

MLPD ALERT – March 2016

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Check out these events that are happening in our community in the coming weeks:

- **REES Open House, Spring 2016**

Thursday March 10, 2016

3:00 pm - 5:00 p.m.

At REES office: 305-1200 Portage Ave

For more info and to RSVP, call: 204-832-7337

Email: info@re-es.org

Or visit: www.re-es.org

- **Cerebral Palsy Bike Race**

Saturday, March 12

Wellness Institute

Collect pledges, win prizes, cycle for a good cause!

Phone: (204) 982-4842

bikerace@cerebralpalsy.mb.ca

Visit: <http://www.cerebralpalsy.mb.ca/fundraising.htm>

- **Canadian Museum for Human Rights Guest lectures: Shooting Blind**

March 16, April 13 and May 18

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Stuart Clark Garden of Contemplation at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, 85 Israel Asper Way

You will certainly enjoy these special discussions with blind photographers. The lectures are included with the cost of Museum general admission.

March 16 – Tara Miller, a blind commercial photographer from Winnipeg, shares her experiences and insights.

April 13 – Pete Eckert, a blind artist from California, whose photography is featured in *Sight Unseen*, joins us to talk about his “light painting” technique and how he conveys what he “sees” to the sighted world.

May 18 – Bruce Hall, a photographer with vision loss from California, joins us to talk about art and disability. Hall, whose work is featured in *Sight Unseen*, has twin sons with autism who are the subjects of a special photo project.

For more information on this exhibit, please visit:

<https://humanrights.ca/exhibit/sight-unseen>

For more information on the 3D imaging, please visit:

<http://www.3dphotoworks.com/>

- **Ethics for Lunch**

Date: Tuesday March 15, 2016

Time: 11:30-12:30

Where: Room N1026

Main Floor, Nursing Education Building

St. Boniface Hospital, 431 Taché Avenue

Topic: Physician-Assisted Death: How will physicians assess that my request is ‘voluntary’?

Presenter: Skye Rousseau, MD

PGY-4 Resident

Department of Psychiatry

University of Manitoba

Presenter: George C. Webster

Clinical Ethicist

Health Care Ethics Service

- **Transportation Conversations with the Chair**

Councillor Janice Lukes

From January to June, casual conversations will take place over lunch on transportation themes and topics (at the Forks Centre Food Court).

Next event (Free): March 17th – Roads in 2016 Budget

For more info, please visit: <http://janicelukes.ca/event/transportation-conversations-2/>

- **CNIB Eye on the Arts**

When – March 17, 2016

Preview – 5:00 p.m. Dinner – 6:00 p.m.

Live Auction – 7:00 p.m.

Where – RBC Convention Centre 375 York Ave

For more info and to purchase tickets, please contact Glenda Gascoigne or Wanda Mills at 204-774-5421. You can also

email glenda.gascoigne@cnib.ca or wanda.mills@cnib.ca

- **Independent Living Resource Centre “Cabin Fever” Social**

Saturday, April 30, 2016

8:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m.

Burton Cummings Community Centre, 960 Arlington Street

SILENT AUCTION and SPOT DANCES

Tickets: \$10.00 Each

Tickets in Advance (No Door Sales!)

Call: 204-947-0194

Email: terrym@ilrc.mb.ca or email thecentre@ilrc.mb.ca

MLPD, DIO and US Consulate Promote Disability Rights

In collaboration with the Manitoba Disabilities Issues Office and the US Consulate (Winnipeg), MLPD organized a speaking tour for American

disability and civil rights advocate Judith Heumann, who is the US Department of State's Special Advisor for International Disability Rights. She spoke at a number of gatherings in Winnipeg, including a meeting at the Viscount Gort about the Americans with Disabilities Act and at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMHR), where she spoke about the History of the Disability Rights Movement. If you missed Judith's talk, her early activism is featured in a fourth floor display at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. Judith's visit to Winnipeg coincided with International Human Rights Day, which is celebrated every year on December 10th.

DISABILITY MATTERS VOTE 2016 (DMV 2016)

Disability Matters Vote 2016 is a non-partisan public awareness campaign. It's a joint initiative of Abilities Manitoba and Barrier Free Manitoba, and has three main goals:

- To ensure that all Manitobans with disabilities can participate fully in election activities and that those who are eligible to vote are able to do so.
- To promote priority attention for disability issues in the election.
- To support Manitobans with disabilities in making informed voting decisions.

Please take the opportunity to explore how this organization is working for people with disabilities. Their priority issues (fair wages, employment, accessibility, dignified wages, and access to services) are ones that we all can share.

<http://www.disabilitymatters2016.ca/>

The Manitoba Election and You

April 19, 2016 is Election Day in Manitoba. While disability issues affect almost every Manitoban, our issues have been overlooked in provincial elections. There will be about 168,000 Manitobans with disabilities eligible to vote in the provincial election. We need to make sure that all Manitoba parties fielding candidates in this election have explained what they intend

to do to make this province more accessible and inclusive of people with disabilities.

