

***Canadian Deafblind Association***  
***National***  
***46th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING***



***Saturday, September 25, 2021***

***Virtually via Zoom***

## **INCLUDED IN THIS DOCUMENT \*\***

Annual General Meeting Agenda

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting September 26, 2020

CDBA National Board of Directors 2020-2021

National Executive Director Report

CDBA Chapter Activity Reports 2020-2021

2021 Report on Nominations

CDBA National Presidents 1975-present

CDBA Lifetime Members

CDBA Founding Members

CDBA National Awards

George Brown College Student Grad Awards

**\*\*Audited Financial Statements for fiscal year April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021 are available to CDBA members on request [tmcfadden@cdbanational.com](mailto:tmcfadden@cdbanational.com)**

# **Canadian Deafblind Association 46th Annual General Meeting**

**Virtually via Zoom  
September 25, 2021  
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm EST**

## **AGENDA**

**Chair: Carolyn Monaco**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Approval of the Agenda**
- 3. Approval of the Minutes - 2020 AGM via Zoom**
- 4. Report of the President, CDBA National**
- 5. Report of the Executive Director, CDBA National**
- 6. Audited Financial Statements for Fiscal Year April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021**
- 7. Appointment of the Auditor for 2022**
- 8. Proposed amendments to the CDBA National Bylaws**
- 9. CDBA Chapter Activity Reports**
  - British Columbia**
  - Saskatchewan**
  - New Brunswick**
- 10. 2021 Andrew Love Memorial Award for Intervenor of the Year**
- 11. 2021 Cherry Bulmer Award for Volunteer of the Year**
- 12. Report on Nominations: CDBA National Board of Directors 2021-2022**
- 13. Date of the 2022 CDBA National AGM**

## Minutes

### **45th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Canadian Deafblind Association (National) Saturday, September 26, 2020 Via Zoom**

#### **Present**

##### **Voting Members (16)**

*Carolyn Monaco, David Brown, Therese Rousseau-Brown, Sandra Owen-Peters, Frances Jablonca, J. Allan Matheis, Evelyn Matheis, Robert Tancock, Renee Landry, Charles Landry, Leslie Comrie, Wanda Schellenberg, Paul Michaud, Linnea Cudmore, Linda Mamer, Tina Falcigno.*

##### **Proxy Votes (14)**

##### **Associate Members (4)**

*Kevin Symes, Theresa Tancock, Dana Heinrichs, Tom McFadden*

##### **Special Guest (1)**

*Peter Shennett*

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#### **AGENDA**

##### **1) Call to Order**

*The meeting was called to order at 1:06 pm EST. President Carolyn Monaco was in the Chair.*

*Carolyn expressed a warm welcome to the 35 individuals who registered for this first AGM conducted via Zoom. We require a minimum of 25 voting members, either in person or represented by proxy, in order for this meeting to be an official AGM. Total attendance was 16 voting members present, and 14 voting members represented by proxy.*

*Regarding the logistics of actual voting on Zoom, Carolyn explained the option of raising one's hand.*

##### **2) Approval of the Agenda**

##### **Motion 2020 AGM – 01: Motion to approve the agenda:**

*It was moved by Allan Matheis, seconded by Linda Mamer that the agenda for this 45th National AGM be approved.*

**CARRIED**

### **3) Approval of the Minutes of 2019 AGM – Fredericton NB**

*Tom McFadden briefly provided an overview of the minutes from the 2019 National AGM in Fredericton, New Brunswick.*

#### **Motion 2020 AGM – 02: Motion to accept the minutes of the 2019 AGM:**

*It was moved by Allan Matheis, seconded by David Brown that the minutes of the 44th National AGM be accepted.*

**CARRIED**

### **4) Report of the President, CDBA National**

*Using a PowerPoint presentation Carolyn Monaco spoke to the successes and challenges of the past year during the COVID-19 pandemic.*

*She expressed her regret over the cancelled celebration, due to the pandemic, of George Brown College's 2020 Intervenor Program student graduation. The presentation of our 2 National awards to deserving student graduates – Andrew Love Memorial and Excellence in Field Placement – also had to be deferred.*

*She spoke about the lost revenue from our annual "Lend-A-Hand" golf tournament having to be cancelled and the financial impact on the Association that ensued.*

*The Dbl Network of the Americas conference will take place in March 2021, in partnership with the Texas School for the Blind.*

*She expressed excitement as well over the announcement that the 2023 Dbl International Conference would be held in Ottawa.*

*Finally, she thanked retiring National Board members Frances Jablonca and Sandra Owen-Peters for their significant contributions during the past year.*

*The full content of the Presidents Report can be found in the 2020 AGM Book which is posted on the website [www.cdbanational.com](http://www.cdbanational.com).*

### **5) Report of the Executive Director, CDBA National**

*Tom McFadden presented his report on the activities of CDBA National over the past year, acknowledging some overlap with the Report of the President.*

