

Provincial Resource Centre for the Visually Impaired (PRCVI)

1. Enrollment – Students Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired

During the 2009-10 school year, PRCVI provided services to:

- 681 students, of which 104 are braille users, and who are enrolled in 436 public schools and 45 francophone, distance ed., alternate or independent schools across BC and the Yukon
- 63 Teachers of Students with Visual Impairment
- 11 Vision teachers in Training

PRCVI supported 39 teacher assistants with covering the costs associated with Braille correspondence courses (literary, Nemeth, proofreading).

2. Alternate Format Production

For the 2009-10 school year, up to April 30/09, PRCVI has produced 288 new titles in alternate format with the following formats:

- 70 Braille
- 53 Braille to E-text Conversions
- 20 E-text
- 145 Large Print

3. PRCVI Staffing Update

Flo Wong joined the PRCVI staff in February of 2010. Flo has ARC BC administrative responsibilities in addition to sharing PRCVI outreach coordination duties with Michael Mizera.

For a complete PRCVI staff list with associate responsibilities go to <http://www.prcvi.org/contact/>

4. Tactile Graphics

The online repository of tactile graphics and the instructional modules for producing and modifying quality tactile graphics continue to be well used resources on the PRCVI website. Over 1100 tactile graphic files are now available in the repository for downloading and adapting to meet individual student needs.. Advanced hands on workshops for regional groups of transcribers and teachers have occurred on a request basis over the past year.

Each summer the Corel tactiles PRCVI has produced in student texts are added to our Corel image library. Each image is organized by subject area, and a fully catalogued record is sent to AMICUS. Images and a detailed thumbnail catalogue is available on our website at: http://www.prcvi.org/visualimpairment/file_download.html.

We anticipate that the Guidelines and Standards for Tactile Graphics developed by CBA and BANA will be available from APH by the fall of 2010.

5 .GPS Pilot Project

The Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) Pilot Project, a collaboration between SET-BC and PRCVI, is in its 4th year. Accessible GPS systems (Trekker Pro or Trekker Breeze) are loaned to the Orientation and Mobility Instructors in BC for use with students. This year there are eight O&M instructors involved in the project who are providing GPS instruction to support independent travel skills to 15 students. Training manuals have been developed and can be downloaded at

http://www.setbc.org/setbc/vision/trekker_student_lesson_guide.html and

http://www.setbc.org/setbc/vision/trekker_breeze.html.

6.Accessible Resource Centre (ARC-BC)

Since the ARC-BC collection became available to BC school districts in January 2009, the response has been overwhelmingly positive. Currently 58 BC school districts have joined the ARC-BC Community and there are over 1500 active registered users accessing alternate format for over 6000 perceptually disabled students around the province. The ARC-BC collection currently contains over 1800 titles and 52,000 individual files, with the collection and the number of registered users accessing the collection growing daily.

7. Best Practices Assessments Guidelines Project

The Best Practices Assessment Guidelines Project assists classroom teachers in making suitable assessment accommodations and adaptations for students with visual impairments and blindness. Recommendations focus on maintaining test reliability and validity. Two sets of guidelines have been developed: one for students who use braille and another for students that require accommodations due to low vision. The guidelines provide a wide range of examples that demonstrate “Instead of This” (inappropriate) to “Try Doing It This Way” (appropriate). Recommendations adhere to Universal Design Principles and are appropriate for all students. These resources will soon be available for download on the PRCVI and SET-BC websites.

8. BookSense Project

The Book Sense is a portable reading device that supports text-to-speech output of various text and DAISY file formats. This project includes 24 students in grades 7 to 12. Comprehensive online training sessions were available for students and their teachers. In addition step by step instructional lessons were developed and will be available for download by May 15th in the Vision folder of the SET-BC Learning Centre <http://www.setbc.org/lcindexer/default.aspx> For further general information on this special project go to <http://www.setbc.org/setinfo/booksense/default.html>.