

Hello ISAAC Canada members,

First of all, I would like to welcome the month of March, which means spring is coming even though in many parts of the country it may not seem like it!

Secondly, I need to apologize to our French speaking members, as alas je ne parle ni n'écris assez bien le français pour converser avec vous dans cette langue. C'est quelque chose sur quoi nous devons travailler en tant que membres - devenir vraiment bilingues.

I have a few things I would like to share.

First of all, I have had a request from the Communication Access within the Accessible Canada Act project to share this invitation to participate in paid (\$100/hour, minimum \$100), guided interviews with community members with lived experience of communication disability to identify communication barriers, available supports and approaches for communication access in federal contexts. While the project focuses on critical contexts in federal services which include courts, Revenue Canada, Immigration, Employment Centres, and border services, the folks at Communication Access within the Accessible Canada say that experiences with other systems and services are also welcome.

The invitation to participate is attached to this email. Please consider participating and/or sharing with others who may be interested! Thanks!

Second of all, I wanted to let you know that the ISAAC Canada Executive is in the process of reviewing our current goals and purposes with the goal of reviewing and updating **ISAAC Canada's Terms of Reference**. Reviewing and updating our Terms of Reference was something that you as the membership agreed needed to happen in the survey we sent out in 2022, so we are working towards that, with the goal of having an updated ISAAC Canada Terms of Reference (goals, mission, purposes, organizational structure) to present to the membership at the membership meeting at the ISAAC International Conference in Cancun this summer! More on that below...

If you are not able to attend the conference in Cancun, although I hope many of you may be able to do so, do not worry, we will ensure a way for the membership to vote on a revised Terms of Reference this summer!

Thirdly, we are continuing to provide ISAAC Canada webinars. Upcoming webinars will include Tracy Shepherd sharing the [The Family Impact of Assistive Technology Scale for Augmentative and Alternative Communication \(FIATS-AAC\)](#) in April (date and time to be announced shortly) and myself sharing the recently published [Essential Components of Educational Programming for Students with Complex Communication Needs](#) in May or June (to be determined)

If you have an idea for a webinar, have something you would like to share with ISAAC Canada membership (and beyond) or feel there is someone we should be reaching out to ask to share, please contact myself at [khowery@ualberta.ca](mailto:khowery@ualberta.ca) or Jocelyn Roberts at [Jocelyn.Roberts@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:Jocelyn.Roberts@albertahealthservices.ca).

Last, but definitely NOT least, here is the information on the ISAAC Cancun conference:

<https://isaac-online.org/english/conference-cancun/>

It has been too many years since the ISAAC community has been able to gather, and I for one am thrilled that this is (finally) really happening!

There are so many wonderful reasons to go

- Presentations by professionals and people who use AAC!
- A research symposium incorporated into the main conference!
- An amazing Exhibit Hall featuring products and services related to AAC!
- Connecting with others across the world who are interested in AAC!

- And more...

To learn more here is a recording that was made to tell us all about the exciting things happening at ISAAC Cancun.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pjmlgaoBHXA&t=290s>

I would like to get a list of Canadians who are presenting so if you are would you please email me with that information so we can share!

That's if for now from me!

Hope you all stay well and warm as we look forward to Spring in Canada!

  
Kathy Howerly, PhD.  
President  
ISAAC Canada