*For the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, Deafblind Awareness Month throughout Canada was celebrated in June. The pandemic forced the cancellation of the traditional Senate of Canada reception in Ottawa. Tom acknowledged the continued funding support of the federal Office of Disability Issues through the Social Development Partnership program – Disability component (SDPP-D). The operational grant of \$45,000 annually through to April of 2022 provides National with a degree of certainty in terms of its overall planning in the foreseeable future. In addition, National received funding of \$11,244 to enhance our communications and engagement activities in the face of the pandemic. This was all such good news in the face of falling revenues for the year due to the cancellation of our fundraiser golf tournament, and the overall economic downturn caused by COVID-19, primarily affecting donations and memberships.*

Reference was also made to the unfortunate decision by CDBA Ontario Chapter in January of 2019 to separate from National and go its own way; and to the loss of our Alberta Chapter in July of 2020 due in large part to volunteer exhaustion.

Communications with members and their families, corporate partners and interested supporters continued with the publication of 2 issues of "Intervention" magazine, quarterly e-newsletters and regular e-blasts on topics of interest.

Tom expressed his gratitude for the continued partnership with our CDBA provincial chapters in BC, AB, SK and NB, and acknowledged the outstanding contributions of contract professionals Paul Nobes (CDBA Webmaster & IT Officer); Cynthia Skilling (Graphic Designer) and Christiane Roswell (Bookkeeper) throughout the year.

The complete content of the Executive Director's Report can be found in the 2020 AGM booklet which is posted on the website [www.cdbanational.com](http://www.cdbanational.com).

#### **6) Presentation of Audited Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year ending March 31, 2020**

CDBA National accountant Peter Shennett presented the auditor's report on financials for the fiscal year 2019-2020. An open question and answer period took place.

The audited financial statements were shared onscreen during the presentation and are available on request from the CDBA National office.

#### **Motion 2020 AGM – 03: Motion to approve the 2019-2020 Audited Financial Statements:**

The Chair acknowledged that the National Board of Directors previously passed the following motion, and that such motion be incorporated into the minutes of this AGM:

It was moved by David Brown, seconded by Allan Matheis that the audited 2019-2020 financial statements be approved.

**CARRIED**

#### **7) Appointment of the Auditor**

#### **Motion 2020 AGM – 04: Motion to appoint an auditor for 2021**

It was moved by David Brown, seconded by Renee Landry that Peter Shennett Professional Corporation be appointed CDBA National auditor for fiscal 2020-2021.

**CARRIED**

#### **8) Chapter Reports**

Reports on activities from CDBA Provincial Chapters were presented by each of the following:

- **New Brunswick Chapter** – Kevin Symes (Executive Director)
- **British Columbia Chapter** – Theresa Tancock (Chapter Family Services Coordinator)

- **Alberta Chapter** – Frances Jablonca (Chapter President)
- **Saskatchewan Chapter** – Dana Heinrichs (Executive Director)

The complete contents of Chapter reports can be found in the 2020 AGM Book on the website [www.cdbanational.com](http://www.cdbanational.com)

**9) Andrew Love Memorial Award 2020**

The Andrew Love Memorial Award for Intervenor of the Year was not presented, as the nomination process was circumvented by COVID-19.

**10) National Cherry Bulmer Award 2020**

The National Cherry Bulmer Award, which recognizes a volunteer for his/her contributions to CDBA at the Chapter and National levels – was presented to Frances Jablonca.

**11) Election of the CDBA National Board of Directors 2019-2020**

National executive director Tom McFadden presented the slate of directors for the 2020-2021 National Board of Directors:

**Directors-at-Large to be elected for a 2-year term**

- Carolyn Monaco (Ontario)
- Renee Landry (New Brunswick)
- Leslie Comrie (British Columbia)

**Chapter Reps to be appointed for a two-year term**

- Allan Matheis (Saskatchewan Chapter)
- Wanda Schellenberg (British Columbia Chapter)

**Chapter Rep to be confirmed for one more year**

- David Brown (New Brunswick Chapter)

All Chapter appointments met the criteria of being active members in good standing with CDBA for 2020.

**Motion 2020 AGM – 05 Motion to accept the proposed Slate of Nominations to the 2020-2021 CDBA National Board of Directors:**

It was moved by Allan Matheis, seconded by Linnea Cudmore that the proposed Slate of Nominations to the 2020-2021 National Board of Directors be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**12) Date and Location of the 2021 CDBA National AGM**

