

Canadian Deafblind Association New Brunswick Newsletter

Signs of Sharing



New Brunswick/Nouveau Brunswick

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 - Believing in Beth
 - Recognition - 25 years of service
 - Intervenor of the Year 2025
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*Thank you note from Hospice Fredericton :
CDBA-NB welcomes the opportunity to assist other non profit organizations.*

Dear Canadian Deafblind Association-NB,

Thank you for generously lending your collection of outdoor games and activities for our **Hike for Hospice**. They brought joy, laughter and fun to families the whole day!

The event welcomed over 300 attendees and raised more than \$50,000.00 to support our grief and bereavement programs offered free of charge to our community.

Your kindness helped create a welcoming and inclusive event we'll never forget.

With heartfelt gratitude, Hospice Fredericton.

Cindy Sheppard, CEO

Angela Balasevicius,

Fundraising and Donor Delivery

Message from Executive Director

Kevin Symes

Hello everyone and welcome to the 2025 annual newsletter



As the Fall months are upon us, we look back at the busy year we have had. The CDBA-NB hosted a number of events for our clients to enjoy. These included : whale watching trip, bowling events, days trips and an overnight get-together for clients, their families and the Intervenor. I believe that everyone enjoyed themselves. I look forward to our camping event next summer.

CDBA-NB had a fundraising BBQ event in Fredericton and did very well. We had a number of supporters such as Kent Building Supplies, Tim Horton Fredericton and the Fredericton Supper Store who helped with a food donation. Thank you to all the clients and Intervenor who helped with this event.

2025, was a big year for CDBA-National as well, as it is the 50th anniversary for the organization. We had our National Board meetings and National AGM in Toronto, ON to mark the event. I want to wish the CDBA-National many more years of success!!

Looking ahead to this coming year, there have many projects and activities planned for CDBA-NB. We are developing a second Snoezelen Room at the office in Fredericton that we hope will allow more people to use our space as a positive environment for learning and development of their skills and abilities.

As the Executive Director, I rely on the wonderful and knowledgeable office staff at CDBA-NB to help move our organization forward. Ashley, who all of the staff will know, and Carol are the backbones of the office. Thank you, for the job you do. We currently have two clients that also work at the office, Sheena and Michelle. Thank you for all you do.

I would also like to thank the CDBA-NB Board of Directors for all their volunteer time that they give in support of CDBA-NB. Without these people giving of their time, we would not be able to function as an organization. I would like to welcome four new members who have completed their first year on the CDBA-NB Board, Serge, Wayne, Don & Michèle. To the others, David, Robert, Sheila and Renée, thank you for your many years of service to CDBA-NB.

Finally, to our families/guardians, clients and Intervenor, I look forward to working with you in the coming year. If you have any concerns, suggestions or would like to get more involved at CDBA-NB, please feel free to contact me.

Until next time, all the best to all. Kevin

Message from the Manager of Intervention Services, Ashley Hill



Hello everyone

My name is Ashley, and I am excited to have the opportunity to be a part of the CDBA-NB as the new Manager of Intervention Services. I am looking forward to getting to know everyone and hope to have the opportunity to talk with each of you individually in the new year.

A little about myself –My family lives in a multi-generational home, my husband, mother, daughter and myself with our two cats. We love to try new things as a family and go on adventures; the cats prefer to stay at home!

As the winter months set in, making it difficult to get out and socialize, please feel free to reach out to me, we are always happy to have visitors at the office for coffee or book the Snoezelen room!

Regards Ashley

Message from the Office Manager, Carol Kennard



Welcome to the 2025 annual edition of the Newsletter. I sincerely hope your year has gone well and you are looking forward to 2026.

As always I am pleased to be of service to CDBA-NB Clients, Intervenors, Families, Board and fellow Office Staff. I believe we have an excellent team work approach to the day to day operations at CDBA-NB. There have been a few changes in 2025 but we continue to move forward in a positive way.

Thank you to Chantel, who left CDBA-NB office staff in November 2024 to pursue other interests and welcome to Ashley as you move forward in your journey with CDBA-NB.