Disability Matters: Vote 2016 has identified five priority issues for the 2016 provincial election:

- A Fully Accessible Manitoba
- Fair Living Wages for Those Serving Manitobans with Intellectual Disabilities
- Timely Access to Disability-Related Services
- Unleashing Employment Potential
- Dignified Income

The disability community is expecting all political parties to make clear commitments on each of these priorities. To learn more about these issues, please visit the Barrier Free Manitoba website: <http://www.barrierfreemb.com/home>.

Voting – Your Accessibility Options

Elections Manitoba has the following accessibility provisions in place in order to make voting in Manitoba as barrier free as possible.

If You Can't Leave Your Home – If you are unable to go in person to a voting place due to a disability, you and/or your caregiver can vote in your home.

Services for People with Print Disabilities – Elections Manitoba has Braille ballot templates available at all voting places. The templates will allow you to mark your ballot on your own.

A Braille list of candidates will be available on Election Day and at some advance voting locations. Check with your returning officer for the location nearest you.

Magnifying lenses and a large print list of the candidates will also be available from the voting officer.

You can bring someone with you to help you vote. They must be 18 years of age or older, and will be required to sign an oath. A voting official may also assist you.

Services to Assist People with Hearing Disabilities – If you provide advance notice, Elections Manitoba will provide an ASL interpreter. There is no cost to the voter.

Bringing an Assistant – You can also bring someone with you to help you vote. They must be 18 years of age or older, and will be required to sign an oath. A voting official may also assist you.

Translation Services – A translator is available by telephone at all voting places. Contact your returning officer in advance to arrange for this service.

Personal Security Protection – You can apply to have your personal information omitted or obscured (blacked out) from the voters list (and other election documents) to protect your personal security.

No Permanent Address – You can vote if you do not have a permanent address. If you are staying at a shelter or hostel, you vote in the electoral division in which your shelter is located. Many shelters have voting places set up on Election Day.

Wherever possible, voting places are accessible to voters with disabilities. For more information, please consult Elections Manitoba <http://www.electionsmanitoba.ca/en/Voting/Accessibility>.

***ACCESS DENIED* Series on CBC**

Thank you to CBC for hosting the series *Access Denied*. On February 24th, CBC invited Disability advocates and leaders in the community to discuss the barriers we face on a daily basis. They also produced a professional video.

CBC did an awesome job exploring accessibility issues in Winnipeg for one entire week (Monday, February 22 to 26). They invited various people from different Disabilities Organizations to discuss their accessibility challenges.

It was a very good group discussion about what barriers exist in our community and what we can do to remove these barriers.

The following CBC-produced video summarizes the *Access Denied* series: <https://www.facebook.com/cbcmantoba/videos/10153896339899400/>

Sight Unseen – an Art Revolution

By Deanna Ng

A new revolution in art has begun since people with vision loss are now able to experience works by artists with vision loss, and to see their works through touch.

“For me as a blind person, there is no substitute for touching what is on display,” said John Rae, an advisor on the CMHR access committee. He is also the Second Vice Chair on the Council of Canadians with Disabilities Board, and has extensive experience in advising museums and galleries on accessibility, both locally and internationally.

Rae visited Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek, an art museum of international stature in Denmark, where he was allowed to touch copies of artifacts while wearing a pair of gloves. This added a new dimension to the experience of art and artifacts, giving him a new picture of history. He then brought this wonderful concept back to Winnipeg.

On February 17, the CMHR unveiled the new 3D exhibit *Sight Unseen* as a tribute to the 10th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Twelve photographers with vision loss had their artistic images made into 3D touchable displays with sound recordings so that visitors with vision loss could experience their art both by touch and sound.

Maureen Fitzhenry, Media Relations Manager at the CMHR said, “*Sight Unseen* questions the sight of the sighted.”

Fitzhenry explained, “The key question (is) – not HOW the blind person takes photographs, but WHY would they want to. The answer relates to a basic human need for images, and an acknowledgement that the human brain is wired for visualization.” John Olson is the co-founder of 3D

PhotoWorks, a New York-based organization that did the 3D imaging for the *Sight Unseen* exhibit.

Olson explains, “Photography has been critical to my life. It took me everywhere and allowed me a view of the world few people have. I reached a point in my career where I began to understand its importance. That caused me to wonder what it was like for the blind to live lives without access to images. Based on that, I set out to develop a means for the blind to see art and photography, and hopefully enjoy it as I have. Our workflow is a three-step process: (1) we convert conventional images to 3D data, (2) we send the data to a machine that digitally sculpts it, and (3) following sculpting, we print the visual image on top of the relief in perfect registration.”

“My own experience in meeting people with vision loss through this exhibition was a revelation. In one short evening, my eyes were opened to the ability of blind and visually-impaired people – and also to the gracious, kind and helpful nature of all the people that I met,” explained Fitzhenry.

“Sighted people experience this exhibition with fascination. I think that most visitors share the sense of wonder at how these blind photographers have provided us with a whole new way of thinking about disability and perception.”

The public will be able to visit this exhibit and go to the different stations in order to make their own image (one that they can touch); take a photo without using their sight; participate in a photography scavenger hunt; and meet the photographers via a lecture series featuring some of the people who created the images.