



DISABILITY
RESOURCE
DIGEST

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The Disability Resource Digest (DRD) is a special project of SMD Alliance. SMD Alliance is based in Manitoba, Canada and provides strategic vision and policy direction to four SMD corporations: SMD Clearinghouse; SMD Foundation; SMD Ventures; and SMD Services.

The vision shared among the corporations is of a community that supports the independence, participation, and empowerment of persons of all abilities. Each SMD corporation pursues a complementary mandate in working toward this vision.

The DRD is prepared primarily as an informational resource for consumers, professionals and publics interested in remaining current in disability related issues. An archive of past editions of the DRD is maintained on SMD 's web site (<http://www.smd.mb.ca>).

Published monthly (with a single summer edition for July and August), the DRD presents summaries of, and URL addresses for, notable disability-related content on the world-wide web (WWW). The DRD focuses on recently posted content but also includes coverage of other web pages of interest. The URL addresses cited in the DRD are current at the time of publication, but as content on the web is continually revised, the addresses in the DRD may not remain current.

The DRD is prepared for SMD Alliance by The Project Group (TPG) Consulting Cooperative Ltd., a Winnipeg-based consulting firm. Neither SMD nor TPG are responsible for the accuracy or reliability of the content cited in the DRD.

Readers interested in learning more about SMD Alliance are invited to visit: <http://www.smd.mb.ca> or to contact the agency by e-mail at info@smd.mb.ca. Readers are also invited to send comments and suggestions regarding the DRD to this same e-mail address.

ACCESSIBILITY

Accommodating the Disabled Customer in the Internet Age – by Brooke Dolara, Lori Adelson (*Travel Agent Central*). "Congratulations. Your travel agency has launched its new website and business is booming. The website has received rave reviews and the business is beginning to grow. But wait— a blind patron has lodged a complaint to the agency that they cannot use the website, and is discouraged that they still have to make travel plans in person or over the phone. The blind customer recommends that you make the website handicapped accessible. However, you disregard the complaint as inconsequential, and do not make any of the requested changes. Unfortunately, the blind customer is undaunted and sues the agency for discrimination under Title III of the American With Disabilities Act. Guess what? The Court agrees that the website is inaccessible, and orders your travel agency to make changes to the website, and pay the blind customers' attorneys' fees and costs."
<http://www.travelagentcentral.com/home-based/traveling-handicapped-people/accommodating-disabled-customer-internet-age>

Amazon Scoffs at Google's Offer to Share Book Search Sales – by Ryan Singel (*Wired*). "Google offered to let its rivals become resellers of the millions of books it is digitizing as part of its controversial Google Book Search project, but an Amazon executive immediately rejected the idea of becoming Google's affiliate. In the midst of a congressional hearing on competition in digital book sales, Google announced it would let anyone resell the millions of out-of-print books it has scanned from the nation's libraries. . . . Google also got powerful testimony on its behalf from Marc Maurer, the president of the National Federation of the Blind, who accused the online book industry of deliberately frustrating 1.5 million blind Americans. 'So far Google is the only company to make millions of books available to the country in ways that can be used by blind readers,' Maurer said. 'We want the right to buy books. But now opponents of this settlement would like to close this market'."
<http://www.wired.com/epicenter/2009/09/amazon-google-book-search-sales/>

Australia Enters into United Nations Disability Convention Optional Protocol – (*The GovMonitor*). "Attorney-General, Robert McClelland, and Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services, Bill Shorten, today welcomed the entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Protocol provides a mechanism for Australians to make complaints to the United Nations Disabilities Committee in the event that all domestic remedies have been exhausted. 'The entry into force of the Optional Protocol is an important milestone for people with a disability in Australia and further demonstrates the Government's leadership at an international level,' Mr McClelland said."
http://thegovmonitor.com/world_news/asia/australia-enters-into-united-nations-disability-convention-optional-protocol-5971.html

Los Angeles Public Library Suspends Purchase of Adobe Digital Editions – (*NFB*). "The Reading Rights Coalition (RRC), which consists of thirty-one organizations dedicated to equal access to the printed word by people who are blind or who have other print disabilities, announced today that the Los Angeles Public Library system has agreed to suspend purchase of inaccessible e books using the Adobe Digital Editions (ADE) format. The library was informed by the RRC that ADE e-books cannot be accessed by technologies used by the blind

and others with print disabilities, including devices that read text aloud or convert it into Braille. Dr. Marc Maurer, President of the National Federation of the Blind, said: 'The Reading Rights Coalition commends the Los Angeles Public Library for its swift and decisive action upon learning of our concerns and for its commitment to ensuring access to books by all of its patrons. Companies like Adobe have adopted digital rights management schemes which do not allow the blind and other Americans with print disabilities to access their books, even though e-books are inherently accessible and should provide an unprecedented opportunity for print-disabled Americans to access the wealth of knowledge contained in books'."

<http://www.nfb.org/nfb/NewsBot.asp?MODE=VIEW&ID=473>

Read:OutLoud Bookshare Edition Accessible Text Reader Now Available for Macintosh Users Free for U.S. Students Who Cannot Read Standard Print

– "Don Johnston Incorporated is pleased to announce the release of the Macintosh version of the Read:OutLoud Bookshare Edition accessible text reader. This text reader is now available for Windows and Macintosh users and is free for all Bookshare members. Bookshare serves tens of thousands of U.S. students who receive special education services and qualify under the 1996 Chafee Amendment. The Read:OutLoud Bookshare Edition accessible text reader provides one-click access to over 50,000 digital talking books in the Bookshare library."

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2009/09/prweb2853634.htm>

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ADVOCACY

Campbell swings Lords on assisted dying – by Sunil Peck (*DisabilityNow*). "An impassioned speech by a disabled peer in the House of Lords has thrown the issue of assisted dying into sharp relief. In July, peers rejected an amendment to the coroners and justice bill proposed by Lord Falconer, which could have allowed people to help a disabled person to travel to a country to die without the threat of prosecution. Peers voted against the amendment by 194 votes to 141. Baroness Campbell of Surbiton, the disabled peer who spoke against the amendment in the chamber, told Disability Now that she had heard conversations in the Lords and read articles in the press that assumed that the lives of disabled people who could not live without the assistance of another human being must be intolerable. She said that such talk reflected 'pretty scary times' for disabled people and wanted to secure the right for others like herself to gain more support and palliative care and live a dignified life. 'I'm not in favour of assisted dying while the culture is dominated by non-disabled people who feel they'd rather be dead than live a life where they have difficulty breathing without assistance and people take them to the toilet. What I'm trying to do is take the mystery out of severe disability'."

<http://www.disabilitynow.org.uk/latest-news2/news-focus/campbell-swings-lords-on-assisted-dying>

See Me, Hear Me - A guide to using the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to promote the rights of children (Arabic)

– "The [UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) represents the culmination of years of advocacy by the disability community in their struggle for recognition of their rights. A new guide, published by Save the Children UK and Sweden, on behalf of the Alliance, looks at how this Convention can be used to support disabled children, alongside the [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)."