All the best to everyone. Be safe and well Carol

Message from Administrative Support - Sheena Bryenton



Hi Everyone It has been a busy 2025 for me. Back in January I started with my new Intervenor, Melodie Brewer. In May of this year Greener Village had a volunteer appreciation party for all their volunteers. I got recognized for all my hard work and dedication at the Unique Boutique.

In June, I was recognized for five years of service to CDDBA-NB with a plaque for all my hard work and dedication. I have enjoyed many CDDBA-NB activities. The whale watching trip and camp were my favorites. I want to thank Ashley, Carol and Kevin for all their hard work and dedication in changing the lives of CDDBA-NB clients around the province.

As the weather gets colder let's enjoy this beautiful fall weather as much as we can. Until next time enjoy the rest of 2025 everyone.

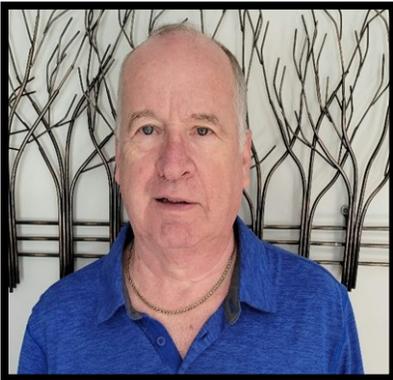
From your friend **Sheena**

INTERVENOR RECOGNIZED FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Congratulations Audrey Ronalds on being recognized in 2024 for 25 years of service as an Intervenor with Matthew. Thank you very much for your commitment in helping to improve the life of others.



President’s Message—Fall 2025



I would like to take this opportunity to give a huge thank you to our office Staff which includes our office staff and our ED for their continuing work that they do throughout the year.

Full-time Office Staff	Other CDDBA Staff
Carol Kennard, Office Manager	Sheena Bryenton, Client Staff, part time
Ashley Hill, Programs	Michelle Moorcraft, Client Staff, part time
Kevin Symes, Executive Director	Intervenors, field staff working with Clients

As everyone should know, our Clients are the heart of our organization. We have seen a significant increase in our Client base due to the ongoing endeavours of Ashley and Kevin. With each Client we have at least one Intervenor. Our Intervenor also provide a very important part in our organization. Each day, the Intervenor team up with their respective Clients and venture out into the community doing many different activities. The recent increases in the hourly rate from Social Development, are not only helping with Intervenor retention, but also allows CDDBA-NB to provide extra funding for the activities of the Clients.

As a parent on one of our Clients, Corey, I have a vested interest in the operation of our organization. We all know that at one point in my life, my wife and I will have to turn over the care to someone else. That is certainly a scary thought and something that neither one of us is looking forward to. Although that time is still down the road, the thought of CDDBA-NB opening it’s own facility to take in some of our Clients is still ongoing. I would suggest that this endeavour may be taking on new legs. Let’s hope.

Lastly, I wish to give a big thanks to our Board of Directors. Their volunteer commitment to this organization continues year after year. Although their names may be listed in other areas of this report, I wish to name them again.

THANK YOU

Sheila
Wayne
Rob
Michèle
Don
Renée
Serge

In closing, I wish everyone a great fall, winter and spring and a new summer, just around the corner.
LOL

Respectfully submitted

David Brown
President, CDDBA-NB



CDBA-NB Resource Kitchen:

At the 2024 CDBA-NB annual meeting held in Fredericton it was suggested that the Resource Kitchen in CDBA-NB office space be given the name:

Ghita Gaudet Memorial Teaching Kitchen.

This is to honor the memory of Ghita who began as an Intervenor in the early 1980's and her involvement continued until her passing in September 2024.

Her loving smile, hugs and of course her pickles will be tremendously missed.



INTERVENOR OF THE YEAR 2025



Congratulations to Molly, Intervenor of the Year!

Your unwavering dedication, tireless effort, and heartfelt commitment to our clients inspire us all. Thank you for everything you do—your passion makes a real difference every single day!

Canadian Deafblind Association-New Brunswick Annual General Meeting Up-Date

The CDBA-NB AGM was held on **October 5, 2024** in Fredericton. This was a face to face meeting and was held at the Best Western Fredericton.

