



Date: Saturday Oct 5th, 2013

Place: Nikkei Place in Burnaby
6688 Southoaks Cres, Burnaby
Wheelchair accessible facility. Freshen up areas will be set up.

Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Registration is from 9:00 -9:30 Conference begins at 9:30

What is it

It is a forum for people using Alternative Augmentative Communication (AAC) to share their ideas as they work towards independence

Who will attend:

Target Participants

- Individuals using AAC living in BC
- Supporters of Individuals using AAC

Others welcome

- Professionals working in the field of AAC can attend, observe, and network.

** Keep in mind that the aim of the conference is for the AAC device user to speak and to be heard.*

How you can prepare for the town hall meeting:

Following registration you will be sent a package to assist you in preparing for participation in the town hall meeting.

PROGRAM

8:30 - 10:00	Registration, Refreshments, Welcome
10:00 - 11:30	Panel Presentation Topic: One Change in my Life and How I Handled It
11:30 - 1:30	Lunch <i>Please bring a bag lunch. There is a kitchen facility including a microwave for heating purposes. Coffee, tea, and juice will be provided.</i>
1:30 - 3:30	Town Hall Meeting Keynote Topic: Celebrating Change
3:00 - 3:30	Wind Up
4:00	Conference Ends

What is a Town Hall Meeting?

- Participants will sit in a circle so that everyone can see and hear what each other is saying.
- Supporters will sit behind the participant ready to assist **IF** necessary but will not speak for the individual.
- Roving microphones will be used to ensure that each speaker's voice is clearly heard.
- Participants will be encouraged to share their opinion on the topic questions provided ahead of time.
- Being part of the circle is the important aspect, if you are not comfortable speaking in public that is okay.

Meet the Speakers

Town Hall Co-Moderators

Derek Isobe – Vancouver



My name is Derek Isobe and I am 54 years old. My main mode of communication is through a Dynavox Vmax. My interests include t'ai chi and reading. I hope to see you at ice west.

Ashleigh Dukoff – Victoria



I am 30 years old and have been using a speech generating device for 19 years. I have been using a Pathfinder for the past 14 years. I am a member of both the Victoria and Mid Island Cool Communicators. What I think is important is forming new friendships, using my device to communicate, playing games to learn new vocabulary, and challenging myself to try new things! My dream for communication in the future is for a company to develop a screen so we could use our devices in the sun and better sounding voices.

Panel Presenters

Cory Fisher - Courtenay



I am 23 and I live in Courtenay, BC. I have had a variety of speech generating devices over 13 years. Today I use an Eco2. I am a member of the Courtenay Cool Communicators and what I think is important is that people like myself are visible and effective members of our communities. My dream for my future is that my voice is heard as I make important life plans.

Haylie Graham - Nanaimo



I am 24 years old and I live in Nanaimo, BC. I am a member of the Mid-island Cool Communicators. I have used a speech generating device for the last 13 years. Today I attend Vancouver Island University and am finally learning to read and proving I am a lifelong learner! Accessing my device through head switches takes longer and I truly value people taking time to hear me. My peer group of Cool Communicators is a safe place for me to voice my opinions. Ongoing support from CAYA for my Speech Generating Device is very important to me and to all of us who speak differently.

Melinda Rundle - Vancouver



I'm 40 years old and I live in a group home with four other differently abled women. I do Morse Code with my head in order to communicate on my dynavox and my desktop computer. I serve as an advocate for people who have communication challenges on the board for "Communication disabilities alliance Canada" as well as on the medical ethics committee at Sunnyhill Health Center. I enjoy spending time with my family and church family, surfin' the internet, and being a non-stop chatterbox!

Rand Surbey – Vancouver



My name is Rand Surbey I am from Vancouver British Columbia I like to look at construction. And go to Whistler. I don't want my circumstances stop me to do that. I love to do more, can be hard to find the people to do with... My circumstances me long thank full to the people that help me. I love to drive cross Canada with some people that is my hope.

Monica Martino - Vancouver



My name is Monica Martino, I am 41 years old and I live in Vancouver BC. I communicate with an sl40 light writer. I enjoy hanging out with friends, watching movies, playing bocce, and chatting online. I also like travelling and watching the Canucks games

Come be part of the fun ...
Register by August 23, 2013