

BlindSide

Canadian Federation of the Blind (CFB) E-News



Summer, 2011

The BlindSide keeps you up-to-date on the CFB's latest events and activities.

"With proper training and opportunity, blindness is not a handicap, but a characteristic."

In this issue:

CFB IS ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER. JOIN US.

IMPORTANT DATES

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SUPPORT THE CFB

CONTACT INFORMATION

CFB is on Facebook and Twitter. Join us.

Join our Facebook Fanpage: Canadian Federation of the Blind, or follow us on Twitter: @CFBDOTCA

Important Dates

Saturday, September 10, 10:45am to 1:00pm

CFB Regular Meeting

Traveller's Inn City Centre, 1961 Douglas St, Victoria, BC

Friday, September 16, 6:00pm to 8:00pm

CFB New Office Open House

310 - 2614 Bridge Street, Victoria, BC

Saturday, September 24

Social Event

Nanaimo, BC

Wednesday, September 28, 6:00pm Pacific time

Mentoring Conference Call: "Keeping Connected: Your Role As Advocate For Yourself and Others"

Call: 1 (888) 433-2192

Participant code 681055

Read on to find out more about these events.

News

New Office

The Canadian Federation of the Blind opened its first office on July 22, 2011. The office is located at 2614 Bridge Street, in the Rock Bay area of Greater Victoria.

We are close to completing the office set up, with generous donations of computer equipment and office furniture from members and friends, and with the generous support of the Victoria Imperial Lions Club.

This is an exciting step for the organization. CFB now has a place for members to come, to mentor each other, and to do the important work of the Federation in Canada. The organization now has a place to keep resources, Braille books and technology and an official and tangible place in the community.

Please join us on Friday, September 16th, for the new office open house. We are combining the celebration with the building-wide open house happening at the same time.

When: Friday, September 16th, 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Where: 310 - 2614 Bridge Street, Victoria, BC

BC Transit Accessibility

Members of the Canadian Federation of the Blind continue to meet with BC Transit staff to address serious inaccessibility bus service issues in Victoria and other regions. We are advocating for audible announcement of bus stops and a solution to people missing their buses when waiting in multi-bus-zone stops.

CFB Blind Ventures

This September, the CFB launched a new special interest listserv for people interested in self-employment and entrepreneurship called BlindVentures.

For more information about the list and for instructions on how to subscribe, go to the [List Info page](#), or send an email to postmaster@cfb.ca with your request to join this list and include your name and email address.

To join the regular CFB listserv, please send an email to info@cfb.ca.



Photo: Liz, Harold and Elizabeth at the office

2011 AGM

The Canadian Federation of the Blind held its AGM on August 13. Congratulations to Doris Belusic, secretary; Erin Lacharity, member-at-large; and Mary Ellen Gabias, First Vice-president, who were unanimously re-elected to the CFB board. Thank you to all of our board members and membership for their hard work and tireless commitment to the Federation.

Recent CFB Activities

Fundraising Events

CFB held two successful benefit concerts on May 6 and August 19.

The May 6th concert, "Sky's the Limit," took place at St. Aidan's United Church and raised close to \$2000. This concert featured an eclectic mix of blind and sighted musical performers, including: Sky Mundell, the 20-year-old deafblind winner of the Vancouver Island's Got Talent contest and a soon-to-be competitor in the Canada's Got Talent Contest; Lucas Haneman, a blind national award winning jazz guitarist from Montreal; Karen Christensen, self-taught blind base player and singer; Kaya Fraser, one of Canada's best new singer songwriters; Kristen Birley, international choral and solo singer; Stephanie Landucci, vocal and theatrical performer; and the Vancouver Island Chambre Choir.



Photo: Lucas and Karyn at "Jazz It Up!" concert

This concert also included an auction with items donated by Queen Victoria Hotel and Suites; Pearlbrite; Cosco; Country Grocer; Butchard Gardens, Ooh La La Cupcakes, and donations from friends and members of the CFB.

The second concert on August 19, "Jazz it Up," raised \$1000 for the organization and took place at Hermann's Jazz Club in Victoria. Lucas Haneman joined us once again, this time accompanied by his folk/rock band, Robbie Sinclair & the Beggars Laughing, as part of their national CD release tour. We were also honoured to once again welcome Karyn Christensen, Kaya Fraser and Sky Mundell.