CDBA-NB now has four new Board Members:

Michèle Rankin from Saint John area

Don Rankin from Saint John area

Wayne Brown from Moncton area

Serge Landry from Moncton area

A really big thank you to Charles Landry for his participation as a volunteer with the CDBA-NB Board of Directors. Charles has served on the Board since 2016 and his contribution was greatly appreciated. Thank you Charles. We will miss you.



David Brown, Charles Landry, Sheila Rogers

The CDBA-NB AGM was held on **September 20 2025** in Fredericton. This was a face to face meeting and was held at the Best Western Fredericton.

A really big thank you to Renée Landry, Board Volunteer of the Year, for your participation as a volunteer with the CDBA-NB Board of Directors.



Don and Michèle Rankin

Current Board Members

President	David Brown	Director	Renée Landry
Vice President	Sheila Rogers	Director	Don Rankin
Secretary	Michèle Rankin	Director	Serge Landry
Treasurer	Robert Johnson	Director	Wayne Brown

Update from CDBA National office:



Canadian Deafblind Association
Association canadienne de la surdicécité
 National Office
 1860 Appleby Line, Unit 14 Suite 421
 Burlington, Ontario
 Canada L7L 7H7



Email: info@cdbanational.com

Telephone: (365) 366-4525

Website: www.cdbanational.com

September 27, 2025

Dear CDBA Member:

As we gather for our **2025 Annual General Meeting** we proudly celebrate **50 years** of **CDBA National**. This milestone is a testament to supporting individuals who are deafblind, their families and the broader deafblind community across Canada.

This celebration is not only about our organization's achievements — it is about **you**. Over the past five decades, countless individuals have contributed their time, passion, and expertise to make CDBA what it is today. From the parents and professionals who laid the foundation, to those who have:

- Established chapters and essential services
- Organized national conferences
- Built meaningful relationships with partner organizations
- Led successful fundraising efforts
- Delivered training and professional development
- Provided high-quality intervenor services
- Shared knowledge through our news publications
- Developed our digital presence
- Offered leadership and governance
- ... and so much more

We could not have done it without you!

Your contribution — no matter the role or size — has had a meaningful impact, and we are deeply grateful for your continued support.

As a token of our appreciation and to commemorate this special anniversary, please find enclosed CDBA's newest "**Principles of Intervention**" poster, a reaffirmation of our belief in the role of intervenors and the critical support they provide to individuals who are deafblind.

Also, please find a few gifts from us that say:

- 1) We are "**Measuring 50 Years of Support — One Member at a Time.**"
- 2) We are "**Writing Our Story Together — 50 Years Strong.**"
- 3) We hope you will "**Stick with us as we continue to support and aid one another.**"