<http://www.crin.org/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=20865>

Disability Advocates Call-Out Governor Schwarzenegger for Honoring Mother-In-Law... – (Reuters). "Advocates for seniors and people with disabilities spoke out against the Governor on Friday in response to statements he made in an LA Times story that ran earlier that morning and further comments he made on Twitter. 'As the Governor stepped in to stop eviction notices for the twenty disabled residents of Regency Court Apartments, his office was preparing to send out similar notices to an estimated 140,000 seniors and people with disabilities informing them of drastic cuts to their home care services,' said Laphonza Butler, Co-Trustee of SEIU-ULTCW. 'How can he explain that?'"
<http://www.reuters.com/article/pressRelease/idUS184806+18-Sep-2009+PRN20090918>

International Day of Persons with Disabilities - Thursday, 3 December 2009 – "The annual observance of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3 December, aims to promote an understanding of disability issues, the rights of persons with disabilities and gains to be derived from the integration of persons with disabilities in every aspect of the political, social, economic and cultural life of their communities. The Day provides an opportunity to mobilize action to achieve the goal of full and equal enjoyment of human rights and participation in society by persons with disabilities, established by the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1982."
<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1484>

October is...Learning Disabilities Awareness Month – (LDOnline). "Learning Disabilities Awareness Month is a time where people pay particular attention to children and adults with learning disabilities. During this month, LD OnLine asks each of you to teach one person something new about learning disabilities."
<http://www.ldonline.org/calendar/ld>

Quality of Life Anyone? – by Tim Gilmer (*NewMobility*). "I just returned from a meeting in Washington, D.C., convened by the Reeve Foundation to clarify how best to spend \$25 million, the amount Congress authorized (not yet appropriated) for quality of life for 6 million people with paralysis as part of the recently passed Paralysis Act. Mostly we discussed health promotion. So ... if we divided the pot among everyone with SCI, ALS, spina bifida, stroke, TBI, MS, PPS and other central nervous system conditions, we would each get \$4.17. Gosh. Gee. Golly. That covers one catheter. Maybe we should think of health promotion as something other than quality of life. What if we reclassified it as a defense spending item? We're defending our lives by staying healthy, aren't we? Then maybe Congress would authorize hundreds of billions for things other than outdated fighter-bombers. Then we could reclassify quality of life as having to do with less important everyday things, like what happened to me when the meeting ended and I began my trip back to Oregon."
<http://www.newmobility.com/articleView.cfm?id=11488>

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COMMENTARY

More in fear than in hope...just – (*Disability Now*). "With public spending cuts now firmly on the table from both party leaders, disabled trade union leader Gareth Davies finds himself in an unusual position as he ponders the post-election world Gareth Davies. At one time it was all so simple. Come election time, if you were in favour of cuts in public spending you voted Conservative. If you weren't you voted Labour, and if you couldn't decide either way you went Lib Dem. Not that, as a disabled trade union official, Gareth Davies's political alignment is ever much in doubt. As General Secretary of the National League of the Blind and Disabled – now integrated into Community, one of the new uber-unions, his Labour allegiance holds firm. But it's precisely because of his substantive position that he now finds himself facing a rather unusual dilemma. . . . After all, the people likely to be hardest hit by cuts to social welfare budgets are likely to be those in the constituency he represents and, of which he's part." <http://www.disabilitynow.org.uk/latest-news2/news-focus/more-in-fear-than-in-hope.just>

Sins Invalid: An unashamed look at sex, beauty and disability – (*SF Gate*). "Who is sexy? Who is sexual? Who is sexually desirable? Who is sexually vibrant? Are the people that society designates 'beautiful' really sexier or more sexual than the people who get labeled 'plain'? What about older people, heavier people? What about people with disabilities? Are these people fully sexual human beings even though they don't show up in movies, on tv, or in advertising? What happens to all of us when we write off huge sections of the population as non-sexual or sexually undesirable? These are some of the questions addressed in *Sins Invalid: An Unashamed Claim to Beauty in the Face of Invisibility*, whose fourth annual multimedia presentation is being performed this coming weekend at the Brava Theater." http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/blogs/steinberg/detail??blogid=74&entry_id=48601

Transcending Your Child's Learning Disability – by Jenifer Fox (*Huffington Post*). "In February 2001, the New York Times published a memorable article about a scientific study by a group of psychologists. The group claimed to have done an 'exhaustive' review of Winnie-the-Pooh literature and then catalogued and diagnosed a range of clinical, personality, and psychological disorders among the major characters in the Winnie-the-Pooh books. Their study, called the Pathology in the Hundred Acre Wood: A Neurodevelopmental Perspective on A. A. Milne, was one in which the authors describe the various deficiencies of each character. . . .The study was a great joke, highlighting our increasing tendency to label each other and focus on weaknesses rather than strengths. . . .The joke is in the madness of it all. We have created in real life a storybook world that is as crazy as the study done on the Hundred Acre Wood." http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jenifer-fox/transcending-your-childs_b_284934.html

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EDUCATION

Do Kids with Disabilities Strain or Strengthen Our Schools? – by Anne Newman (*Business Week*). "So what goes through your mind when you see a child with cerebral palsy using a wheelchair, an adolescent with the social short-circuiting of Aspergers, or a kid whose speech isn't as quick and facile as his peers? Few of us are as candid as my friend Dan Habib about

the prejudice he once held against kids and adults with disabilities. 'When I saw people who couldn't walk or talk ... It's painful to admit, but I often saw them as less smart, less capable, and not worth getting to know.' That was a lifetime ago. Specifically, the life of Dan's son, Samuel, a fourth grader with cerebral palsy whose odysseys and those of four others with disabilities are chronicled in Dan's award-winning documentary, *Including Samuel*. The film chronicles the efforts of Dan, his wife, Betsy, and their older son, Isaiah, to involve Samuel in every part of their lives and in the public schools in their hometown of Concord, N.H."

http://www.businessweek.com/careers/workingparents/blog/archives/2009/09/kids_with_disab.html

Four things to double-check on written IEPs – by L. Mae Wilkinson (*Examiner*). "Because IEPs are ultimately a very human process, mistakes are bound to happen. Despite a few horror stories about lazy case workers and perfidious administrators, most IEP irregularities result from ineffective note-taking or simple oversight. The best way to avoid mistakes on the written version of an IEP is to have a friend or family member attend the planning meeting to take notes, or better yet, to tape the session. But, even with proper meeting documentation in place, parents should always double-check the written version of the IEP for accuracy and clarity. Once an IEP meeting is over, parents may simply file away the written version, thinking that the effort has been completed. But a careful reading is a must-do to eliminate the possibility of any misunderstandings later."