*Saturday, September 25, 2021 – Location and format to be confirmed*

**14) Adjournment**

*3:20 pm EST on a motion by the Chair*

**CARRIED**

**2020/21 NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
CANADIAN DEAFBLIND ASSOCIATION**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>OFFICE</b>	<b>DATE FIRST ELECTED</b>	<b>ADDRESS, PHONE, FAX &amp; EMAIL</b>
Carolyn Monaco	National President Director at Large	10-20-2009	254 Governors Road Dundas ON L9H 3K3
Wanda Schellenberg	British Columbia Chapter Representative	09-24-2016	2016 Kitchener Street Vancouver BC V5L 2W8
Allan Matheis	National Board Secretary Saskatchewan Chapter Representative	10-16-2010	1818 Rothwell Street Regina SK S4N 2C2
David Brown	National Vice President & Treasurer New Brunswick Chapter Representative	10-27-2012	87 Fawn Crescent Hanwell NB E3E 1B4
Renee Landry	Director at Large	09-23-2017	243 rue des Copains Dieppe NB E1A 1A3
Leslie Comrie	Director at Large	09-21-2019	533 East 8 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Vancouver BC V5T 1S9

**Executive Director:**

Tom McFadden  
(866) 229-5832 (B)  
(905) 331-2043 (F)

[tmcfadden@cdbanational.com](mailto:tmcfadden@cdbanational.com)

**IT/Website Officer**

Paul Nobes  
(902) 862-7367 (B)  
(902) 371-7136 (C)

[pnobes@cdbanational.com](mailto:pnobes@cdbanational.com)

## **CDBA CHAPTER OFFICE CONTACTS**

### **British Columbia Chapter**

Theresa Tancock, Family Services Coordinator  
227 6th Street  
New Westminster BC  
V3L 3A5  
(604)528-6170 (B)  
(604) 528-6174 (F)  
E-mail: [theresa@cdbabc.ca](mailto:theresa@cdbabc.ca)

### **Alberta Liason**

Frances Jablonca  
334 Silver Ridge Crescent NW  
Calgary AB  
T3B 3T5  
(403) 289-6017 (B)  
E-mail: [mac5jab@gmail.com](mailto:mac5jab@gmail.com)

### **Saskatchewan Chapter**

Dana Heinrichs, Executive Director  
110 Anderson Crescent  
Saskatoon SK  
S7H 4C2  
(306) 374-0022 (B)  
(306) 374-0004 (F)  
E-mail: [cdba.sk@shaw.ca](mailto:cdba.sk@shaw.ca)

### **New Brunswick Chapter**

Kevin Symes, Executive Director  
495-B Prospect Street, Unit H  
Fredericton NB  
E3B 9M4  
(506) 452-1544 (B)  
(506) 451 - 8309 (F)  
E-mail: [k.symes@cdba-nb.ca](mailto:k.symes@cdba-nb.ca)

**REPORT OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
to the  
CDBA NATIONAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Saturday, September 25, 2021**

Thank you sincerely for taking the time on a weekend to join us for this – the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of CDBA National. During last year’s meeting, I reported that “the unparalleled nature of the coronavirus had forced this organization and its Chapters to navigate through uncharted waters”. Well, nothing much changed this year, as COVID-19 continued to have a disproportionate impact on marginalized communities with disabilities such as those who are deafblind and their families.

One thing that did change was the return of our annual “Lend-a-Hand” charity golf tournament after being cancelled in 2020. Our primary fundraiser was sponsored again by the Cooperators – Justin James & Associates and helped raise much needed funds, despite COVID-related protocols. Ten percent (10%) of net proceeds are put into the National Support Fund which allocates emergency funds for members who are deafblind and their families.

For the 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, “Deafblind Awareness Month” was celebrated during the month of June with a “yarn bombing” theme crafted by Deafblind International (Dbi). This global phenomenon saw 20 countries come together to yarn bomb for deafblind awareness. Activities in Canada were coordinated by a Working Group of representatives from a number of not-for-profits in the field of deafblindness including CDBA. Unfortunately, the pandemic again forced the cancellation of the traditional Senate of Canada Reception in Ottawa as well as a myriad of other planned events throughout Canada. The leadership of Working Group Chair Karen Madho from Deafblind Ontario Services was much appreciated, since it provided focus for the Working Group’s activity.

While the past year was difficult in many ways, financially the COVID-19 restrictions were beneficial for the Association. Despite the cancellation of our charity golf tournament in 2020, a resulting reduction in expenditures – primarily the in-person AGM/Board weekend meetings and administration/consulting costs - more than

compensated for this loss of revenue. The result was a significant annual surplus last year, according to our auditor, of more than \$15,000.

Until last year, CDBA National had to manage its operations under a cloud of uncertainty, not ever really certain of the level of government funding it could count on. However, the Office of Disability Issues, through the Social Development Partnership Program-Disability (SDPP-D) program in April 2019, made our annual “sustaining” grant more “operational” and in the process, approved the same rate of \$45,000 for three years through April 2022. Then just last month, we received word that this funding agreement had been extended another year, through April 2023!

