editor

Spring is almost upon us, a time of renewal and opportunity.

AER and this issue of AERODYNAMICS offer some great opportunities too, including nominating a colleague for an award, passing along a list of possible scholarships to a student, attending a conference and getting those creative juices flowing thinking of an article for AER's new journal. After all, there's nothing like Canadian content.

I draw your attention to "Upcoming Early Childhood Events" in this newsletter, as the first item listed there, Blind Beginnings' Early Intervention Family Retreat, has a registration deadline of March 14, 2022, in case you know any children/families in British Columbia who would benefit from that opportunity.

Thank you for all you do. I welcome your questions, comments, ideas etc. The article submission deadline for the June issue of AERODYNAMICS is May 25, 2022.

Please email me at: [saralb@sympatico.ca](mailto:saralb@sympatico.ca).

## BUSINESS CLASS

### Extra! Extra! AER News

- AER is proud to offer the William and Dorothy Ferrell Scholarship every other year in even years to two selected applicants who are legally blind and are studying for a career in the field of services to persons who are blind or visually impaired. This year's application deadline is April 15, 2022.

For more information, visit: <https://aerbvi.org/resources/aer-scholarships/>

- AER is pleased to announce that this year's biennial awards nomination process is now open, with a deadline of April 15, 2022. The awards include the Alfred Allen Award, Mary K. Bauman Award, C. Warren Bledsoe Award, Douglas C. MacFarland Award, John H. McAulay Award, Outstanding Chapter Award, Ambrose M. Shotwell Award, and the Richard L. Welsh Chapter Leadership Award.

For further details, please visit: <https://aerbvi.org/professional-development/aer-awards/>

- AER is excited to announce plans for a new journal that is designed especially for practitioners who work with children and adults who are visually impaired. This journal, which will be an AER membership benefit, will publish a variety of practical features written by and for those who work directly with people with visual impairments. The title of the new journal, "The New RE:view—A Journal of Practice," originated with AER's earlier publication, "RE:view," which was discontinued in 2008. We anticipate publication of the inaugural issue to be in July 2022.

The New RE:view (TNR) is intended for professionals, people with visual impairments, their families and anyone else who works with them. The journal will focus on building a dynamic professional resource as it addresses key questions:

- Can we facilitate successful learning by children and adults who have visual impairments?
- What resources and tools have been effective in promoting learning?
- How do we determine that learning has been successful?
- How do we transfer that learning to others?
- How can AER members ensure that well-qualified people are available to support the learning of people with visual impairments?

The New RE:view will offer opportunities for learning and problem solving among professionals. This journal of practice will highlight the work of practicing professionals who can offer their experiences to others who seek solutions to learning challenges. Although The New RE:view is not a research journal, articles considered for publication must demonstrate evidence that supports the author's work.

If you have good ideas for learning but have never put them into writing, this is the time and the place! Reviewers from the field will provide feedback to ensure

that your writing is effective. If your work is accepted for publication, an Associate Editor will work with you in making your message clear.

We encourage you to consider submitting articles about successful and innovative approaches to learning. We will issue a Call for Papers soon, so start thinking now about practices and topics you could—and should—share with your colleagues. Perhaps you already have an article or an idea you would like to submit. TNR will be the place to publish them, and your work might appear in the very first issue. [Learn more about The New RE:view \(TNR\) here.](#)

- AER knows that you have missed seeing your colleagues in person, and we have missed seeing all of you too! We hope that you will join us in St. Louis, Missouri, from July 20-24, 2022, for this year's AER Biennial International Conference!

There will be plenty of breakout sessions and Division breakfasts. Plus, fun evening events await. Conference registration, exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities will open to you in early March. Early-bird rates will be valid through June 19, 2022. Stay tune for further details.