With sincere thanks,

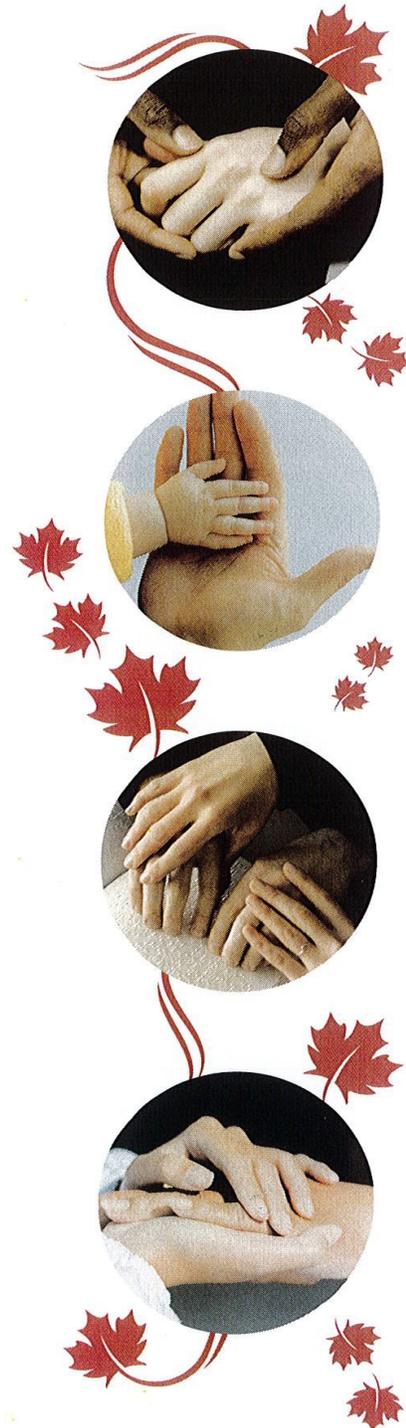
The CDBA National Board of Directors

With Chapters In: British Columbia, Saskatchewan & New Brunswick

CDBA National office continued:

The Canadian Deafblind Association's Principles of Intervention

1. Total and unconditional belief in, and respect for, an individual with deafblindness.
2. Total and unconditional belief in the value of Intervention for all individuals with deafblindness.
3. The amount of Intervention and the form it will take must be individualized to meet the specific needs and desires of each individual with deafblindness.
4. Individuals with deafblindness have a right to access information in their preferred modes of communication.
5. Intervention is "Doing With, Not For".
6. No assumptions should be made regarding the abilities of an individual with deafblindness.
7. Never underestimate the importance of the relationship between the Intervenor and the individual with deafblindness.
8. The process of Intervention must always provide the individual who is deafblind with the information required for anticipation, motivation, communication, and confirmation.
9. Every experience is an opportunity to provide information and encourage interaction.
10. The focus of Intervention should always be on the needs of the individual with deafblindness.
11. Intervention is recognized as a process that requires Intervenor's to have specific skills, knowledge, and experiences to be effective in providing the best possible opportunity for people with deafblindness to access information, process it and develop communication, concepts, and skills.



*Based on the work and teachings of
John & Jacquie McInnes*

Please **Hold the date November 5 - 8, 2026** for the Canadian Conference for Parent of Individuals who are Deafblind planned for next year.

To complete the survey or get additional information please visit the Deafblind and Sensory Support Network of Canada **OR** **contact Ashley Hill, Manager of Intervention Services at programs@cdba-nb.ca**

Canadian Conference for Parents of Individuals who are Deafblind

Brought to you by: Deafblind and Sensory Support Network of Canada (Sensity) & the Canadian Deafblind Association



November 5th - 8th, 2026

**White Oaks Conference Resort & Spa (253 Taylor Rd)
Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario**

We want to hear from you! Please complete the survey below to share your desires and needs, so that we can best support you.

[Click here for Survey](#)



CDBA-NB Supporters:

Canada Post Community Foundation



In 2024 CDBA-NB was the Canada Post Community Foundation 2024 Grant Recipient. These funds were used to up-grade and purchase many new items for use in the Snoezelen Room.

Other CBDA-NB Supporters: 2024

- NB Children's Foundation
- RECar Fredericton
- Fenety Connivence - Blue Canoe
- Ford Country Club
- Memorial Donations Re Guita Gaudet

Kent Fundraiser Barbecue 2024

A fundraising barbecue was held at Kent Building Supplies in 2024 ReCar Fredericton sponsored the event.

Public Donor: Gerry Deeley 2025



CBDA-NB Supporters: 2025

- NB Children's Foundation
- NB Masonic Charities
- Ford Country Club
- Dorothy Bird

Kent Fundraiser Barbecue 2025

A fundraiser barbecue was held at Kent Building Supplies in 2025.



The Atlantic Superstore was a major contributor providing all food, drinks and snacks.

Tim Horton Fredericton also contributed



Deafblind Awareness 2024 –2025



Deafblind Awareness events were held both 2024 and 2025. The usual things like yarnbombing the tree on the grounds of the provincial legislature in Fredericton as well as bowling held in Fredericton and Moncton were done. Something different for 2025 was buildings in Moncton were lit up in Blue to mark the occasion.



Whale watching trip July 2025

In July 2025 approximately 40 people enjoyed a bus trip and a lovely boat experience. They actually saw whales, seals and also got to touch some species of marine life.