<http://www.examiner.com/x-22250-Autism--Education~y2009m9d7-Dont-forget-to-doublecheck-these-four-things-on-written-IEPs>

Unis' woeful showing in disability test – by Cathy Reay (*DisabilityNow*). "Disabled students in the UK are being penalised when choosing a university, according to an undercover investigation. A guidebook published last month by a group of disabled students revealed that one in four universities do not have room for hired carers, forcing disabled students to live at home. Titled *University Challenge*, the guidebook also found that one in ten disabled university students entering university this year will not have accessible accommodation, 30 per cent of inter-campus transport is inaccessible and only just over half university teaching rooms, study halls and libraries are accessible to disabled students. The report's results highlight the fact that non-disabled people are twice as likely than disabled people to have studied at university."

<http://www.disabilitynow.org.uk/latest-news2/news-focus/unis-woeful-showing-in-disability-test>

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EMPLOYMENT

Campaign for Disability Employment launched – (*News Medical*). "Unprecedented 'What Can YOU Do?' Initiative Calls on Employers and Others to Improve the Disability Employment Landscape. Last evening at the U.S. Business Leadership Network's (USBLN) Annual Conference and National Career Fair, several leading disability organizations launched the Campaign for Disability Employment, a new collaborative effort to promote positive employment outcomes for people with disabilities. Announcement of the nationwide campaign - built around the theme 'What Can YOU Do?' - came during the conference's keynote speech by Robert David Hall, actor and disability rights advocate. Every day, people with disabilities can and do add value to America's workplaces. However, in both good economic times and

bad, people with disabilities have far fewer job opportunities than the general population. The Campaign for Disability Employment's goal is to promote the hiring, retention and advancement of people with disabilities and dispel negative stereotypes about disability and employment."

<http://www.news-medical.net/news/20090919/Campaign-for-Disability-Employment-launched.aspx>

Personal Assistance Services in the Workplace – (*Worksupport.com*). "This free online seminar gives you an overview of Workplace Personal Assistance Services (WPAS). The background and history of this workplace support is covered; as well as the role of the the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in Workplace Personal Assistance Services. Many aspects of WPAS are examined such as: assistive technology, self-employment, funding, and employers' perspectives. This complimentary course is beneficial to individuals with disabilities, employers, and community rehabilitation providers. [Begin this Free Online Seminar](#)"

http://www.worksupport.com/training/webcourses/pas_course.cfm

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GOVERNMENT

CANADA

Disability supplement must be flexible: advocate – (*CBC*). "The New Brunswick government should be more flexible when it comes to handing out disability supplements after a man was cut off for earning \$1.70 too much, according to an advocate for the poor. The rules governing disability supplements flared up when a Moncton man with multiple sclerosis came forward with his situation where he lost his annual \$1,000 cheque because his federal disability pension put him over the limit."

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/new-brunswick/story/2009/09/22/nb-moncton-disability-supplement-1116.html>

Exciting news: Bill to create national housing plan passes second reading in House of Commons today – "Bill C-304, An Act to ensure secure, adequate, accessible and affordable housing for Canadians, just passed second reading in the House of Commons on Wednesday afternoon and is going to committee for review and possible amendment. This is exciting news – and credit both to MP Libby Davies, who sponsored the legislation, and the many housing advocates who have worked hard over the years to bring this critically important legislation forward."

<http://wellesleyinstitute.com/exciting-news-bill-create-national-housing-plan-passes-second-reading-house-commons-today>

Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) Caseload Change – The Recession Relief Coalition, which 'collects data and stories in coordination with community organizations to track the real and often hidden impact of the recession on all Canadians' as well as proposes . . . policy, . . . mobilizes community support . . . produces public education materials . . . and sponsors [community] events,' has posted on their site a chart documenting 'Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) Caseload Change.'

<http://www.recession-relief-coalition.org/resources/odsp%20graph%20of%20casesloads%20to%20july2009.pdf>

RDSP and Provincial and Territorial Benefits – "All provinces and territories have announced a partial or full exemption of Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) assets and income." The HRSDC website lists all the provincial decisions regarding the exemption.

http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/disability_issues/disability_savings/rdsp_ptb.shtml

US

National Disability Employment Awareness Month, 2009 – by The President Of The United States Of America . . . A Proclamation "Fair access to employment is a fundamental right of every American, including the 54 million people in this country living with disabilities. A job can provide financial stability, help maximize our potential, and allow us to achieve our dreams. As Americans, we possess a range of vocational opportunities to make the most of our talents and succeed in a chosen career; those with disabilities are entitled to the same opportunities. During National Disability Employment Awareness Month, we recommit ourselves to implementing effective policies and practices that increase employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. In the past half-century, we have made great strides toward providing equal employment opportunities in America, but much work remains to be done. As part of that continuing effort, we must seek to provide opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Only then can Americans with disabilities achieve full participation in the workforce and reach the height of their ambition."

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Presidential-Proclamation-National-Disability-Employment-Awareness-Month/

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HEALTH/WELLNESS

CNIB applauds Alberta government approval of new treatment for leading cause of vision loss – (*Crib*). "CNIB congratulates the Alberta government for the recent decision to include Lucentis, a groundbreaking treatment for wet age-related macular degeneration (AMD), under the provincial drug benefit list. The decision means Lucentis is now covered by provincial supplemental health plans. Wet AMD is an eye condition that causes severe and rapid loss of central vision. It currently affects 100,000 people in Canada, and every week 60 more Canadians lose their sight because of the disease."

http://www.cnib.ca/en/news/archive/20091005-lucentis_alberta.aspx

National Council on Disability Calls for Health Care Reform for People with Disabilities – (*RehabManagement*). "The National Council on Disability (NCD), Washington, has released a report titled *The Current State of Health Care for People with Disabilities*, calling for immediate health care reform for people with disabilities, says a statement issued by the organization. NCD Chairman John R. Vaughn said that NCD 'undertook this study in 2007 to focus the nation's attention on the health care disparities experienced by people with disabilities, and to provide information and recommendations that can help to eliminate health care inequities for people with disabilities.' The report provides a road map for helping to eliminate pervasive

barriers to health care for people with disabilities, aiming to improve the quality of life, productivity, and well-being of greater numbers of Americans as the population ages."
http://www.rehabpub.com/news/2009-10-06_01.asp

People with disabilities left out of health care debate – by Mike Ervin (*Progressive*). "There is one huge constituency being left out of the health care discussion: Americans with disabilities. Many Americans who require the daily assistance of others to live in our homes and communities must turn to Medicaid for help covering the cost of that care. But first we usually have to impoverish ourselves just to become eligible. Then we may well find that Medicaid will pay for the assistance we need only if we enter a nursing home. Medicaid rules require states to pay for nursing home care but not for more humane community alternatives. This monumental injustice in our health care system has cost millions of Americans with disabilities their life savings, their independence and even their lives. But none of the health care proposals on the table adequately address this unfair bias toward institutions and nursing homes in Medicaid rules."
<http://www.progressive.org/mpervin091809.html>