In August of last year, the federal government approved our application for an additional \$11,244 to enhance our communications and engagement activities during and affected by the pandemic. To date this money has not been completely spent, but has been put towards the following:

- Sponsorship of a keynote speaker at an international workshop held in March 2021 about the impact of COVID-19 on students, families and educators, seen by 1000 delegates from 25 countries, and followed up by an expert panel discussion including CDBA personnel.
- Creation of 3 presentations for the benefit of Intervenors and family members in order to apply COVID-19 strategies to their own respective situations.
- Purchase a Zoom subscription for a variety of purposes
- Purchase of sensory and otherwise specialized equipment for Chapter staff to loan to affected families.
- Production of an 8-10 minute You Tube awareness video

We continued to communicate with members, their families, partner agencies and interested parties via our bi-annual "Intervention" news magazine; a quarterly e-newsletter with news from Canada and around the globe; and regular e-blasts about issues and newsworthy announcements of interest to CDBA members and recent additions and revisions to our website to enhance your browsing experience.

In July of 2020, our Alberta Chapter ceased its formal operations due in large part to volunteer exhaustion. AB Chapter funds were transferred to National to be managed for the exclusive benefit of CDBA members living in Alberta.

At the end of August 2021 – only 5 months into the current membership year – members who renewed their membership and were therefore in good standing with voting privileges at the AGM fell to 138. This decline will merit future discussion, although the impact of COVID-19 on Chapter summer programs was a key factor, as was the loss of many former Ontario Chapter families. Good news is 2-year membership renewals have remained relatively constant year over year, suggesting a significant core of recurring members.

The breakdown compared with last year (2020) looks like this:

- Individual 69 (-12)
- Family 22 (no change)
- Associate 29 (-4)
- Lifetime 14 (no change)
- Corporate 4 (+1)

I am very grateful for the outstanding work throughout the year of those professionals whose fee for service contract work has been outstanding:

- Accountant Peter Shennett
- IT/Website Officer Paul Nobes
- Bookkeeper Christiane Roswell
- Graphic Designer Cynthia Skilling

A particular thank you goes out to Carolyn Monaco, David Brown and the entire CDBA National Board for their volunteer time and collective support.

**1. Name of Chapter:** CDBA-BC

**2. Address & Contact Information**

227 – 6<sup>th</sup> Street, New Westminster, BC  
V3L 3A5

**3. Website and Email:**

- a. [www.cdbabc.ca](http://www.cdbabc.ca)
- b. [theresa@cdbabc.ca](mailto:theresa@cdbabc.ca)

**4. Website and Email:**

- [www.cdbabc.ca](http://www.cdbabc.ca)
- a. [theresa@cdbabc.ca](mailto:theresa@cdbabc.ca)

**5. Chapter Representative to CDBA National:** Wanda Schellenberg

- 1. **Name of Executive Director or Senior Staff:** Theresa Tancock
- 2. **Chapter of CDBA National since:** 1978; incorporated 2012
- 3. **Number of CDBA Members:** 32
- 4. **Number of Employees:**
  - Full-time:** 2
  - Part-time:** 1
  - Contract:** 68 Seasonal Intervenors
- 5. **Number of Freelance Contractor Interpreter/Intervenors:**
- 6. **Number of Volunteers:**
- 7. **Board of Directors Listing and Title:**
  - President: **Linnea Cudmore**
  - Vice-President: **John Mail**
  - Secretary/Treasurer: **Linda Mamer**
  - Directors: **Wanda Schellenberg**  
**Leslie Comrie**  
**Crystelle Jensen**  
**Paul Michaud (on leave)**
  - Past President: **Linnea Cudmore**
- 8. **Chapter Incorporation #**S-0060315
- 9. **Chapter Mission and Mandate:**

a. **Mission Statement:**

The Canadian Deafblind Association - BC Chapter promotes the awareness and recognition of deafblindness and deafblind Intervention.

• **Mandate:**

A provincial organization that endeavours to:

- Promote public awareness of deafblindness as a unique disability.
- Promote the philosophy of deafblind Intervention.
- Work with government and other agencies to initiate and promote the development of programs designed to provide Intervention for individuals who are congenitally deafblind.
- Support the service delivery component of the organization.
- Promote training in the areas of Deafblindness and deafblind Intervention.
- Act as a resource in addressing the needs of individuals who are deafblind.

**10. Types of Programs and Services offered by the Chapter this year:**

b. **Early Intervention Program:**

- i. 2020-21: Provided support to children with deafblindness throughout BC.
  1. 37 children (9 months to five years old)
  2. 4 children were new referrals
  3. 11 outreach families: 26 local families
  4. 263 virtual visits; 79 hours of virtual outreach support
  5. 6 children attended preschool/daycare
  6. 8 children transitioned to Kindergarten September 2020
- ii. Deafblind education, training sessions and joint visits were provided to preschools and daycares virtually throughout BC, as well as to the professional teams and families of the children.
- iii. Parent sharing workshop sessions were held virtually throughout the year.

c. **Intervention Program:**

- i. Extended Intervention Program (March – May 2020, in response to the new pandemic)
  1. 21 participants
  2. 2 preschooler-age and 19 school-age
  3. 24 Intervenors employed
- ii. Summer IP 2020 (9 weeks)
  1. 51 participants
  2. 7 preschooler-age and 44 school-age
  3. 54 Intervenors employed

