



# AERODYNAMICS

The AER Canada Newsletter

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of the Blind and Visually Impaired

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## NOW BOARDING

### Hop On!

By Sara Bennett, Editor

Well, the summer is over, the International AER Conference has come and gone and some Canadians, or people with ties to Canada, have been elected to new positions. This includes Hana Boxerman, our new Canadian AER Representative. More information is sure to come in future issues of AERODYNAMICS. For now, suffice it to say, congratulations to all! It promises to be an interesting ride as we embark on the next phase of our professional journey with AER.

The submission deadline for the December issue of AERODYNAMICS is November 25, 2022. Email me at: [saralb@sympatico.ca](mailto:saralb@sympatico.ca)

## Hello Fellow Canadian AER Members!

By Hana Boxerman, M.Sc., CLVT

I would like to introduce myself to you all, since I was recently elected to be your Canadian AER Representative. I have been working in the field of vision impairment since 1986 at what was then called the Montreal Association for the Blind (MAB) in Quebec and which, after numerous mergers, is now known as the Lethbridge-Layton-Mackay Rehabilitation Centre (LLMRC). Let me tell you a bit about my 35+-year career.



Headshot of Hana Boxerman

I started out working in one of the MAB residences, teaching daily living skills to young adults aged 18-36, the objective being that they would eventually live independently in the community. When this residence closed in the early 1990s after rehabilitation services evolved to providing services in the individual's home, I began working in the community with individuals of all ages--from seeing children in their schools to visiting seniors in their own homes. It was at that point that my responsibilities also changed. I began teaching clients how to use their optical aids and devices, in addition to teaching Activities of Daily Living Skills. Fast forward about 20 years and when one of my colleagues retired, I tacked on the responsibility of teaching sight-enhancement technology.

Since I live in the Province of Quebec, I am a member of the Northeast AER Chapter and sit on its Board of Directors representing Quebec and the Maritime Provinces. I am also the Chair of the Chapter's Aging Division. I have been a member of AER's Northeast chapter for a number of years. I always had the desire to network with others in the field and joining AER felt like it was the perfect opportunity for me to not only get to meet other vision professionals in Quebec and the Maritimes, but also those in the New England States. It has been a great way to access professional development activities, to learn and develop best practices and, of course, to develop friendships! I am honoured to begin my new role as AER Canadian Representative, and I look forward to the next two years to work towards meeting your needs in the organization.

In Quebec, we work differently from the rest of Canada, and I am very interested to learn how you work, how you provide rehabilitation and education services etc. in your various workplaces across the country. In an attempt to get to know you and discover how I can best represent you, I've scheduled two Zoom meetings for you to bring your comments, concerns, questions, accolades etc. to the table. I hope you will be able to join one of the meetings so we can chat! Please see below for details.

Over the years, I have heard many comments from colleagues, asking why they should join AER, what could AER do for them, what benefits are there to being a member? Well, that's exactly what I would like to get to know.

1. What benefits would you like to see from AER?
2. How can AER reflect the needs of Canadian Vision Rehab and education professionals?
3. What would you like to see more of in the Divisions you are members of?

I am hoping that we can meet over Zoom so you can share your experiences and express your needs to me so that I can bring them to AER. I am going to make myself available on two evenings in September so that you can connect, and we can chat over a cup of tea or glass of wine! I would love to see you on Zoom, but if you are not comfortable expressing yourself in person, please feel free to send me an email, and I will be sure to respond.

I will send out a Zoom link a few days prior to the following dates:  
Sunday September 11, 2022, and Wednesday September 14th at 7:00 pm Eastern  
Daylight Savings Time

If anyone would like to contact me, please email me at: [hboxerman@ssss.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:hboxerman@ssss.gouv.qc.ca)

Hope to see you at one of the above meetings.

## **BUSINESS CLASS**

### **IOMOS 2023 Call for Papers**

The Call for Papers for the International Orientation and Mobility Online Symposium (IOMOS), to be held January 25-27, 2023, is open until September 9, 2022.

The IOMOS website states: “Our mission is to showcase diverse perspectives to create a better educational experience for all of our learners. Are you a part of the BIPOC or LGBTQ+ community? Are you outside of the United States?”

“We are especially eager to learn from your perspective. We are happy to provide the support you need to help make our educational systems and resources better with the least amount of stress on you.

“For those who are non-English speakers, we can provide interpreters for your session. If enough people register who need your language, we are also happy to provide interpretation services for the entire conference.”

**[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL.](#)**

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

Connecting the Dots is Canada’s largest educational and professional development conference focused on education, technology and employment for people who are blind and partially sighted.