Persistent pain accelerates aging – by Kathleen Blanchard RN (*EmaxHealth*). "Middle age adults with persistent pain experience disability comparable to 80 to 89 year olds who do not experience pain, according to new study results. The research is the first to examine the effects of persistent pain and age related disability. Dr. Kenneth Covinsky of the Division of Geriatrics at University of California, San Francisco led the study. 'We found that the abilities of those aged 50 to 59 with pain were far more comparable to subjects aged 80 to 89 without pain, of whom 4% were able to jog 1 mile and 55% were able to walk several blocks, making pain sufferers appear 20 to 30 years older than non-pain sufferers.' Disability in midlife from chronic pain worsens with age. For the current study, researchers examined data related to disability from 18,531 participants in the 2004 Health and Retirement Study. Four areas were looked at: mobility; stair climbing, upper extremity tasks, and, activities of daily living such as dressing, bathing and grooming with or without help. The study found that adults, age 50 and older with persistent pain also had more risk for functional limitations normally associated with more advanced aged."
<http://www.emaxhealth.com/1020/8/33636/persistent-pain-accelerates-aging.html>

Swine Flu Poses Greater Risk To Children With Disabilities, Report Indicates – by Michelle Diamant (*Disability Scoop*). "At least 36 children died from swine flu in the United States as of Aug. 8, most of whom had an underlying illness or developmental disability, according to a report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Now, doctors are warning that extra attention must be given to children with special needs who present with flu-like symptoms. Of the 36 children ages 2 months to 17 years who have died, two-thirds had a chronic illness or developmental disability such as cerebral palsy, developmental delay, muscular dystrophy, respiratory troubles or cardiac problems."
<http://www.disabilityscoop.com/2009/09/04/swine-flu-children/4826/>

Those opposed to universal health care are being selfish – by Heidi Moyer (*KansasCity*). "The brief obituary appeared in a Saturday paper last fall. A former client of mine, I'll call her Mary, had died. Mary lived for many years with the tragic and difficult-to-treat combination of mental illness and diabetes. I represented Mary in a claim for Social Security disability

benefits, and it was an uphill battle. To qualify for benefits, a claimant has to show that her condition is disabling even if she is compliant with her medical treatment. Unfortunately, compliance was never Mary's strong suit. The symptoms of depression made it difficult for Mary to attend to her diabetes, and her personality disorder made it difficult for medical providers to tolerate her. . . .She tested my patience on a number of occasions. But she was very sick, and she needed medical treatment even if some of her problems were of her own making."

<http://www.kansascity.com/273/story/1454995.html>

Town Hall Hecklers Shout Down Woman Who Calls For Compassion On Health Care – by Dave Reynolds (*Inclusion Daily Express*). "Marianne Hoynes read a prepared statement from her wheelchair during a town hall meeting last week, urging her Congressman to support health care reform. What made national news, however, wasn't her message, but the noise from those in the crowd who tried to drown out her voice. 'This country is a completely different place to live in when you get sick,' she read into a microphone. Hoynes, who said she has two incurable auto-immune diseases, implored Democratic Representative Frank Pallone to consider our fellow Americans that do not have health care coverage. 'I worked hard my whole life and my house is bought and paid for,' Hoynes explained. And, even though she has Medicare, 'the copay for one of my medications is \$389 every two weeks. And I'm afraid I won't be able to afford my property taxes and I'll lose my home.' 'Please hear this voice of the disabled. Don't let the insurance lobby win this fight.' 'We all need reasonable health care coverage to be a basic human right, not a privilege.' Throughout her statement, opponents of health care reform are heard loudly laughing, booing and yelling at her. One of the loudest hecklers later told a reporter, 'I don't know how a handicapped woman in a chair has more rights than I do'."

<http://www.inclusiondaily.com/news/2009/09/03/090309njhealthadv.htm>

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LEGAL

Call for law to improve websites for disabled – "European information commissioner Viviane Reding has proposed a pan-European law that would ensure website accessibility for disabled people. Reding said in a [speech on Thursday](#) that a potential 'European Disability Act' should ensure European approaches to [e-accessibility](#) are not fragmented."

<http://news.zdnet.co.uk/internet/0,1000000097,39785385,00.htm>

Defining "Disability" under the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 – (24-7 Press Release). "The Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) provides legal protections for workers with disabilities. However, since the passage of the law nearly 20 years ago, a series of court decisions has made it increasingly difficult for those with disabilities to qualify for the law's protections. To remedy this problem, Congress recently passed important changes to the ADA. Congress broadened the scope of who is protected and the type of disabilities that qualify for protection under the federal law. The ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA) went into effect on January 1, 2009."

<http://www.24-7pressrelease.com/press-release/defining-disability-under-the-ada-amendments-act-of-2008-116055.php>

Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) – (*isthatlegal.com*). "Ontario social assistance law consists of two main pieces of legislation: the Ontario Works Act, 1997 and the Ontario Disability Support Program Act, 1997. The two programs are very similar in structure, with the main difference being the obvious ODSP requirement of medical disability ('person with a disability'). They also differ by which level of government administers them, the amount of financial aid provided and the levels of income and assets allowed before ineligibility occurs." Information on this site is provided by a lawyer, who states 'Online Law is a new concept in the delivery of legal services. It offers self-litigants like you a convenient and low-cost way to benefit from my 15 years as a practicing lawyer' (cited in [Canadian Social Research Links](#)) http://www.isthatlegal.ca/index.php?name=overview.odsp_law

Pilkington verdict: communication failure major factor – by Paul Carter (*DisabilityNow*). "Failings of police and two local authorities were a major contributing factor to the deaths of Fiona Pilkington and her disabled daughter Francecca, an inquest jury has ruled. The jury returned a verdict of suicide against Mrs Pilkington and ruled that Francecca, known as Frankie, was unlawfully killed. The inquest heard that, as previously reported in Disability Now, the family had been subjected to years of abuse and harassment from a gang of local youths in Barwell, Leicestershire, eventually leading Mrs Pilkington to set alight the family car in October 2007 with herself and her daughter inside. . . . Disability charity Scope said that the case highlights the need for such incidences to be identified and treated as disability hate crimes. Ruth Scott, Director of Policy and Campaigns said: 'Disabled people continue to find it difficult to access services, including those provided by the police and local authorities. This remains a huge barrier to addressing hate crime. Those that do report these crimes often find they are not taken seriously'." <http://www.disabilitynow.org.uk/latest-news2/pilkington-verdict-communication-failure-major-factor>

Sears pays \$6.2 million to settle bias case – (*Business Week*). "Sears Holdings Corp. has agreed to pay a record \$6.2 million to settle allegations that it illegally fired disabled employees. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission says the settlement is the largest it has reached in a single case under the Americans With Disabilities Act." <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9B15PG00.htm>

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MEDIA

New Album by Psychiatric Survivor Activist – (*MindFreedom*). "'Take Refuge,' Leah Harris' debut spoken word album, is flavored with eclectic Middle Eastern, hip-hop, rock, go-go, reggae, and jazz influences. The album poignantly chronicles her legacy as the daughter of two people labeled with 'severe mental illness,' both of whom died very young as a result of toxic treatments and shattered dreams, leaving her an orphan at the age of 30, as well as her own psychiatrized girlhood and adolescence. Pieces such as 'Teenage Mental Patient,' 'dear dr.,' 'Superhero Momma,' and 'Revenge of the Crazy Wimmin' reflect her personal journey of liberation from psychiatric oppression, and her experiences as an artist, activist, and single mother. 'Article 12' refers to one of the articles in the UN Disability Convention; 'Her Name was Esmin' is a tribute to Esmin Green, who was murdered-by-neglect in Kings' County

Hospital in 2008. It is an album filled with righteous rage, but it also brims over with faith in the possibility that a more just, humane, and peaceful world is within our grasp."