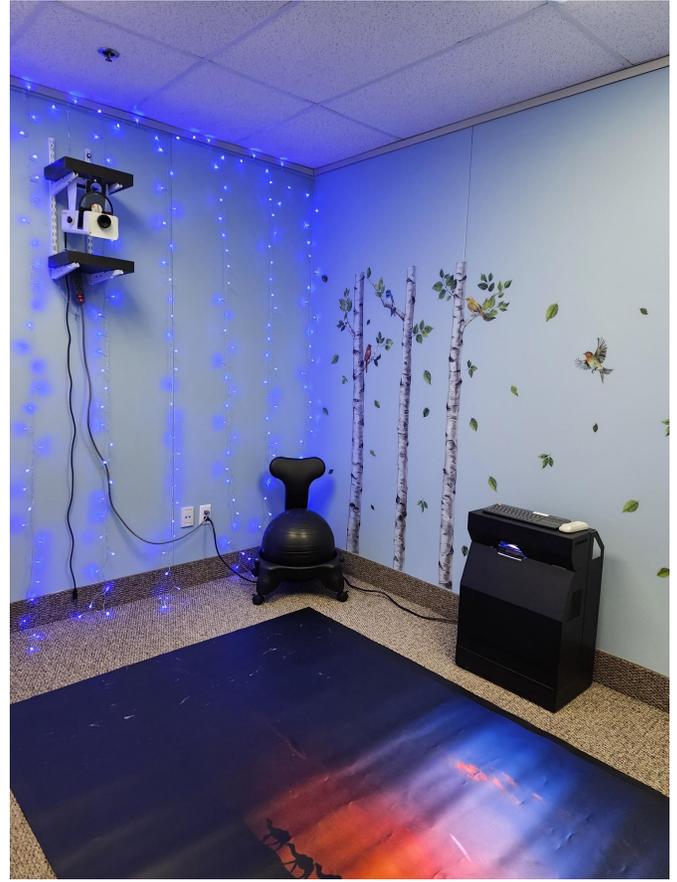
Sensory Camp 2025

An overnight experience was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Clients and family members from around the province were in attendance. The first night there was a dance, and swimming as well as other activities. The next day there was teddy bear making, crafts, games and a live magician.

Everyone was very pleased to reconnect and enjoy a fun interactive experience.



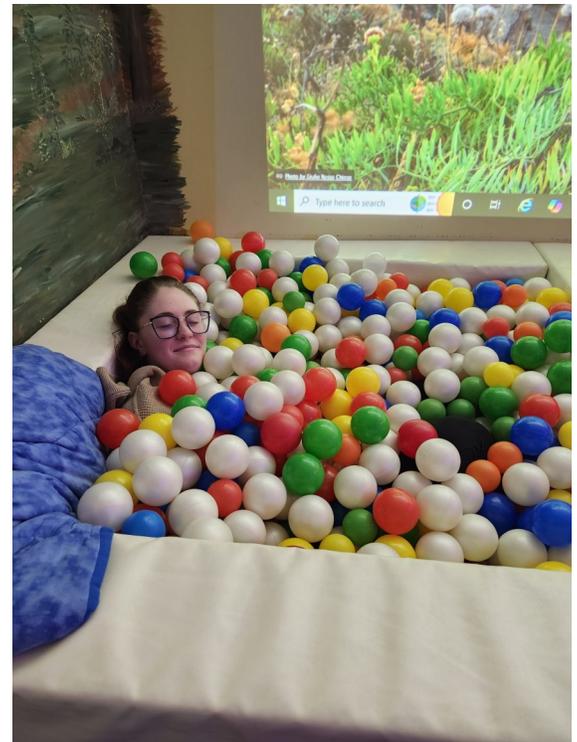
Snoezelen Room up-date:



CDBA-NB is currently working to increase usage of the sensory equipment available to us by utilizing additional space. The CUBE as well as a sensory light table are two things that will be found in the additional space. The current Snoezelen Room will remain as is with the big screen and ball pit.