- iii. Winter IP 2020-21
  - 1. 31 participants
  - 2. 0 preschool-age and 31 school-age
  - 3. 35 Intervenors employed
- iv. Spring IP 2021
  - 1. 32 participants
  - 2. 1 preschool-age and 31 school-age
  - 3. 38 Intervenors employed

**d. Virtual Recreation Program:**

- i. Developed in response to the pandemic and in lieu of our typical Summer Recreation Program.
- ii. Led by our newly created Intervenor Resource Team.
- iii. Virtual Weekly activities planned throughout the summer, as well as seasonally throughout the year.
- iv. Children/youth with deafblindness, their Intervenors and families welcome, as well as CDBA-BC Members.
- v. Boxes of corresponding craft supplies were shipped to each child's home
- vi. Activities included were bread people, salt dough picture holders, an ocean in a bottle, bean planting, stained glass, a summer campfire, pumpkin decorating, popcorn trees, cinnamon ornaments, snowman lights, butter and ice cream and flying saucers. We also learned many theme-related corresponding ASL signs, as well as fun songs and stories.
- vii. Offers opportunity for networking, sharing and consultation.

**e. Youth Transition Program:**

- i. Training (Adult Services/Consult) and PATHS were suspended due to the pandemic.

**f. Projects**

- i. We were fortunate to be accepted to offer 2 presentations virtually at the Texas Symposium on Deafblind Education
  - 1. 'Early Intervention Services for Children with Deafblindness and Their Families – Then and Now'.
  - 2. Supporting Children and Youth with Deafblindness Using Virtual Platforms – The Silver Linings'.
  - 3. We were also invited to create similar presentations for CDBA National.
- ii. We have a 'new and improved' website.
- iii. National Deafblind Awareness Month
  - 1. Proclamations were made provincially and in some BC communities.
  - 2. Venues and landmarks were illuminated in blue across BC.

3. Communities and two classrooms participated in Yarn-bombing.

11. **Plans and/or Goals for the Coming Year** (due to the pandemic, continued from the previous year):
- g. To continue to develop our virtual programs and supports for individuals with deafblindness, their families and Intervenors.
  - h. To continue to strategize and develop increased training opportunities for Intervenors.
  - i. To acquire funding support specific to Youth Transition.
  - j. To continue to collaborate with other organizations provincially, nationally and globally to increase awareness and improve support for individuals with deafblindness, their families and Intervenors.

1. **Name of Chapter:** Canadian Deafblind Assoc – Sask Chapter Inc
2. **Address & Contact Information:**  
110 Anderson Crescent  
Saskatoon, SK S7H 4C2  
Phone 306-374-0022  
Fax 306-374-0004
3. **Website and Email:** cdba.sk@shaw.ca
4. **Chapter Representative to CDBA**  
**National:** ALLAN MATHEIS
5. **Name of Executive Director or Senior Staff:**  
Dana Heinrichs, Executive Director
6. **Chapter of CDBA National since:** 1985
7. **Number of CDBA Members:** 12
8. **Number of Employees:**  
Full-time:18  
Part-time:13  
Relief:19
9. **Number of Freelance Contractor Interpreter/Intervenors:** 0
10. **Number of Volunteers:** 9
11. **Board of Directors Listing and Title:**  
President: Al Love  
Vice-President: Cathy Leonard  
Treasurer: Chris Gonari  
Secretary: Ezna Groenewald  
Directors: Allan Matheis, Randy Klein, Alicia Ruiz,  
Evelyn Matheis, Linda Taylor  
Interpreter/Intervenor Coordinator:  
Past President: Theo Gonari
12. **Chapter Incorporation #:** 122537640RR0001
13. **Chapter Mission:**  
**Mission Statement**  
The Canadian Deafblind Association provides Individualized programs that honor the unique needs of persons who are Deafblind, while advocating for optimal independence and quality of life that ensures dignity and respect.

### **Vision Statement**

All people who are deafblind will live rich and meaningful lives.

#### **14. Types of Programs and Services offered by the Chapter this year:**

Providing each Individual with Intervenors who mediate between the Deafblind Individual and their environment as they are served in the Residential and Day Programs.

#### **15. Plans and/or Goals for the Coming Year:**

- Strategic plan.
- Survive COVID 19, enhance home based programming.