New for 2022—We’re going hybrid so we can connect online and in person!

- French language Virtual Conference: October 18, 2022
- English language Virtual Conference: October 25, 2022
- Montreal In-Person Exhibit Hall, Sessions & Networking: October 12, 2022
- Toronto In-Person Exhibit Hall and Networking: October 20, 2022

- Calgary In-Person Exhibit Hall and Networking: October 27, 2022

Join us at Connecting the Dots 2022 to:

- Learn more about current trends, research and innovations.
- Meet experts, academics, employers and entrepreneurs from diverse organizations.
- Experience the latest advancements in accessible and assistive technology.
- Learn more about programs, services, and resources.
- Connect with braille transcribers, producers, and specialists.
- Explore opportunities with Come to Work, an innovative program connecting job seekers who are blind or partially sighted with employers who want to discover Canada's talent.
- Access resources and discover tools that empower people who are blind or partially sighted to live life on their own terms, independently.
- Learn more about recruiting employees with sight loss and how to become an accessible and inclusive employer.

[Register now!](#) Or for more information, visit [cnib.ca/connectingthedots](https://cnib.ca/connectingthedots).

## **ACVREP Aids Access to Certification**

Want to know how the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP) is working to smooth the path towards certification and recertification? It's increasing its contributions to the Jay H. Stiteley Memorial Scholarship Fund, which assists eligible applicants in paying exam registration fees. And how is it making it easier for others to learn of a professional's credentials? It's investing in digital badges as an additional, up-and-coming way for its certificants to display their professional credentials.

[Click here](#) for more information about the Jay H. Stiteley Memorial Scholarship Fund and eligibility requirements for Canadians. And for further details about the digital badges, [click here](#).

## **A Look Back at the Perkins CVI Conference**

Expertise. New ideas. Personal journeys. And a commitment to help more children with Cerebral/Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI). In Short, this summer's CVI: Collaboration for Change Conference was an incredible three days filled with powerful conversations, connections, and community. More than 170 medical professionals, educators, individuals living with CVI and their families came together from all over the United States and around the world—from as far away as Australia—to discuss the current state of CVI and what's coming next. And we want to keep that momentum going. How can you keep current with innovations and information about CVI until we meet again?

- Explore the Perkins CVI Protocol: The [Perkins CVI Protocol](#), launching this summer, is a groundbreaking new resource that considers the whole, individual child. Based on cutting-edge research, the CVI Protocol fills a critical need in the field: it supports every child, regardless of their manifestation of CVI, and teaches every professional, regardless of their prior knowledge of CVI. Learn more in [this presentation from the conference](#)—and stay tuned for more details.
- Engage with the community: [Visit CVI Now](#), our go-to source for trusted answers and resources about CVI. Parents of Children with CVI are also invited to join the private [CVI Now Facebook group](#) to connect with and learn from other CVI families in a safe setting.
- Hear directly from people living with CVI: In [our Voices of CVI video](#), kids, teenagers and adults who are living with CVI share their experiences.

### Calendar of Events

October 12, 2022 – [Connecting the Dots Conference](#), Montreal, Quebec, Canada

October 18, 2022 -- [Connecting the Dots French language Conference](#), Virtual

October 20, 2022 -- [Connecting the Dots Conference](#), Toronto, Ontario, Canada

October 25, 2022 -- [Connecting the Dots English language Conference](#), Virtual

October 27, 2022 -- [Connecting the Dots Conference](#), Calgary, Alberta, Canada

January 25-27, 2023 -- [International Orientation and Mobility Online Symposium \(IOMOS\)](#), Virtual

July 24-27, 2023 -- "[Low Vision Across the Lifespan](#)" [International Society for Low-Vision Research and Rehabilitation \(ISLRR\) Conference](#), Denver, Colorado, USA

Weren't able to join us? You can still get access to recorded sessions from the summer's conference with our virtual ticket. Register for recordings of plenary sessions to learn about current CVI research, promising practices and advocacy. Recordings available from mid-July. [Learn more.](#)

If you have any questions or want more information about Perkins and our work with CVI, please contact us at [CVIConference@Perkins.org](mailto:CVIConference@Perkins.org).

## ISLRR Vision 2023!

Vision 2022 has come to a successful conclusion, and we congratulate Dublin in presenting a fulfilling conference this summer. We are now setting our sights on Vision 2023 Denver! We are excited to host the next International Society for Low-Vision Research and Rehabilitation (ISLRR) Conference.