<http://www.mindfreedom.org/kb/mental-health-arts/mad-arts-news/take-refuge-press-release>

New Documentary (Sex)abled: Disability Uncensored – by Cory Silverberg. "Over on SexSmartFilms.com they've got a fabulous short documentary on sex and disability called *(Sex)abled: Disability Uncensored*. The documentary used as its starting point a panel series called 'Are Cripples Screwed?' put on by the University of California Berkeley's Disabled Students Union. It's a great mix of voices and perspectives, smart, funny, and sexy. The documentary is also free to view, making it a wonderfully accessible resource for teachers, workshop facilitators, and anyone looking to start off a personal conversation or group discussion of sex and disability (so it doubles as homework and a pick-up line 'have you seen the new documentary "(Sex)abled"?')."

<http://sexuality.about.com/b/2009/09/14/new-documentary-sexabled-disability-uncensored.htm>

Storm over TV show punt – by Cathy Reay (*DisabilityNow*). "Disabled personalities and the United Kingdom Disabled People's Council (UKDPC) have spoken out after an independent production company suggested creating a television programme in which non-disabled celebrities have to live with fake disabilities. The suggestion was made in an email from the production company to UKDPC which has been seen by Disability Now. The company said it was 'developing a programme in which celebrities have to live like people with various disabilities'. The email went on to ask, 'if there are disabilities we could artificially create for a week for them to get a small glimpse of what life is like'. James Beddard (pictured), actor, director and playwright, said: 'The idea that inheriting an impairment for a week will give an insight into living with a disability is at best, ridiculous, and at worst incredibly offensive. Perhaps, I should 'black up' or put a couple of balloons on my chest to get an idea of being black or a woman. The concept that we are defined by our disability perpetuates the myths and discriminations that continue to marginalise us'."

<http://www.disabilitynow.org.uk/latest-news2/storm-over-tv-show-punt>

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MEDICAL

Neuroscientists Aim to Get People Who Are Paralyzed Walking Again – (*Rehab Management*). "Neuroscience researchers at the University of Louisville, Louisville, Ky, will be the only team collaborating with an international group of scientists who last week announced they had enabled paralyzed rats to walk while supporting their own weight, says a statement released by the university. Susan Harkema, PhD, UofL's Owsley Brown Frazier chair in neurological rehabilitation, rehabilitation director at the university's Kentucky Spinal Cord Injury Research Center (KSCIRC), and the director of research at Frazier Rehab Institute, is evaluating how to translate into humans the success accomplished in the animals."

http://www.rehabpub.com/news/2009-10-07_02.asp

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POLICY/RESEARCH

2m Australians living with multiple disabilities: study – by Stuart Rintoul (*The Australian*). "An estimated 10 per cent of Australians, or two million people, suffered from two or more disabilities, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. While the institute's report includes the infirmities of old age, it found that half of all children aged under 15 years with psychiatric disability (42,300) or acquired brain injury (11,500) had three or more disabilities, followed by over one-third of children with sensory-speech (48,100) or intellectual disability (55,100). More than half of people aged 15 to 44 with acquired brain injury (more than 85,000 people) or intellectual disability (over 95,000 people) had three or more disabilities."

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,26048368-23289,00.html>

Australasian Journal of ArtsHealth – "The Australasian Journal of ArtsHealth (AJAH) is a new, international, blind-peer-reviewed electronic journal providing an outlet for researchers and practitioners working in the broad areas arts and health. The journal will include:

- Full research and/or theoretical papers (5000 to 8000 words)
- Brief reports and work in progress (up to 3000 words)
- Practitioner reports reflecting innovative practices. (3000 to 5000 words)
- Book reviews (up to 800 words)"

Download the Australasian Journal of Arts Health - [Issue 1 2009 \(PDF, 1.8MB\)](#)

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research-centre/artshealth/journal/>

Comment of the Ontario Human Rights Commission on Every Door is the Right Door: Towards a 10-Year Mental Health and Addictions Strategy - Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

– (OHRC). "The Ontario Human Rights Commission, (the 'Commission') commends the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care ('Ministry') for its work on an improved strategy to meet the needs of Ontarians with mental illnesses and addictions. The Commission is pleased to provide its input on this discussion paper, particularly with respect to the sections on Stigma and Healthy Communities. These sections provide a good starting point to begin discussing discrimination and human rights."

<http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/resources/submissions/mohltc>

Disability and inclusion: Changing attitudes-changing policy

– by Debra Mayer (Action Web). "This chapter appears in the recently published *Beyond Child's Play: Caring for and educating young children in Canada Our Schools/ Our Selves*, Spring 2009 (vol. 18, no. 3, #95) published by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Ottawa."

http://action.web.ca/home/crru/rsrsrcs_crru_full.shtml?x=127155&AA_EX_Session=ced4f5dce35e8930b322b38b4e17c776

Disability that's hard to articulate: ID – by Michael Nugent (*The Australian*). "Telling someone where you work is a conversation starter for most people. Not for me. I work in institutions or outpatient clinics caring for the health of people with intellectual disabilities (ID). 'How awful!' is a typical response. 'That must be terribly sad.' Society generally does not want to know about people with ID: that they are 58 times more likely to die before they turn 50; that their average life span is 20 years less than that of the general population. As recently as the 1960s, people with ID were lumped together with those who had severe psychiatric illnesses

and housed in insane asylums. Little distinction was made between their needs and those of the more able group. Official medical and nursing documentation classified people with ID as idiots, imbeciles or morons, depending on their level of disability. While the pejorative terminology is gone, and more appropriate care facilities have been found for many, we still have a long way to go to bridge the gross inequality in health outcomes that still exists for people with ID."

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,26026571-23289,00.html>

First National Study On Crime Against Persons With Disabilities – "The first national [US] study on crime against persons with disabilities was released today by the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), Office of Justice Programs. In 2007 persons age 12 or older with disabilities experienced about 716,000 nonfatal violent crimes, including rape or sexual assault (47,000), robbery (79,000), aggravated assaults (114,000) and simple assaults (476,000). They also experienced about 2.3 million property crimes during the year. Based on interviews for the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), the study identified six types of disabilities among persons who experienced criminal victimization: sensory, physical, cognitive functioning, self-care, go-outside-the-home and employment. A disability was defined as a long-standing (six months or more) sensory, physical, mental or emotional condition that makes it difficult for a person to perform daily living activities."

