

CNIB Deafblind Services

Providing vital services to the Deafblind community since 1975

FEBRUARY 13, 2018

seeing beyond vision loss

AGENDA

1. WHAT DOES CNIB DEAFBLIND SERVICES PROVIDE?
2. SO WHAT IS INTERVENTION?
3. ROLE OF AN INTERVENOR
4. HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH A DEAFBLIND PERSON
5. EMERGENCY INTERVENOR SERVICES
6. DEAFBLIND LITERACY

Deafblind Community

- Deafblindness is a distinct disability. Deafblindness is a combined loss of hearing and vision to such an extent that neither the hearing nor vision can be used as a means of accessing information to participate and be included in the community.



Challenges

- Deafblindness is more than just a loss of vision and a loss of hearing; the combination of both results in many unique challenges.
- Challenges relating to:
 - Communication – a person usually needs to learn a new receptive communication method
 - Mobility
 - Socialization – often individuals are extremely isolated
 - Access to information, both incidentally or directly

What does CNIB Deafblind services provide?

- INTERVENTION
- EMERGENCY INTERVENTION SERVICES
- DEAFBLIND LITERACY

Clients need to Qualify for Service

- Deafblind Services is funded by the Ontario government (Ministry of Community and Social Services) to provide intervention services. Therefore, clients must qualify and this is determined by providing CNIB an audiology report and a current eye report. Once the reports are received, the Deafblind Services Manager will inform the individual if they qualify for service. This requirement is mandated by the Ministry of Community and Social Services.
- The individual must be over the age of 18 and an Ontario resident.

Deafblind Services Today

- There are over 300 CNIB clients in Ontario who have been identified as deafblind and 174 of these clients receive intervenor services.
- CNIB Deafblind Services has approximately 95 staff working in Ontario.



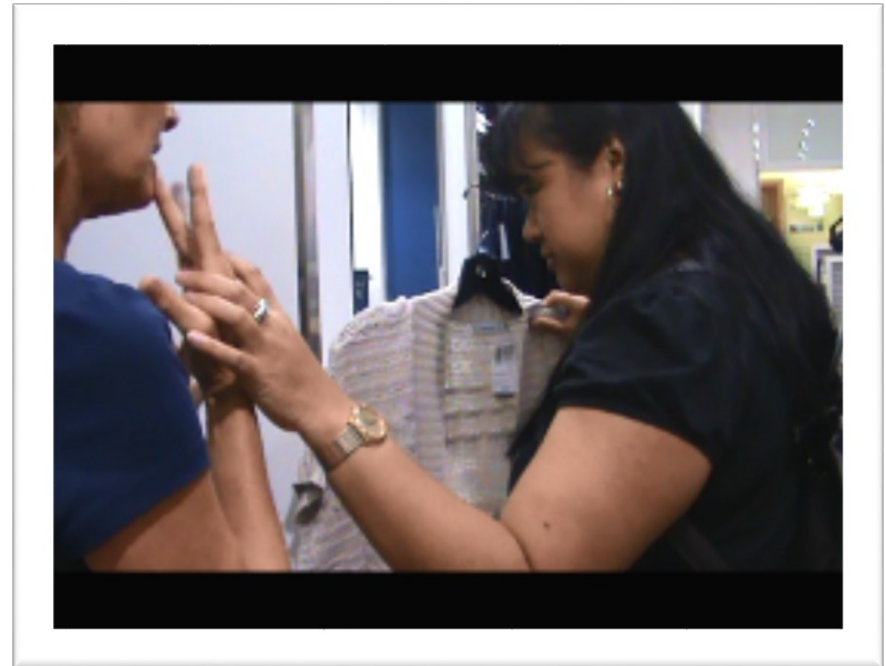
Number of client who receive intervenor service

(as indicated in CNIB DBS Needs Assessment 2014)

Region	# of CNIB clients identified as deafblind	# of active clients	# of DBS staff working in each region
Eastern Ontario	90	58	29
Central Ontario	117	71	35
West – Hamilton/ Niagara/ Brant	58	27	12
West – Southwest	54	18	19
Totals:	319	174	95

Intervenor Services

- Intervenor services provide the person who is deafblind with accurate information in an appropriate manner to enable them to make choices, plan future actions, communicate successfully, navigate their environment and achieve as much independence as possible.*
- Intervenor vs Interpreter
- An intervenor is like a narrator of a story.