Theme: Low Vision Across the Lifespan

What: Vision 2023 Conference

When: July 24-27, 2023

Where: Sheraton Denver Downtown in Denver, Colorado

Courses will cover the most recent developments for infants and toddlers through school, vocational years, into retirement and beyond. We are even planning a special track on

vision and the brain. If you have an idea for a special track, please contact our Scientific Program Chair, Dawn DeCarlo, OD, PhD, at [ddecarlo@uabmc.edu](mailto:ddecarlo@uabmc.edu).

Please visit our website for information and updates:

<https://www.vision2023denver.com/>

On behalf of the Vision 2023 Denver Team

## FLIGHT PATHS

### Tips for Protecting Children's Vision

As the back-to-school season approaches, now is the time to remember the critical role that vision plays in children's development, learning and well-being. It's important to identify any issues early. To that end, the Canadian Association of Optometrists recommends that children have at least one eye exam before they start school and then one exam per year afterwards. A pediatrician can complete eye screenings for those younger than five years and may refer them to an optometrist or ophthalmologist thereafter if a problem is detected.

For a list of common eye conditions in children, how vision difficulties might manifest themselves, say, in the classroom, and how parents, teachers and others can help protect children's vision, [click here](#).

## ALL SYSTEMS GO

### Tech Tools

From National Braille Press (NBP):

1. [Getting Started with the iPhone and iOS 15: Step-by-Step Instructions for Blind Users](#)

By Anna Dresner (Braille, BRF, DAISY, Word) 26.00-28.50 USD

2. [What's New in iOS 15: A Guide for Blind Users](#)

By Anna Dresner (Braille, BRF, DAISY, Word) 18.00-20.50 USD

3. [iOS 15 Reference Card](#)

By Anna Dresner (Braille, BRF, Word) 10.00-12.50 USD

4. [Designing Documents for Appearance: Using a Screen Reader to Create Eye-Catching Newsletters, Flyers, Certificates and More](#)

By Judy Dixon (Braille, BRF, DAISY, Word) 14.00-16.50 USD

5. [Android Commands and Settings, Android S \(12\)](#)

By Ana Garza G'z (Braille, BRF, DAISY, Word) 14.00-16.50 USD

6. [Computer Basics for the Newly Blind User: An Introduction to Windows-Related Assistive Technology](#)

By Kim Nova and Chris Nova (Braille, BRF, DAISY, Word) 14.00-16.50 USD

7. [Getting Started with Android: Android and TalkBack for the Beginning User \(Android S, 12\)](#)

By Kim Nova and Chris Nova (Braille, BRF, DAISY, Word) 26.00-28.50 USD

8. [An Introduction to Chromebooks: Big Productivity in a Small Package](#)

By Kim Nova and Chris Nova, Mystic Access (Braille, BRF, DAISY, Word) 14.00-16.50 USD

9. [Remote Meeting Platforms: Work and Play from Anywhere](#)

By Kim Nova and Chris Nova (Braille, BRF, DAISY, Word) 18.00-20.50 USD

[Keep up-to-date with NBP's technology books here.](#)

**From AccessWorld:**

1. [iOS for Beginners: Getting Started \(or Restarted\) with an iPhone or iPad](#)

By Bill Holton

2. [A Guide to the Accessibility Features in iOS 15](#)

By Janet Ingber

3. [Book Review: Designing Documents for Appearance](#)

By Deborah Kendrick

## THE JOURNEY

### CCB Bestows President's Award on BALANCE for Blind Adults

Executive Director Dr. Deborah Gold and the team at BALANCE for Blind Adults have received the 2022 President's Award from the Canadian Council of the Blind.

Since first opening its doors in Toronto in 1986, BALANCE has taken a fresh approach to supporting people who are blind or partially sighted in living independently and engaging with their communities. BALANCE began as a community-living environment for young adults and over the years has maintained a focus on fostering self-reliance and facilitating clients' connection to community resources. In its 30-plus year history, BALANCE has expanded its offerings thanks to funding from the Government of Ontario, grants and



donations. Its unique services now include community engagement, counselling, occupational therapy, orientation and mobility training and technology training.

BALANCE continually innovates and evolves. In response to the pandemic, the organization immediately pivoted to virtual learning for its technology training program and mental health support groups and launched a tele-support service to connect with isolated clients. By the fall of 2020, BALANCE had dramatically increased the number of online activities, events and groups offered to its clients, and had established partnerships with a theatre company, musician, the Royal Ontario Museum and others to provide engaging online programming for the BALANCE community. BALANCE also launched its monthly Living Blind Podcast in late 2020, as well as its Assistive Technology Apprenticeship Program.

Throughout the pandemic, BALANCE also worked to address issues of social isolation and food insecurity and launched a comprehensive vaccine education and engagement program.

To learn more, [click here](#).

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