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/press/capd07pr.htm>

How Canada Performs: A Report Card on Canada – "This website—How Canada Performs: A Report Card on Canada—assesses Canada's quality of life compared with that of its peer countries. We publish an overall report card as well as individual ones that measure performances in six categories: [Economy](#), [Innovation](#), [Environment](#), [Education and Skills](#), [Health](#), and [Society](#). We release the report cards for each category individually throughout the year."

<http://www.conferenceboard.ca/HCP/>

Disabled Income gets in A – (*Conference Board*). "The Conference Board's goal is to measure quality of life for all Canadians. Self-sufficiency, which is promoted by ensuring active participation by all people in a country's economy and its society, is an important element of this. Two indicators reflect self-sufficiency: '[jobless youth](#)' and disabled income. The disabled income indicator examines the income of people with disabilities relative to those without disabilities in each of the peer countries.

- Canada earns an 'A' grade and ranks 8th out of 16 peer countries.
- Canada relies more on labour market integration of people with disabilities than on income transfers.
- The employment rate of people with disabilities is lower in Canada than in 8 of the 16 peer countries."

<http://www.conferenceboard.ca/HCP/Details/society/disabled-income.aspx>

The Millennium Development Goals and Disability – "The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) established a unifying set of developmental objectives for the global community. Bringing together United Nations agencies, governments and civil society around eight key development issues, the MDGs foster collaborative action to reduce poverty, improve health and address educational and environmental concerns around the world's most pressing

development problems. The MDGs are specifically designed to address the needs of the world's poorest citizens and the world's most marginalized populations."

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1470>

National mental health and disability employment strategy – (*Australian Policy Online*). "The number and type of disabilities a person has is highly related to the severity of disability and need for assistance. This report examines the severity of disability and complex support needs of people with multiple disabilities in Australia. The analysis examines people with multiple disabilities in different age groups: children (0-14 years), people of working age (15-64 years) and older people (aged 65 years or over)."

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10788>

New monthly data series on the employment status of people with a disability – "In June 2008, questions were added to the [US] Current Population Survey (CPS) to identify persons with a disability in the civilian noninstitutional population age 16 and older. The addition of these questions allowed BLS to begin releasing monthly labor force data from the CPS for persons with a disability. The collection of these data is sponsored by the Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy. Publication of CPS disability data began in February 2009 with the issuance of labor force data for January 2009. Explanatory materials are available on the frequently asked questions page. These materials provide information on comparisons with other data sources, variability of the data, and the types of data available. Additionally, links to historical data and alternate formats are located below. In September 2009, the unemployment rate of persons with a disability was 16.2 percent, compared with 9.2 percent for persons with no disability, not seasonally adjusted. The employment-population ratio for persons with a disability was 18.4 percent, compared with 64.1 percent for persons with no disability."

<http://www.bls.gov/cps/cpsdisability.htm>

Seeking input for research: Breastfeeding Support for Physically Disabled Women – (*CWHN*). "I am compiling some research regarding the help and support (or lack thereof) for breastfeeding moms with physical disabilities. Ideally, I would love to connect with mothers who have experienced breastfeeding or who are presently breastfeeding. My ultimate goal is to produce a guide or booklet with resources and practical tips for these mothers."

<http://www.cwhn.ca/en/node/41751>

Webcast 19 - Policy Implications for Disability and Rehabilitation Research Quality – (*NCDDR*). "The NCDDR hosted a webcast on September 17, 2009 for NIDRR grantees and other individuals interested in the impacts of current and future federal policy directives upon the quality of disability and rehabilitation research. Panelists included high-level representatives from federal disability-related agencies and disability organizations. Panelists addressed policy issues impacting disability and rehabilitation research, particularly in light of the current economic climate and the new administration. They also explored their perceptions about how policy affects the quality of research and discussed their visions and goals for the

future of the disability and rehabilitation field. NIDRR grantees volunteered to serve as respondents. The moderator was Dr. John Westbrook."

<http://www.ncddr.org/webcasts/webcast19.html>

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REHABILITATION

DENIED, A Short Guide to "Appropriate" Mobility for People with Disabilities – "DENIED is a photographic essay about Complex Rehab Technology by Mark Sullivan, VP of Rehab for the Invacare Corporation. It is written to inform those involved in shaping the future of people with disabilities regarding access to new wheelchair technology. In addition to informing it is specifically intended to make a case for reversing the 'In the Home' restriction that hampers community access and the development of better wheelchair technology for people with disabilities. DENIED is intended to be a visual and written guide to appropriate technology for people with disabilities. DENIED gets off to an immediate start with a beautifully written foreward by Marilyn Hamilton and continues to inform and awaken the visual senses throughout. Please enjoy."

<http://www.blurb.com/bookstore/detail/869705>

<http://www.spinalcord.org/news.php?dep=1&page=6&list=2364>

The brain that changes itself – by Norman Doidge, Caroline Baum (*Australian Policy Online*).

"The cliché that you can't teach an old dog new tricks may soon be obsolete. The more we learn about the human brain, the more we understand the potential that it has to change, adapt and grow. Traditionally the brain was seen as being like a machine, its neural pathways set in stone from childhood. But new studies have shown that the brain can be trained to recover from strokes or paralysis, lifelong habits can be broken, and aging brains be rejuvenated. Through new experiences and brain exercises we can alter our brain's anatomy to improve cognition, perception, memory and intelligence. In this enlightening session at the Sydney Writers Festival, Norman Doidge talks about the remarkable plasticity of the brain, and shares some examples of how we can open it up to new realms of possibilities."

<http://www.apo.org.au/video/brain-changes-itself>

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SPORTS & RECREATION

Equipment and Tools that Make Traveling with a Disability Easy – (*Miusa*). "Experienced travelers with physical disabilities know there are a lot of tools and portable adaptive equipment that can make international travel easier."

<http://www.miusa.org/ncde/tipsheets/tools/>

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TECHNOLOGY

Getting Back the Gift of Gab: Next-Gen Handheld Computers Allow the Mute to Converse

By Larry Greenemeier (*Scientific American*). "The latest assistive communication devices are here, and they work a bit like your iPhone Justin Birch lost his ability to speak in 2003 as the

result of a brain aneurysm, but these days he is such a facile conversationalist he can ask for his favorite dinner—Ruby Tuesday Minis with fries and a raspberry iced tea—as well as harass his opponents after he defeats them at Texas Hold 'em. Of course, Birch, who turns 34 this week, is a polite resident of Cape Coral, Fla., who would never intentionally annoy anyone, but it is nice to have the same speech options as those who can speak on their own. Birch (who can walk with the aid of a cane) achieves this via an assistive communication device that allows him to tap out messages on a touch screen using a stylus. After his messages are composed, the portable pad uses special software to announce his thoughts in a simulated tones that sound similar to Justin's own pre-aneurysmal voice."