* www.intervenorservices.com
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So what is intervention?

“An intervenor is a professional who works with someone who is deafblind and acts as an intermediary or translator between the individual who is deafblind and others.” CNIB

“Intervenors work hands-on with adults who are deafblind in their homes and communities, providing the visual and auditory information necessary to enable the person to interact successfully with other people and their environment.” Deafblind Ontario Services

Intervention



“I have learned that the human spirit can overcome obstacles that I didn’t know existed before working as an Intervenor, and communication, by whatever means, is the basis for everything in our lives.”

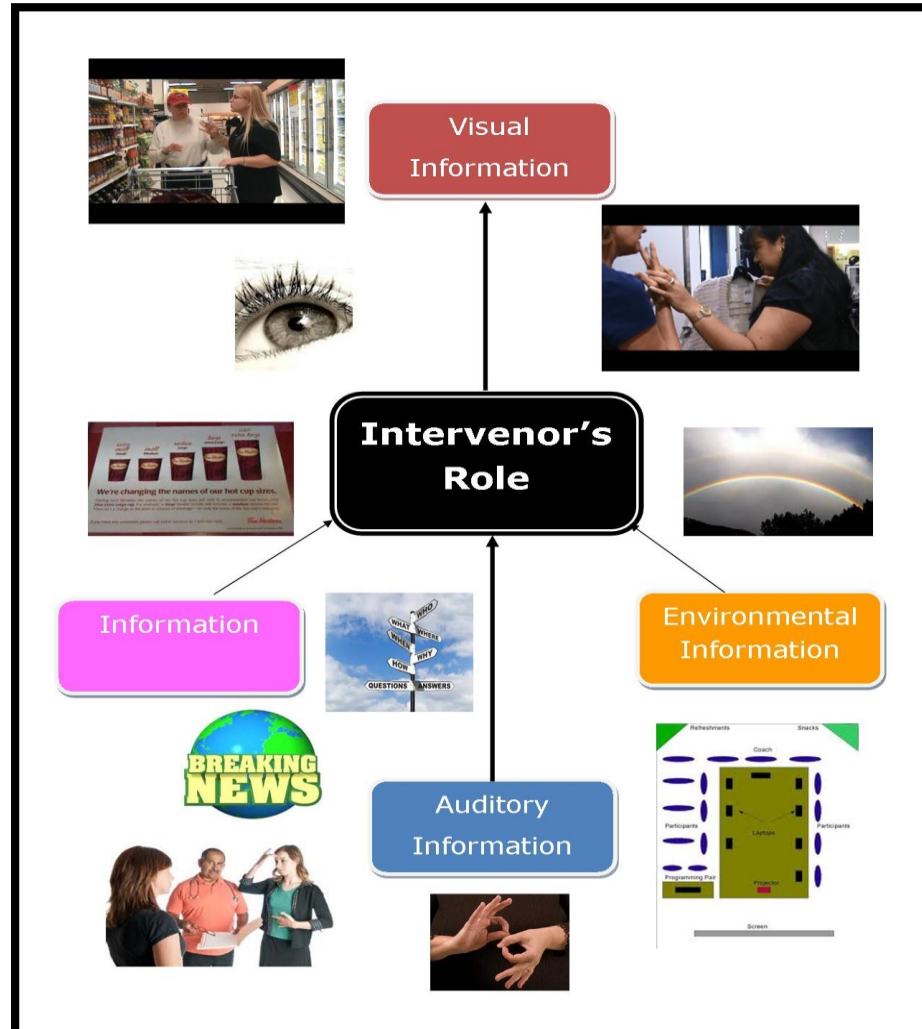
CNIB Intervenor

Access to information is the key challenge



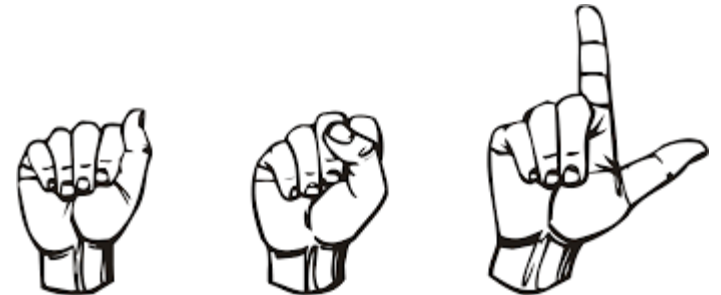
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Role of an Intervenor - to inform



WAYS TO COMMUNICATE WITH DEAFBLIND PEOPLE.

- ASL TACTILE
- ADAPTED SIGNS
- TACTILE FINGERSPELLING
- VOICE OVER
- PRINT ON PALM (POP)
- TWO HAND MANUAL



Communication methods used by CNIB clients across Ontario

- 52% Voice/Voice Over – English
- 35% American Sign Language (ASL)
Adapted/Visual, Tactile or French Sign Language (LSQ)
- 6% Large Print Notes/Print on palm