CDBA-NB Newsletter Circulation up-date

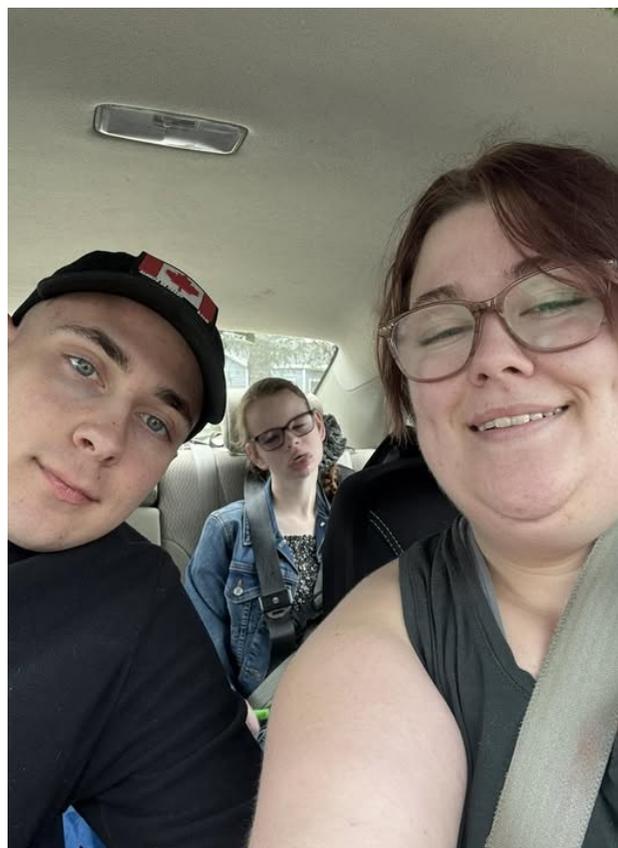
Previously CDBA-NB had been preparing two newsletters yearly but the decision was made to move forward preparing one newsletter near the end of each calendar year. It was felt that this would provide a better representation of the year's news and information in one document.

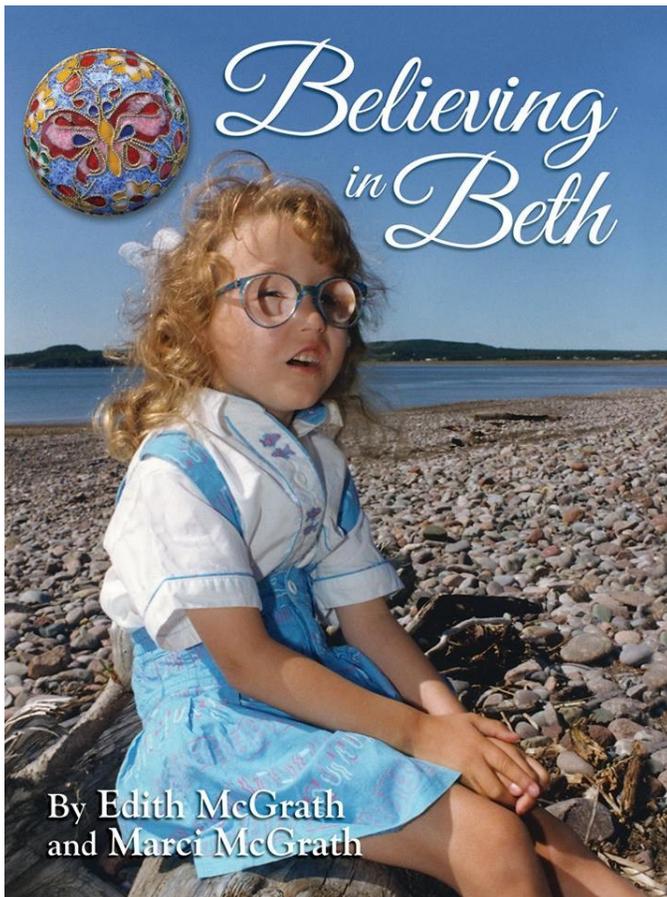


Around the province:









Beth was a consumer with Canadian Deafblind Association-NB Inc. for many years. **“Believing in Beth”** is an amazing book written about Beth by her mother, Edith McGrath and sister, Marci McGrath.