- The AER eLearning Center continues to add new sessions and webinar bundles to its buffet of online professional development opportunities. At the time of this writing, these were the latest:

- [Finding My Way Through the Trees](#)
- [Blindness is Not a Barrier to Success, Perceptions Are](#)
- [AER "Question the Authorities" Series Bundle](#)

This bundle currently includes two sessions, Meet the Radical Helen Keller with Dr. Kim Nielsen and Digging Deeper into New Population Data with Dr. Rachel Schles.

Learn more about AER's professional development opportunities at:

<https://aerelearning.org/>

- As always, AER members can 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 discounted 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.

## Upcoming Early Childhood Events

- Registration is now open for Blind Beginnings' Early Intervention Family Retreat, April 8-10, 2022, at the Alexandra Retreat & Events Centre in Surrey, British Columbia. This retreat, held in partnership with Vision Loss Rehab-BC Vision Specialists, is for children birth to five years of age from Metro Vancouver or the Fraser Valley, accompanied by their parents and siblings.

Having a child with a disability can be isolating for most families. That's why building a community of support is so important. At this retreat, parents can meet other families facing similar experiences, learn how they can better support their child as they reintegrate into society after COVID, and find out more about the resources and professionals available to support children who are visually impaired.

Registration closes on March 14, 2022, so visit [https://www.blindbeginnings.ca/events/calendar/?mc\\_id=2584](https://www.blindbeginnings.ca/events/calendar/?mc_id=2584) soon for more information.

- The Early Connections Conference is designed for families of children with complex disabilities from birth to age seven and the professionals who support them. Families can connect, talk to experts and learn new skills to apply at home and in the classroom. Join us at the 39<sup>th</sup> annual Early Connections Conference to learn, build relationships and grow your community of support. Our goal is to empower you with the knowledge, skills and support you need to help each child define their own success.

This year's virtual event, April 30, 2022, will include topics such as active learning at home, Cortical/Cerebral Visual Impairment (CVI), early literacy, evaluations and the role of the Teacher of the Visually Impaired (TVI), and understanding Special Education 101.

For further details, please visit: <https://www.perkins.org/event/early-connections-conference/>

## Perkins Hosts CVI: Collaboration for Change Conference

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.

Cortical/Cerebral Visual Impairment (CVI) is a brain-based visual impairment affecting over 150,000 children in the United States alone, a number that keeps growing. CVI is not new; it's misunderstood and underdiagnosed. With timely diagnosis, early intervention and appropriate educational programs, we can help kids with CVI access their world. Let's collaborate to urgently confront the world's leading cause of childhood blindness.

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

[Learn more](#)

## Register for Vision 2022 in Dublin!

Registration is now open for Vision 2022, which will take place July 5-8, 2022, at the Convention Centre Dublin in Ireland. "Imagining the Impossible" is the theme of the event, 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).

Not only will the event feature the In-Person Conference, Welcome Reception, Exhibitor and Poster Sessions, but also a Digital Day for which attendees can register.

For further details, visit: <https://vision2022dublin.com/registration-2022/>

## ECONOMY CLASS

### Canadian Scholarships Available!

Check out these Canadian scholarships, either for yourself or to pass along to a colleague or one of your students. For information about the AER William and Dorothy Ferrell Scholarship, please see "Extra! Extra! AER News" elsewhere in this newsletter.

## Calendar of Events

April 30, 2022 – [Early Connections Conference](#), 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

- The 2022 competition for the Edie Mourre Scholarship is now open and will be accepting applications until March 31, 2022.

Are you interested in pursuing a certification in braille transcription?

Or maybe you have always wanted to study music braille?

Perhaps you have been contemplating pursuing braille studies but the cost has held you back? Your time could be now!

The Edie Mourre Scholarship fund is intended to assist those who are pursuing employment as a braille transcriber or proofreader, or as an educator. Eligible codes include: Unified English Braille, Code braille français uniformisé, music braille, or other braille systems.