- 3% Gestures
- 3% Voice/Voice Over – French
- 1% Two Hand Manual Alphabet



CNIB Needs Assessment 2014

Intervention Support

- CNIB clients who are deafblind can qualify for 10-15 hours of intervenor service per week.
- This is available for residents of Ontario only.



EMERGENCY INTERVENOR SERVICE

EMERGENCY INTERVENOR SERVICE

CNIB Deafblind Services operates the Emergency Intervenor Service program that allows CNIB clients in Ontario with vision loss and hearing loss (Deafblind) access to an intervenor if they are in an emergency situation.

This service, funded by the Government of Ontario, operates 24 hour a day, seven days a week.

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LITERACY PROGRAM

CNIB provides literacy and basic skills to Deafblind adults in Ontario, funded by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development.

The program addresses a wide range of student goals, including:

- Employment
- Apprenticeship
- Secondary school credit
- Post-secondary education
- Independence



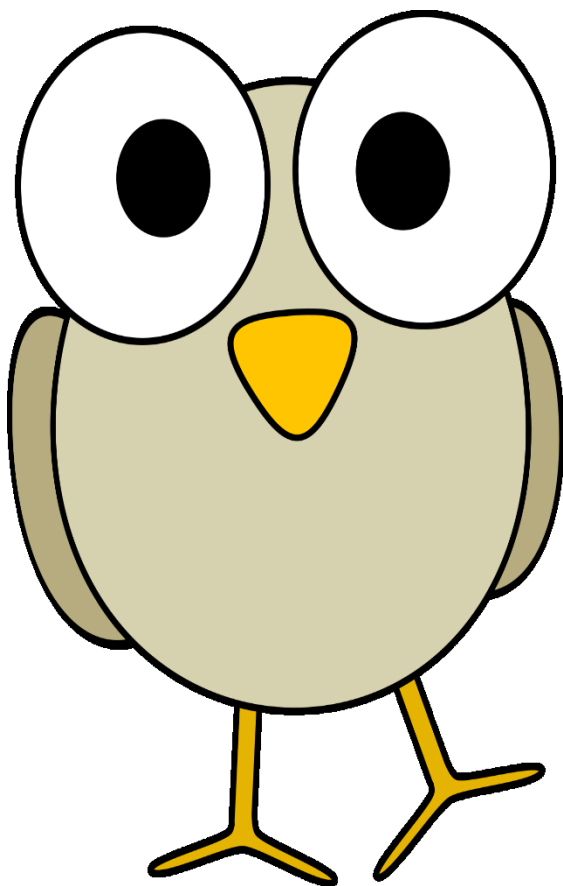
DEAFBLIND LITERACY

HOW IS IT DELIVERED?

- One-to-one or small group instruction
- Instruction in the preferred method of communication of the student
- Year-round
- Flexible class times

ANY QUESTIONS

Questions?



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