Believing in Beth

Believing in Beth is a true story that shares how the birth of one special little girl, Beth McGrath, turns her family’s life upside down. As a result of Congenital Rubella Syndrome (CRS), Beth continually struggles to escape into a world of her own. For the love of her daughter, Beth’s mother Edie, is determined to make Beth live in her family’s world.

If you are interested in purchasing a copy of this book for \$15.95, plus applicable shipping, please contact:

CDBA-NB Inc. at 452-1544 or office@cdba-nb.ca

A percentage of the proceeds from the sale of this book will be donated to the special care home where Beth resides. A donation will also be made to the New Brunswick Chapter of the Canadian Deafblind Association.

Canadian Deafblind Association - NB Inc



New Brunswick/Nouveau Brunswick



CDBA-NB CURRENTLY SEEKING BOARD MEMBERS

Who are we:

Since 1982, the Canadian Deafblind Association-New Brunswick Inc., a Fredericton based, non-profit organization has been providing support and services to individuals who are deaf-blind, deaf or blind with associated disabilities and their families throughout New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

CDBA-NB is governed by a Board of Directors who volunteer their time and expertise to establish policy and direction for the organization. The day to day operation of the organization is developed and supervised by a strong and capable management team, under the direction of the Executive Director. Intervention services are provided by a staff of Intervenors.

CDBA-NB Board of Directors has individuals from different backgrounds such as:

- Family members/care providers of current and past clients;
- Intervenors who have gone on to do other things and have returned to serve an organization that they have a passion for;
- Educators and members of the public who have no history with CDBA-NB other than a willingness to help provide direction to an organization who works with people with disabilities.
- Professionals such as a CPA who helps with the finances of the organization.

If you are interested in volunteering as a Board Member, would like to recommend someone or would like more information please contact:

Kevin Symes

Email: k.symes@cdba-nb.ca

Tel: 506-452-1544 Website: www.cdba-nb.ca

L'Association canadienne de la surdicécité- NB Inc.



New Brunswick/Nouveau Brunswick

L'ACSC-NB recherche actuellement des membres pour son conseil d'administration

Qui nous sommes :

Depuis 1982, l'association canadienne de la surdicécité du Nouveau-Brunswick est un organisme à but non lucratif basé à Fredericton qui offre du soutien et des services aux personnes ayant la surdicécité, sourdes ou aveugles avec des handicaps additionnels, ainsi qu'à leur famille dans les provinces du Nouveau-Brunswick et l'île du Prince Édouard.

L'ACSC- N.-B. est dirigé par un conseil d'administration qui offre bénévolement leurs temps et leurs compétences afin d'établir les politiques et guider l'orientation de l'organisation. Le fonctionnement quotidien de l'organisme est sous la direction d'une équipe de gestion compétente ainsi que le directeur exécutif. Les services d'intervention sont fournis par une équipe d'intervenants.

Le conseil d'administration de l'ACSC-N-B est représenté par des individus issus de différents milieux, tels que :

Des membres de la famille/fournisseurs de soin de clients actuels et passés;

Les anciens intervenants qui sont revenus pour soutenir une organisation qui les passionne;

Des éducateurs et des membres du public qui n'ont pas d'antécédents avec l'ACSC-N.-B. à part de vouloir aider à orienter une organisation qui travaille avec les personnes ayant des besoins particuliers;

Des professionnels tels qu'un comptable qui peuvent aider à la gestion des finances de l'organisation.

Si vous souhaitez devenir membre du conseil d'administration ou voulez recommander quelqu'un ou désirez obtenir plus d'informations, veuillez contacter :

Kevin Symes

Courriel : k.symes@cdba-nb.ca

Tel: 506-452-1544 Website: www.cdba-nb.ca



New Brunswick/Nouveau Brunswick

495 B Prospect Street, Unit H

Fredericton, NB

E3B 9M4

506-452-1544

office@cdba-nb.ca

www.cdba-nb.ca

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OFFICE STAFF

Kevin Symes

Executive Director

Carol Kennard

Office Manager

Ashley Hill

Manager of Intervention Services

Sheena Bryenton

Michelle Moorcraft

Administrative Support