#### **2020 – 21 in review:**

- We are currently serving 9 individuals (1 of which is a child under Child and Family Programs) and have one new admission that we are welcoming in October 2021.
- It is hard to imagine that we would still be talking about COVID 19 in 2021 but it has become an everyday way of living for us all. The changes that needed to take place to our community programs were significant to eliminate the risk of infection and the Individuals adapted every step of the way. Our Intervention team put on their creative caps and came up with new ways to engage, stimulate and entertain the Individuals and I am so very thankful for their efforts.
- One of our long-term residents went to her family home during the first 12 months of COVID and in turn have decided with her family to continue their lives living together, we will miss her terribly but trust she is happy with her parents.
- We experienced some high turnover this past year and said good-bye to some long-term staff, in turn we have welcomed some new faces to our team.
- Highlights this year were:
  - Internal agency events: carnival, scavenger hunt, taste of CDDBA, pumpkin carving and tie-dyed shirt making and a work placement program
  - Staff appreciation in March with an awesome "I survived" t-shirt and care package
  - Disability Service Professional week, acknowledged with gifts of appreciation to our Intervenors and participation in a social media campaign and a in house campaign to share strengths you admire in others and in turn your name goes in a draw.

- Deafblind Awareness – Saskatchewan declared June as D/B awareness month, matching that of other provinces. The new CNIB program was highlighted this year. Sasktel Centre was lit up in blue on June 15/21.
- Summer Student grant received.
- Committee work was completed to update our OHS policies.

- Training slowed down with the restrictions but we were able to host some small group Mandt, TLR and CPP/SP classes. We hosted 2 rounds of online sign language class and had several staff take the Food Safe program online. The Red Cross program gave us access to the PPE training program for all staff to take was a helpful tool for everyone to receive consistent training.

- Our annual golf tournament was reinstated this year with the support of MacDermid Lamarsh law firm and was held on September 1<sup>st</sup> with great success; raising around \$17,000!

## **1. Name of Chapter:** CDBA-NB, INC.

Chapter Rep: David Brown

## **2. Current Programs / Services:**

Intervenor service provide to 25 Clients as follows:

- Fredericton = 14
- Moncton = 4
- Bathurst = 3
- Saint John = 3
- PEI = 1

Intervenors

- Fredericton = 12
- Moncton = 4
- Bathurst = 3
- Saint John = 3
- PEI = 1

## **3. Registration charitable number:** 83207 5519 RR0002

## **4. Staffing Needs & Training**

- Filling of Intervenor vacancies on going
- Currently looking for new Manager of Intervention Funding sources
- Province of New Brunswick (annually)
- Various fundraising events—annual car show

## **5. Operations/Bylaw Development**

- Changes to current By-Laws recently approved at AGM held on September 23rd—final approval by CDBA-National forthcoming

## **6. Board Members**

- President—David Brown
- Vice-President—Sheila Rogers
- Treasurer—Rob Johnson
- Secretary—Beth Major
- Director—Ghita Gaudet
- Director—Renée Landry
- Director—Charles Landry
- Executive Director—Kevin Symes

## **7. Opportunities**

1. Visit Websites

<https://www.cdba-nb.ca/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/CDBANB/>

Please see following pages for detailed report of activities of CDBA-NB with messages from the President and the Executive Director.

CDBA-New Brunswick Chapter Message & Activity Report  
2020-2021 Annual Report  
**David Brown, CDBA-NB Chapter Representative**

On September 23, CDBA-NB conducted its AGM via Zoom due to the ongoing pandemic of Covid-19. We were honoured to have CDBA National's President, Carolyn Monaco and the National Executive Director, Tom McFadden sit in on the meeting. At the meeting, a special thanks was given to Renée from the National participants for her time spent on the CDBA National Board as a Director-at-Large. Also at our meeting, Sheila Rogers was presented with the Board of Directors award for her ongoing dedication to the Board.

CDBA-NB is currently struggling with the increasing Covid-19 cases. New Brunswick "had" been doing so well, but we have gone from a low number of 2 active cases in July to doubling our previous number of cases back in January to 573 since July. As of 12:00 am this morning, NB has gone into a state of emergency that includes even tougher restrictions. This along with the status of vaccinations has become a factor in how CDBA-NB proceeds with our daily activities. It would be beneficial for us to have this discussion with the other Chapters to give us some possible ideas.

Enough for the gloomy stuff. It was an honour for myself and my wife Thérèse to have the opportunity to be able to partake in some of the recent activities with our client's whale watching—which Kevin reports in the following report from him. Kevin, along with his staff should be commended in organizing these activities for our clients. It brings joy to my eyes to see the faces of the Clients.

Lastly, I want to thank Kevin and his staff and the Board of Directors for their ongoing dedication in shaping the goals of CDBA-NB.

Regards,  
David Brown  
President CDBA-NB

## ***Kevin Symes, Executive Director***

### **Chapter Mission and Mandate:**

Since 1982, the Canadian Deafblind Association-NB Inc. (CDBA-NB) has been involved in providing support and services through Intervention to individuals who are deafblind, deaf or blind with associated disabilities and their families throughout New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. CDBA-NB Inc. helps people of all ages and with a wide range of complex difficulties. As client's needs have changed, CDBA-NB Inc. has adapted to meet those needs, offering quality services that place the individual, and their family, at the heart of all that we do.

CDBA-NB Inc. is committed to assisting all persons to achieve, with Intervention, the best quality of life.

