

CANADIAN DEAFBLIND ASSOCIATION - BC

National Report from Wanda Schellenberg, June 12, 2021

National Deafblind Awareness Working Group

The key focus of this planning committee during the month of June will be to participate in the world-wide Dbl Yarn Bombing initiative - a tactile art project to engage members of the deafblind community on a global scale. Certain structures in public spaces will be wrapped in knitted or crocheted yarn and accompanied by a link to more information about deafblindness for those who may be interested. A number of additional awareness activities are planned such as municipal and provincial (BC & SK) proclamations and site light-ups at city hall buildings and tourist attractions like the CN Tower.

CDBA National Support Fund

CDBA National has newly amended it's policy governing eligibility criteria for applications to the Support Fund.

The purpose of this National Support Fund is to provide CDBA members living in Canada who are deafblind with another funding option to assist them with the purchase of:

1. Intervention services during or as the result of an emergency
2. Intervention services for individuals confined to a hospital
3. Specialized education or recreation programs
4. Specialized equipment
5. Other services or equipment resulting from specialized or unique circumstances

The funds provided are short term and are to supplement other sources of funding. They are not intended to replace funding which may be otherwise available nor are they to be of an ongoing nature.

CRITERIA FOR FUNDING:

Persons Qualifying:

1. Those individuals who have been identified as deafblind and/or in a deafblind service program.
2. The individual or their immediate family must be a current member of CDBA in good standing for a minimum of 6 months prior to the submission of the funding application.

Charity Golf Tournament

Monday, August 23rd is the new date for our 34 th annual "Lend-A-Hand" charity golf tournament at the Carlisle Golf Club in Southern Ontario. Negotiations with the golf course about necessary COVID-related changes in format are taking place.

National Cherry Bulmer Award

Frances Jablonca joined the Board of Directors of CDBA National in September 2017 as the Alberta Chapter Representative and served AB Chapter interests with enthusiasm and profound commitment. As a lasting tribute to her daughter Charlotte, who passed away in 2015 at the age of 22, Frances has written a series of articles entitled “Lessons from Charlotte’s Web” for the CDBA National “Intervention” magazine about her experiences as a mother of a child with deafblindness.

Because of her years of service to CDBA, both provincially and nationally, it was our pleasure to present Frances Jablonca with the CDBA National Cherry Bulmer Award for Volunteer of the Year. With it comes our deepest gratitude for her community spirit, her time, her example, and her talents as a volunteer.

Alberta Chapter dissolution

The unfortunate, albeit anticipated, dissolution of the Alberta provincial chapter was formally announced by Alberta Chapter rep Frances Jablonca during this past year’s AGM in July 2020. Going forward, Alberta Chapter funds will be managed by National to be specifically available to support CDBA members who reside in that province.

Federal Covid-19 Grant

Some federal government funding opportunities are available to support non-profit organizations and the people they serve during the challenging times brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. Various ideas have been explored as potential projects for these funds, should we be successful in our application for them.

An exciting idea that has been discussed recently is the creation of an awareness video focusing on the 11 principles of Intervention. The video would be comprised of both short clips and still photos, accompanied by voiceover. Subsequently a professional filmmaker has been contracted to create the video, with client contributions anticipated from each Chapter, at the contractor fee of \$1,200 plus HST. It was decided that the project should happen, regardless of the outcome with our submission to government.

Changes to the George Brown College Intervenor Program

It was recently announced that George Brown College is changing its current 2-year Intervenor Diploma Program to an online 1-year Certificate Program. The potential impact of this change on the student experience and the repercussions for staff, students, and deafblind individuals alike across the country will be negatively felt. It was decided unanimously to send a letter to the appropriate persons at GBC expressing our great disappointment with this decision affecting the premier program for Intervenor education and training.