



REBUILDING COMMUNICATION

BUILDING Bridges



Building Bridges | Newsletter of the Aphasia Institute

The Aphasia Institute is a Canadian community-based centre of excellence, pioneering programs and practices that help people with aphasia learn how to communicate in new ways and begin to navigate their own lives again. Through direct service, research, education and training, the Aphasia Institute has built an international reputation as a world leader and educator in aphasia.

Dear Friend

READ OUR ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21



Tita & Jesus (Client & Family Member)



24 Years and Still Going Strong...

For the second year in a row, in the midst of the COVID—19 pandemic, our **Talk, Walk 'n Roll** was a virtual event. And a very successful one at that.

Our community of clients and their families, staff, volunteers, and board members participated this year in their neighbourhoods, engaging in conversation and safe, distanced physical activity.

When all was said and done:

You helped us raise over \$91,000!

You helped us keep our promise to people living with aphasia and their families:

We help you navigate your life one conversation at a time.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021



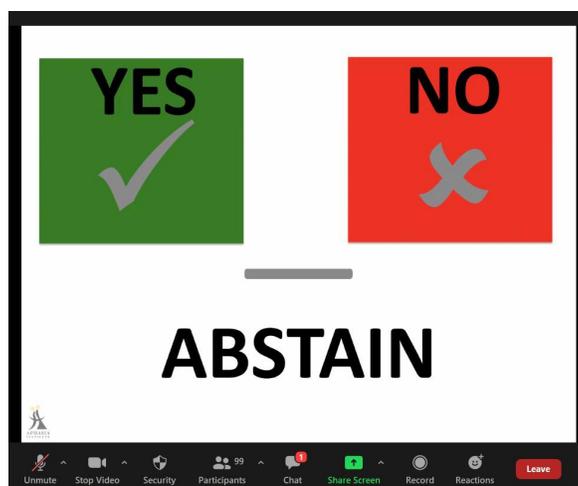
Each year, the **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** provides us with the opportunity to share our many successes. It also gives us the pleasure of presenting awards to some very deserving recipients. This year's AGM marked Year Three of a four-

year strategic plan and the **42nd anniversary** of pioneering programs and practices that help people with aphasia learn to navigate their lives... one conversation at a time.

We were grateful again this year that despite the ongoing COVID—19 pandemic, **technology still allowed us to connect with one another by returning to an online format.**

Our hosts—client Christine P. and board member George K.—took us on a journey called ***Celebrating Our Community***. This theme perfectly embodies the fact that all of our achievements for 2020-21 came about as a result of each person in our thriving community working together to reach common goals and overcome common barriers. Each helped foster an incredible sense of connection and belonging that distinguish us in so many ways. One of the things that always makes our AGM unique is that all areas of its presentation are conducted with fully accessible communication tools such as pictographic slide presentations and videos –including all of our voting activities.

As with all things we do, our Annual General Meeting reduces communication barriers!



24 Years and Still Going Strong...

This year we were delighted to be joined by special guests and deserving award recipients. Every year, **we begin our presentation by celebrating our founder, the late Pat Arato.** Nothing we have achieved would have been possible without Pat's pioneering vision.

Joining us virtually were most of our board members and many of our award recipients. **In fact, this year we filled the Zoom room to its full capacity of 100 people!**

Highlights

They say **"show, don't tell."** We agree. So, instead of **reading** about our many successes for 2020-21, we invite you to watch volunteer Makayla Dasilva's beautiful **Key Achievements Video**:



AWARDS 2021



Ambassador Award

Launched in 2005 to recognize outstanding Aphasia Institute community members, this year's recipient was:

- **Camilla Todesco:** For making positive contributions to our community, including her participation in many educational videos, generously sharing her hospital experience, and inspiring a quality improvement project with a local acute care hospital. Camilla is the member representative on the Aphasia Institute Board of

Directors and sits on the Education, Training and Resources Advisory Committee.

Congratulations, Camilla, on this well-deserved award.

Gerry Cormier Communicative Access Award

Created in 2010 and renamed in 2014 to celebrate the

enormous contributions of our late client, Gerry Cormier, this award was presented to two agencies:

- **Community Aphasia Programs Network of Ontario (CAPN-ON), co-chaired by Leslie Bracken-Coyne and Elizabeth Faraone:** For their outstanding work in reducing barriers to full-life participation for people living with aphasia, this award is presented to CAPN-ON, which represents aphasia groups from all over the province. This grassroots group has been advocating tirelessly for services that meet the needs of people affected by aphasia within the framework of the Life Participation Approach.

Congratulations, CAPN-ON, Elizabeth, and Leslie!

CAPN-ON

COMMUNITY APHASIA PROGRAMS
NETWORK OF ONTARIO



- **Aphasia Access, represented by Elizabeth Hoover, President:**

The second recipient of this award, Aphasia Access, is a successful North American

organization committed to providing support, education, and connection to all of us who care about aphasia. This includes clinicians, leaders of group programs, university professors, and students. The ability to participate fully in life is at the heart of the incredible contributions made by Aphasia Access.

Congratulations, Aphasia Access and Elizabeth!

Pat Arato Community Partner Award

Created in 2017 to honour our founder, this award recognizes community partners

and their leaders whose funding, subsidy, and expert advice show a deep belief in the work we do on behalf of people living with aphasia and their families.

This year's recipient was:

- **The McMichael Canadian Art Collection:** Demonstrating a real willingness to learn more about aphasia, the staff of the McMichael Canadian Art Collection gave our members generous access to their programs and services. Accepting

McMichael

CANADIAN ART COLLECTION D'ART CANADIEN

An Agency of the Government of Ontario
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

this award on behalf of the McMichael Art Collection was Anna Stanisz, Director of Creative Learning & Programs.

Congratulations, McMichael and Anna!



Soon you'll receive either in the mail or your inbox our **Annual Appeal** package.

In it, **you'll meet our client, Javed**. He'll tell you about his stroke 12 years ago, how scared he was to face his aphasia, and how with our help and his own determination, he was able recently to regain his real

estate license and return to the career he lost more than a decade ago.

Javed's story perfectly embodies our promise to help our clients and their families navigate their lives one conversation at a time.

Funds raised through this campaign help support direct services to our clients, as well as our research and education initiatives.

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