<http://www.ethiopianreview.com/scitech/6625>

New Hand Controls Allow the Disabled to Fly – by Jason Paur (*Wired*). "Flying an airplane, like driving a car, requires using your hands and your feet. While cars can be modified so the disabled can drive, there have been few options for people who can't use their legs but still wish to fly. Scott Johnson wants to change that. Most people are familiar with the stick or yoke used to make the airplane pitch up and down or bank left and right. But airplanes also have two pedals that direct the rudder, which is critical in controlling the aircraft in turns or a tricky crosswind. The Minneapolis flight instructor said he'd received phone calls from people who dreamed of becoming pilots but were told they couldn't because of their disability, so he decided to find a way to open the sky to them. 'It's fun to teach somebody to fly' Johnson told *Wired.com*. 'But when you take somebody who's been told no over and over again and then find a way to do it, that's the most amazing feeling.' There have been a few pilots with disabilities who have been issued a pilot's license from the FAA. Just this year Jessica Cox made headlines when she earned her license despite being born without arms. Cox and some others fly an Ercoupe, a design from the 1940s that eliminates rudder pedals by connecting the rudder to the yoke."

<http://www.wired.com/autopia/2009/08/hand-control-airplanes/>

New Products for the Disabled – by Damian Joseph (*Business Week*). "Creating products for the disabled is a true test of design skill. It takes empathy, ingenuity, and tons of research. Progress might seem slow. The wheelchair, for instance, dates to the mid-1550s, when one was made for Spain's King Philip II. But inventors are improving on earlier equipment and coming up with new devices. Here are some of the latest products to lend a helping hand."

http://images.businessweek.com/ss/09/09/0924_in_disabilities/index.htm

Remote control – by Louise Hunt (*Guardian*). "Gavin Croft is best known for spending part of his personal budget for care and support on Rochdale FC season tickets for himself and a friend to accompany him to the games. Sceptics feared that such maverick use of public funds would discredit the emerging personal budget system, but few realised that Croft was a former social worker who knew how to exercise his care choices wisely. The season tickets turned out to be a highly cost-effective form of respite care. And Croft, who has multiple sclerosis and a degenerative eye condition, also uses his care budget to pay for a telecare service, which in his case comprises a sophisticated suite of sensors that remotely monitors his activity at home in Oldham."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/careandsupportreform/remote-control>

tagin! 0.5.2b has been released. – "tagin! is a WiFi-based point-of-interest (POI) service that allows users to tag outdoor and indoor locations."

<http://scyp.atrc.utoronto.ca/tagin>

Talking TV technology to bridge the disability divide – by Philip Wong (*Cnet*). "There are less fortunate people in the world unable to enjoy the brilliant sights and sounds offered by the latest home A/V technologies. Fortunately, help is on the way in the form of a new 'Talking TV' technology tailored for the visual and hearing impaired, dyslexic, and elderly. Co-developed by Ocean Blue Software and the U.K.'s Royal National Institute of Blind People, the world's first talking digital TV system offers enhanced information accessibility and ease of use via two complementary approaches. Currently implemented in a set-top box, the system delivers onscreen text-to-speech capability with multiple language support, plus a customizable user interface. The latter includes high-contrast color schemes, adjustable font sizes, and comprehensive help functions for improved legibility. More importantly, the software behind this new technology is said to be compatible with other consumer products."

http://news.cnet.com/8301-17938_105-10323442-1.html

What is Proloquo2Go? – "Proloquo2Go is a new product from AssistiveWare that provides a full-featured communication solution for people who have difficulty speaking. It brings natural sounding text-to-speech voices, up-to-date symbols, powerful automatic conjugations, a default vocabulary of over 7000 items, full expandability and extreme ease of use to the iPhone and iPod touch."

<http://www.proloquo2go.com/About/article/what-is-proloquo2go>

Why Does Facebook Matter? – by Jean Dobbs (*NewMobility*). "I remember feeling a surge of hope when I read last year that social networking sites had surpassed porn in terms of Internet traffic. Good news, I thought — maybe we aren't doomed to the hedonistic demise predicted by cultural historians. Perhaps this increasingly seductive technology could even deliver us to a finer place: a world with more genuine human connection. . . What does all this mean for people with disabilities? A lot: Every connection represents an opportunity to break stereotypes, exchange support and reduce isolation. Facebook also offers a free method of publicizing helpful disability organizations, books, products — and the people behind them. Advocates view it as a powerful tool for social change. Throw in the fact that it's just plain fun, and suddenly you have a lively, integrated community that's been hard to achieve in the physical world."

<http://www.newmobility.com/articleView.cfm?id=11499>

You'll believe a computer can read – by Jack Schofield (*Guardian*). "EyesFree, a new interface for Google's Android mobile phone operating system, provides a perfect illustration of what today's 'assistive technology' researchers are looking for. It provides a way for blind people to use a phone with a touch-sensitive screen, but the corollary is that it also provides sighted people with an easier way to use the phone. In fact, they can make calls without even looking at it. The idea behind EyesFree is that wherever you put your finger on the touchscreen represents the number 5. If you want 1, you move your finger up and to the left, and if you want 8 then you move it straight down, and so on. In alpha mode, your finger is surrounded by

letters instead. You get spoken feedback for each selection, and if you pick the wrong number or letter, you can delete it by shaking the phone."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/technology/2009/sep/23/gadgets-people-disabilities-phones>

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CONFERENCES

(🌟 New Conferences)

CANADA

15th Annual Canadian Association for Supported Employment (CASE) Conference –

November 11-13, 2009 | Moncton, New Brunswick. "CASE is proud to co-host this event in partnership with the New Brunswick Association for Supported Services and Employment Inc. The CASE conference attracts leaders in the field year after year, and is highly valued as a high quality networking and professional development event.

Conference Highlights

- International Speaker Sean Wiltshire opens the conference
- Former and present Members of Parliament, and past president of Canadian Chamber of Commerce, join us as conference keynote speakers
- Longer networking breaks as requested
- Increased focus on policy and employer involvement
- Superb made-in-New-Brunswick talent and entertainment to delight
- Over 400 YEARS of collective experience in Supported Employment offered by workshop presenters! For more information, check out the [Conference Brochure](#) (949KB [PDF](#))"

<http://supportedemployment.ca/en/conference/>

26th International Seating Symposium – March 10-13, 2010 | Vancouver, British Columbia.

"This international symposium addresses current and future developments in the areas of seating, positioning and mobility. Topic areas include service delivery, product development, research and evaluation. The format for the symposium will include plenary, poster, instructional and paper sessions. Extensive opportunities are provided for networking with colleagues."

http://www.interprofessional.ubc.ca/26th_Seating.htm

International Society for Gerontechnology 7th World Conference – May 27-30, 2010 |

Vancouver, British Columbia. "Internationally recognized experts in gerontechnology will share their knowledge and experience through lectures, symposia, workshops, papers and posters. Topics to be addressed will include rehabilitation engineering, robotics, telemonitoring, telecare, ICT, biomechanics and ergonomics, assistive technology, inclusive design and usability, smart homes and smart fabrics, sensor technology, and cognitive aging and computer games."

<http://www.sfu.ca/isg2010/about/index.html>

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U.S.