### **Board of Directors**

We are currently seeking new Board members; if you or someone you know would be interested in becoming involved, please let us know.

Chapter Representative to CDBA National—David Brown

Director at Large to CDBA National—Renée Landry

Executive Director: Kevin Symes

Renee Landry will not be reoffering her name for Director at Large at the CDBA-National AGM in September. The NB Chapter/CDBA-National will select a new representative to present to the National Board of Directors.

### **Intervention Services:**

NB/PEI Intervention Services are provided through the Department of Social Development. Hours of Intervention vary depending on the client's needs. CDBA-NB is currently servicing 26 clients with 25 Intervenors.

### **Independent Living:**

The Committee is still working on this issue. There have been many challenges, however, CDBA-NB believes that this is well worth all the effort.

### **Awareness:**

This year has been a challenge, because of all the Covid 19 restrictions. However, CDBA-NB took part in a global "Yarn Bombing" initiative. CDBA-NB wrapped a tree in front of the Legislative Build for the week of June 3rd, for Deafblind Awareness Month.

### **Work Placement Experiences and Training for Clients**

We have a number of clients who work in a variety of different job placements with their Intervenor, such as: Value Village (Saint John), Superstore (Fredericton), Sobeys (Bathurst) & SPCA (Bathurst) CDBA-NB clients also volunteer at the library, food bank, Boutique Encore & the Veterans Center.

## **Newsletter**

The staff continues to produce two newsletters a year - June and December.

## **CDBA-NB Office Staffing**

Sheena continues to work as the Administrative Support role with supports from her Intervenor, Alina. Jody Brewer is our Office Manager. Chantel Whitman is the Manager of Intervention Services and Kevin Symes is the Executive Director. If you have any concerns or questions, please let us know.

## **Staff Training:**

Intervenors usually have a Home Care or the Human Services Counsellor course plus Level 5 sign language and Level I Braille, if required by the client. Along with this training, Intervenors are strongly urged to attend CDBA sponsored workshops each year. CDBA-NB pays for CPR and CPR upgrading. Other workshops would include behaviour management, recreation activities, orientation and mobility, crisis intervention, swimming, fundraising techniques, working with families and/or group home staff, sign language, braille and deafblind technology.

## **Other Support Staff:**

Any supporting professional that the client requires is provided either by the Department of Education or Social Development. The Intervenor is expected to learn and follow through with certain programs, i.e., Orientation and mobility, occupational/physiotherapy. The Intervenor will often accompany the client/parent to medical and dental appointments. All support persons become part of the client's team.

## **Conferences/Professional Development:**

All Intervenors, clients, family members and staff are eligible to apply to attend workshops or a conference of interest, to the NB Board of Directors (following the established guidelines).

## **Funding Requests**

Submissions were made to a number of different groups for support. The names of the organizations that support CDBA-NB can be found in the Fundraising Report.

## **Camping:**

The 2020 and the 2021 Camps were cancelled due to Covid 19. We have also learned that the venue for our yearly camp is being sold and will no longer be available. We are looking at several sites to continue to offer camp when it is again allowed. We hope to have a camp ready to go for the summer of 2022.

## **Other Activities:**

To offset the loss of this year's camp, we are doing various day trips taking into consideration the Covid 19 health guidelines from the Department of Health. This year's Day Trip was to Saint Andrews, to go on a whale watching tour. CDBA-NB helps support our clients in a number of different ways. Movies, bowling, sensory garden,

swimming, gym/exercise, golf and “clubhouse” to name a few.

### **Lorna Thompson Memorial Snoezelen Room**

The Snoezelen room is closed to outside groups. We have been using the room with limited access of the CDBA-NB Intervenor and clients, following Department of Health guidelines.

### **Teaching Kitchen:**

The teaching kitchen has been put on hold due to the Covid 19 restrictions. We hope to have it back in action as soon as possible.

### **NBDEN**

CDBA-NB is a member of NBDEN. As a result of our work with NBDEN we have had an increased policy engagement, there are significant policy changes that have had extremely positive impacts on persons with a disability in New Brunswick.

### **CDBA-NB Activities**

This year, CDBA-NB has been a part of a number of outside committees. Some of these activities are as follows: ADAPT Standards Review Committee, National Deafblind Awareness Committee and monthly CDBA-National Board of Directors conference calls.

### **“Believing in Beth”**

Beth was a client with CDBA-NB 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 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 and handling, please contact the CDBA-NB office at 452-1544 or [office@cdba-nb.ca](mailto: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.*

### **Plans and/or Goals for the Coming Year:**

To continue to provide the best possible Intervention for our clients; multi-sensory room, resource center and CDBA-NB offices. We continue to meet the needs of current and future clients even with the current Covid 19 situation. Fundraising is a bit of a challenge, but we are looking at new initiatives to accomplish this.

If you would like more information on the work of CDBA-NB, please feel to contact us. I hope that you have found this report helpful.