National Federation of the Blind (NFB) Convention 2011

Five CFB members, including first-timers Gail Copp, Jen Goulden and Heidi Propp, attended the 2011 National Federation of the Blind national convention this July at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando, Florida. We enjoyed this exciting adventure that fosters empowerment, independence and freedom for the blind.

Thanks to the generosity of the National Federation of the Blind, CFB hosted its first Canada table at the exhibit hall. Those of us who attended the convention took turns manning the table;

we sold CFB t-shirts and maple sugar candy, passed out CFB information and met many interesting people, including several Canadians.

Nearly 3000 people attended this year's convention from across North America and numerous countries. Highlights of the event included advocacy to eliminate the subminimum wage law in the US, which is discriminating against blind people and other people with disabilities by paying lower than minimum wages; a presentation by David Paterson, former New York governor who is blind; and the annual banquet with Dr. Maurer's excellent address, "Opportunity, Danger, and the Balance of Risk," which you can hear at the [NFB Website](#).



Photo: CFB Table at the convention

Canadian Federation of the Blind Monthly Meetings

CFB holds monthly meetings the second Saturday of each month at 10:45am at the Traveller's Inn City Centre, 1961 Douglas St, Victoria. We encourage locals to attend for camaraderie and fun, and we welcome people elsewhere in the province or the country to join by conference call. Please contact us for details.

CFB Blind Youth Leadership and Mentoring Project

CFB continues with its on-going mentoring activities. In early September, three members met in Langford on the outskirts of the city of Victoria to walk a trail called the Galloping Goose. They rode a commuter bus to practice a route in the area.

Also in early September, some members went to the grocery store and baked some excellent biscuits.

Before leaving for the NFB convention in July, some members went shopping for clothes and essentials for the trip to Orlando. They learned about the latest fashions, made optimum use of customer service and had fun trying on clothes. In June, several members walked around downtown Victoria to practice cane technique and travel skills.

On May 7, CFB held a successful "Find Your Freedom" day-long white cane workshop run by Denise Mackenstadt, NOMC, Orientation and Mobility Specialist, National Orientation and Mobility Certified instructor, Washington State.

At the workshop, Denise discussed the "Structured Discovery," or problem-solving method of travel training for blind people, which differs from the conventional, route based method of travel teaching.

Over the last year, CFB held five blind youth mentoring conference calls on employment, independent travel, Braille, cooking and the Federation. Conference calls consist of a round table discussion where people ask questions and share experiences.

CFB will hold its sixth conference call, "Keeping Connected: Your Role As Advocate For Yourself and Others," on Wednesday, September 28, 6:00pm Pacific time. People of all ages are welcome.

The Canadian Federation of the Blind sincerely thanks Coast Capital Savings for its support of the Blind Youth Mentoring Program. If you or someone you know is interested in signing up as either a mentor or a mentee, or both, please contact us (www.cfb.ca).

Support the CFB

Online Donation

Please support our cause by donating through PayPal. Visit the donation button on our CFB.ca homepage. You can also send a cheque through regular mail.

Monthly Donations

Support the CFB by giving regularly once a month.

If you are a TD Bank customer, make it easy by setting up the contribution as an automatic withdrawal from your account to the CFB account. Please contact us and we will provide you with our account information.

If you are not a TD Bank user, you can select an email money transfer from your action list and send the email to treasurer@cfb.ca where it will be deposited into our TD account. The Fee for this transfer is \$1.50.

Thrifty Foods Smile Card Program and Country Grocer

If you live in Victoria and shop at Thrifty Foods, we can send you a Smile Card to use when you are shopping. You can also shop at Country Grocer and mail us your receipts. The CFB receives 5% of all purchases at Thrifty Foods and Country Grocer.

iGive

Enjoy shopping online? Shop at a huge selection of your favourite online stores, like expedia, EBay and Amazon, through iGive.com, and support the CFB. To learn more about iGive, visit our custom link www.iGive.com/cfb

Thank you!

Contact Information

Please contact us if you have any questions or need information.

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Together we are changing what it means to be blind.