Eleventh International ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility –

October 26-28, 2009 | Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. "The ASSETS conference explores the use of computing and information technologies to help persons with disabilities and older adults. ASSETS is the premier forum for presenting innovative research on the design and use of both mainstream and specialized assistive technologies. This includes the use of technology by and in support of:

- individuals with hearing, sight and other sensory impairments
- individuals with motor impairments
- individuals with memory, learning and cognitive impairments
- individuals with multiple impairments
- older adults
- professionals who work with these populations

All contributions are peer-reviewed by an international Program Committee. Accepted papers, posters and demonstrations will be archived in the ACM digital library. Selected technical paper authors will be invited to submit to a special issue of the journal ACM Transactions on Accessible Computing, and the best paper of the conference will receive the ACM SIGACCESS Best Paper award. Mentoring is available for first time authors."

<http://www.sigaccess.org/assets09/>

2nd UCLA Technology & Aging Conference – October 30, 2009 | Los Angeles, California. "[This](#)

[one-day conference](#) will bring together academic and industry leaders to discuss how the latest technologies in the medical, consumer and lifestyle fields will help older adults live better, longer lives. Its breakout sessions are designed around two track themes:

- *Aging In Place*, which will focus on technologies that will enable older adults to continue to live longer and better in the comfort and safety in their own homes, and
- *Aging Healthier Longer*, which will focus on cutting-edge developments in disease management and treatment, adaptive and assistive devices and techniques, emotional health, and function/sensory enhancements."

<http://www.aging.ucla.edu/TechAgingConference.html>

The Second IASTED International Conference on Telehealth and Assistive Technology:

TAT 2009 – November 4-6, 2009 | Cambridge, Massachusetts. "The healthcare industry is constantly changing to incorporate new advances in science and to address new needs within society. Recent developments in communication technology have greatly facilitated the exchange of information and expertise. Telehealth is an emerging field in which health services are transmitted over a long distance using technologies such as videoconferencing, the Internet, store-and-forward imaging, streaming media, satellites, and wireless communications. Telehealth promises to impact the ways that clinical healthcare, health-related education, public health, and health administration are approached."

<http://www.iasted.org/conferences/cfp-663.html>

2009 AUCD Annual Meeting & Conference – November 8-11, 2009 | Washington, DC. "The 2009 AUCD Conference is centered around the network members and the disability community gathering together to address the opportunities and challenges presented by current changes in the economic, political, social, and environmental climate. With a growing

membership of UCEDDs, LENDs, and IDDRCs along with international affiliates, AUCD has become a key disability organization. This annual meeting offers you a chance to interact with policymakers, researchers, administrators, families, students, and advocates across these types of organizations and across disciplines."

<http://www.aucd.org/template/page.cfm?id=641>

60th Annual IDA Conference – November 11-14, 2009 | Orlando, Florida. "The International Dyslexia Association (IDA) is a scientific and educational nonprofit organization concerned with dyslexia and related language and learning difficulties. The IDA Annual Conference focuses on the latest advances in these and related fields. IDA is interested in a broad spectrum of research and practical presentations along these lines. The objective of the conference is to bring up to date information to a diverse audience that includes educators, researchers, physicians, psychologists, social workers, speech language pathologists, administrators, parents, persons with dyslexia, and others."

<http://www.interdys.org/CallForPapersOrlandoTest1.htm>

WFN XVIII World Congress on Parkinson 's Disease and Related Disorders – December 13-16, 2009 | Miami Beach, Florida. "Celebrate 50 Years of Scientific Advancement in Parkinson 's Disease. In 2009 the WFN XVIII World Congress on Parkinson 's Disease and Related Disorders celebrates half a century as a leading international summit for clinicians, researchers, and allied healthcare professionals worldwide seeking real solutions to improve the long-term outcomes for Parkinson 's patients. Over 3,000 participants are expected to attend this biennial Parkinson 's Disease congress – the eighteenth organized by the World Federation of Neurology (WFN) 'Research Group on Parkinsonism and Related Disorders'."

<http://www2.kenes.com/parkinson/Pages/Home.aspx>

7th International Cross-Disciplinary Conference on Web Accessibility – April 26–27, 2010 | Raleigh, North Carolina. "A revolution in the information society is now starting, based on the use of mobile phones in developing countries. The hyper-growth of mobile phone penetration is deeply changing the lives of people in most of the world; their ways of communicating, working, learning, and structuring their societies. The promising next step is obviously to access the Web. The Web has already touched the lives of over a billion people and now is the time for the next billions. However, this expansion faces unprecedented accessibility challenges. Even the word 'accessibility' needs a new definition for people in the developing regions. How can someone who is illiterate or barely literate access the Web? In some cases, a language may not even have a written form. The affordability of the technology is also a challenge, while access is constrained by low computational power, limited bandwidth, compact keyboards, tiny screens, and even by the lack of electric power. All of these constraints compound the problems of access and inclusion."

<http://www.w4a.info/2010/>

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OVERSEAS

Confronting the Gap: Rights, Rhetoric, Reality? – October 21-23, 2009 | Salamanca, Spain. "Inclusion International and Inclusion Europe are organizing Confronting the Gap: Rights, Rhetoric and Reality? Return to Salamanca - A Global Conference on Inclusive Education,

October 21-23, 2009, Salamanca, Spain. The conference will be co-sponsored by a number of organizations including the United Nation Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education; the Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia de España; the Instituto Universitario de Integración en la Comunidad (INICO); and Confederación Española de Organizaciones en favor de las Personas con Discapacidad Intelectual (FEAPS). Fifteen Years have passed since The Salamanca Statement and Framework for Action on Special Needs Education was adopted by the World Conference on Special Needs Education: Access and quality, (Salamanca, Spain, 10 June 1994). As the Convention on the Rights of Person 's with Disabilities comes into effect, it is time to assess the progress made and set the agenda for renewed action in the years ahead."

<http://inclusion-international.org/en/calendar/2009/10/21/details.html>

OASIS 1st International Conference - Open architecture for Accessible Services Integration and Standardisation – November 4-5, 2009 | Florence, Italy. " How to support holistically the independent living and mobility of the elderly across Europe? How to connect services for the elderly in an one-stop-shop fashion and interrelate/ integrate them? What are the elderly and their families/ carers primary needs, concerns and expectations from the technologies and services arising? These, and much more, are to be presented in Florence, in the OASIS 1st International Conference.."

<http://www.oasis-project.eu/index.php/lang-en/news-topmenu-19/20-general-news/222-oasis-1st-international-conferencedetails>

12th International Conference on Mobility and Transport for Elderly and Disabled Persons (TRANSED 2010) – June 2-4, 2010 | Hong Kong. "The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation (HKSR) is proud to announce that the 12th International Conference on Mobility and Transport for Elderly and Disabled Persons (TRANSED 2010) will take place in Hong Kong in 2010. The theme of TRANSED 2010 is Sustainable Transport & Travel for All. Held every three years, TRANSED conferences are milestone events in the field of accessible transportation, attracting researchers, policy-makers, transport operators, consumers and other specialists worldwide to share innovations and best practices in order to make transportation and mobility accessible to everyone."

<http://www.transed2010.hk/front/#>

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