Respectfully submitted  
Kevin Symes  
Executive Director

**CANADIAN DEAFBLIND ASSOCIATION**

**REPORT ON NOMINATIONS**

**2021-22 National Board of Directors**

**Directors-at Large with one year remaining in their 2-year term:**

**Carolyn Monaco (Ontario)**

**Leslie Comrie (British Columbia)**

**Renee Landry (New Brunswick)**

**Chapter Representatives with one year remaining in their 2-year term**

**\*J. Allan Matheis (Saskatchewan Chapter)**

**\*Wanda Schellenberg (British Columbia Chapter)**

**Chapter Representatives to be re-appointed for a 2-year term**

**\*David Brown (New Brunswick Chapter)**

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**\*Appointed by their respective Chapter Boards**

# THE CANADIAN DEAFBLIND ASSOCIATION

## NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
Carolyn Monaco	2007	present
Wylie Bystedt	2006	2007
Patrick Peterson	2004	2006
Linda Mamer	1995	2004
Stan Munroe	1988	1995
Dorothy & Gerry Brogan	1982	1988
Adrienne & Michael Caruso	1978	1982
Iris & Bob Gilchrist	1975	1978

## FOUNDING MEMBERS

Patricia Andrews  
Gerry & Dorothy Brogan  
Mike & Adrienne Caruso  
Ed & Beryl Champion  
Patricia Curtis  
John & Gail Gerwing  
Bob & Iris Gilchrist  
Carol & William Hurtick  
Zita & Frank Kato  
Stan Munroe  
Dorothy Wilcox

## LIFETIME MEMBERS

Chuck & Cherry Bulmer  
Wylie Bystedt  
Mike & Adrienne Caruso  
Patricia Curtis  
John & Gail Gerwing  
Bob & Iris Gilchrist  
Walter Gretzky  
Charles Kelliher  
Linda Mamer  
Dwain McLean  
Stan Munroe  
Lorraine Williams  
Sue Wright

# CDBA NATIONAL AWARDS

## NATIONAL CHERRY BULMER AWARD VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

This award has been named after Cherry Bulmer in recognition of the passion, enthusiasm and commitment with which she dedicated her time and effort to this organization. It is presented to a volunteer member of the organization who demonstrates that same outstanding passion, enthusiasm and commitment.

2005	Carolyn Monaco
2006	Patrick Peterson
2008	Linda Mamer & Jon van Bilsen
2009	Roger Hunter
2014	Michael Stewart Sr.
2016	J. Allan Matheis
2017	Suzanne McConnell
2018	Dwain McLean
2020	Frances Jablonca

## ANDREW LOVE MEMORIAL AWARD INTERVENOR OF THE YEAR

This award is presented by the Canadian Deafblind Association at its Annual General Meeting

1998	Lisa Bennett
1999	Barbara Daley
2002	Cherry Bulmer
2003	Joan Mactavish
2007	Jocelyn Meroniuk-Vezey
2008	Kristi Clark
2015	Sonia Bianchi
2016	Lenora Spencer
2017	Daisy Lor
2018	Jacky Mackenzie

# GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE STUDENT AWARDS

## ANDREW LOVE MEMORIAL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Presented to a graduating student of the Intervenor Program at George Brown College in Toronto who has demonstrated outstanding ability working with a child who is deafblind.

1998	Suzanne Loft
1999	Sarah Hunter
2000	Julie Cooksey
2001	Joyce Oliveira
2002	Stacey Ruigrok
2003	Julie Stuckless & Dawn Wilshire
2004	Erin Alger
2005	Kenneth Boone
2006	Sarah Giraldi
2007	Helen Sharp
2008	Stephanie MacDonald
2009	Christina Chirila
2010	Akane Usui
2011	Kim Bowers
2012	Kim Antti
2013	Kelby Belch
2014	Brittany Day
2015	Chelsea Hamilton
2016	Chloe Gosse
2017	Crystal Shiranthi
2018	Clarissa Gregorio
2019	Jemma Waito-Taylor
2020	Sara MacLean-Walsh
2021	Sarah Porter

## CDBA NATIONAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN FIELD PLACEMENT

Presented to a graduating student in the Intervenor Program at George Brown College who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in the field placement component

1998	Tina Perovic
1999	Melanie Gauthier-Perley
2000	Judy Bertrand
2001	Mary Cho
2002	Niall Brown
2003	Jacki Green
2004	Gillian Thompson
2005	Sara Hansen
2006	Meghan Peter
2007	Jessica Tymecki
2008	Lisa Jackson
2009	Sandra Owen-Peters
2010	Julie Wassink
2011	Daniella Scarcello
2012	Rebecca Blundell
2013	Heather McKinnon
2014	Stephanie Colantoni
2015	Ashleigh Whittam
2016	Lacey McMaster
2017	Bethany Simao-Alves
2018	Mayuri Thiageshwaran
2019	Aislynn Curran
2020	Carson Finkeldey
2021	Tabatha Morin