More information on the program may be found online at:

<https://www.brailleliteracycanada.ca/en/programs/ediemourre>

- The Alliance for Equality of Blind Canadians (AEBBC) is now accepting applications for the 2022-2023 academic year. This year it will be awarding two T-Base Communications Scholarships, two AEBBC Scholarships and a British Columbia Scholarship. The application deadline is March 25, 2022. For further details, visit: <http://www.blindcanadians.ca/programs/scholarship>
- CNIB awards post-secondary and master's scholarships to students who are blind or partially sighted and pursuing post-secondary and post-graduate studies respectively. The next application period for both scholarship programs open in Spring 2022.

[Click here for information on the post-secondary program.](#)

[Click here for updates on the master's program.](#)

- The National Educational Association of Disabled Students (NEADS) is now accepting applications for the NEADS National Student Awards Program, the NEADS Holly Bartlett Memorial Award, the NEADS Christine Nieder Memorial Award, the AMI Robert Pearson Memorial Scholarship, the Canada Post Award, the Bridgeman Hogue Memorial Scholarship for the Visually Impaired, and the Connor Clark & Lunn Financial Group Scholarship. Application deadline: May 31, 2022

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 or cégep. In addition, as part of our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, funding will be prioritized to students with disabilities who identify as part of multi-marginalized communities.

For more information, visit: <https://www.neads.ca/en/about/awards/>

- The Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority (APSEA) offers a number of blindness-related scholarships and grants.

The S.R. Hussey Memorial Fund is designed to assist legally blind students in purchasing equipment or legally blind persons in obtaining equipment/services to be used in the course of their employment. The deadline is May 1 of each year. Also available to legally blind Atlantic Canadians are the Summer Camp Grant and the Summer Support Grant. Applicants must request funding four weeks prior to the program they wish to attend. For professionals are the Scholarship for Post-Secondary Training in Any Field Relating to Serving Children and Youth Who are Blind or Visually Impaired (you may apply any time of year), the APSEA Research Grant and the Professional Learning & Training Grant.

For more information, visit: <https://apsea.ca/families-students/scholarships-aid.html>

## **COAST TO COAST TO COAST**

### **Calling all youth in Canada for the SCORE Scholars Program!**

Students can put down their textbooks and join CNIB for an all-expenses-paid opportunity! They can be part of a transformational experience that will support them in their academic and job-seeking goals. They can discover and explore their potential through educational and empowering activities while connecting with like-minded peers. Not to mention travel to Toronto and CNIB Lake Joe!

Originally the SCORE (Skills, Confidence & Opportunities through Recreation & Education) Program, and now part of Learning Academy as SCORE Scholars, this is a two-week in-person program offered July 17-30, 2022, with a virtual orientation the week of July 11.

Week 1: Youth will travel to Toronto and take part in challenging programs that will help them develop pre-employment, leadership, independence and social skills. We'll explore the city by visiting restaurants and local attractions. Accommodations and daily programming will be held at the Seneca College campus near Yonge and Finch.

Week 2: Youth will enjoy a blend of recreation and learning in a safe, inclusive environment on the shores of CNIB Lake Joe. Youth will have the chance to take part in group activities including swimming, rock-wall climbing, tandem biking, water tubing and build their leadership skills.



Eligibility: To be considered for the CNIB Learning Academy SCORE Scholars program, applicants must:

- Be a Canadian student (or recent graduate) in grades 10-12, or first year of post-secondary.
- Have strong orientation & mobility skills and independent living skills.
- Be interested in experiential learning activities and developing leadership skills.
- Be determined to work on personal independence and problem-solving skills.
- Have a demonstrated interest in putting personal strengths to use for the betterment of peers, family and community.
- Be committed to participating in all program activities.

Application deadline: April 14, 2022. [Click here](#) for more information, including application requirements, the application form and contact details.

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Editor: Sara Bennett



Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired | 5680 King Centre Drive,  
Suite 600, Alexandria, VA 22315 USA | 703-671-4500 | [www.aerbvi.org](http://www.aerbvi.org) | [aer@aerbvi.org](mailto:aer@aerbvi.org)