



<https://isaac-canada.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/ISAAC.Canadianchapter>

Hello!

We are now more than a few months into our 2024-27 term as your Executive and National Council and there's much information to share!

VIEWS & NEWS

There are many exciting things to tell you about but most importantly is the exciting online **ISAAC Virtual Event *The Vibes of AAC*** that will be taking place during AAC Awareness month this year!



This **two-day virtual event** will take place **October 29-30, 2024**. It is your chance to build skills and stay current in the field of AAC. Our sessions will be led by many well-known and prestigious presenters, including researchers, practitioners, people who use AAC, educators, families, sponsor vendors and much more!

More than 90 speakers have confirmed their participation!

This includes researchers, practitioners, people who use AAC, educators, families and sponsor vendors. [Visit the ISAAC Conference Virtual Event 2024 website](#) to see the list of speakers and the presentation schedule and to register.

Early bird registration is available now so don't miss your opportunity!

Also – **STAY TUNED!**

ISAAC Canada will also have our own AAC Awareness Activity. More information and how you can participate to come SOON!

ISAAC Canada Webinar Series Continues!



Thanks to the wonderful work of our Education Committee, we will be offering webinars by Canadian practitioner, researchers, and people who use AAC.

Here's is a listing of what's ON TAP for the next few months:

Date	Topic
Sept 10	Essential Components of Educational Programming for Students with Complex Communication Needs
October	NO WEBINAR – Please attend <i>The Vibes of AAC</i> event
November	Pilot Project for Law Enforcement in Manitoba

And remember! As an ISAAC member, you can view the webinars presented by Canadians (and others) by clicking <https://isaac-online.org/english/webinars/> and then on the link for members only. There is a wealth of wonderful information stored there (one of the benefits of membership).

Your Executive Team:



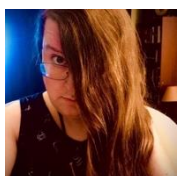
President – **Kathy Look Howery**

I will be staying on at least for the first two years to support the transition to working under the new Terms of Reference.



President Elect - **Glenda Watson Hyatt**

Glenda will be working with me to ensure a smooth transition. And now that we no longer have a Past President position, it will be great to work together with Glenda as she takes on the Presidency in 2028, if not sooner!



Vice President Who Uses AAC – **Darla Burrow**

Darla is new to the Executive and like Glenda is an AAC User. Darla is currently living in Ontario, although she spent some time in Alberta as well! She has a passion for gaming, and presented on it at ISAAC Cancun this past summer!



Vice President Without Portfolio – **Erica McCloskey**

Erica has taken on this position in part to solidify our newly formed partnership with Breaking the ICE (BTI). She is chairing the Breaking the ICE committee and having her on the Executive of ISAAC will be a great asset as well. Erica is from Ontario and has a long history working in the field of AAC and promoting meaningful participation of AAC users.



More about BTI

BTI hosts events for people who use **Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC)**. **ICE stands for Independence, Community and Empowerment**. The goal is to provide individuals who use AAC opportunities to come together and learn from each other, create

meaningful relationships in the community, and have a platform to share ideas and feelings.

See <https://isaac-canada.org/ice-conferences/> for details!

Secretary – **Elizabeth (Liz) Baird**

Liz is an SLP and an ISAAC member also from Ontario. Liz has served for the past four years as the Ontario representative to the National Council. She works at the Holland Bloorview Centre in Toronto and brings a wealth of AAC knowledge to our Executive. We are very pleased she is taking on this important role!



Treasurer – **Paulina Finak**

Paulina is a Doctoral Candidate at Queen's University working on AAC related research. Paulina is also an SLP so brings both research and practice perspectives to our Executive. We are very grateful that she has taken on this role and look forward to reading more about her research.



A priority for our Executive over the summer months is to create an **ISAAC Canada Handbook**. This handbook will help future Executives and National Council members in undertaking their roles as well as help to ensure that the work of ISAAC Canada continues in a relatively seamless manner.

Thanks to the past Executive members and others who contributed to this work by participating in our think tank to review ISAAC Canada's goals and purposes. Our new Executive will move this work forward.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Membership in ISAAC is open to persons who use AAC, their families, and anyone interested in supporting people with complex communication needs. Click on the link below to learn more about ISAAC's different membership categories and benefits of membership for individuals and organizations.

- [ISAAC Membership Benefits](#) (PDF, 151 kB)

Also, **ISAAC Canada is offering Adult AAC users their first year of ISAAC Canada membership free!** In subsequent years they pay the AAC member fees as outlined by ISAAC Canada.

Our work - ISAAC Canada Committees

Political Advocacy

In addition to general advocacy related to AAC, this committee will collaborate with the work of Communication Disabilities Access Canada <https://www.cdacanada.com/> and the Canadian Communication Access Alliance

Communications

The work of this committee will involve communicating with membership and the public about AAC and ISAAC Canada. It will involve working on the Newsletter and engaging in social media such as our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ISAAC.Canadianchapter>

AAC Connections

*This committee includes the renewed partnership with **Breaking the ICE** and working on **AAC Awareness**, most particularly focused on activities during AAC Awareness Month in October.*

Professional Learning

*This committee will focus on the **ISAAC Canada Webinars**, where Canadians involved in AAC as users, families, or practitioners will share information. This committee will also explore the feasibility of Canadian AAC Conferences in the years where there is not an ISAAC International Conference.*

ISAAC Canada relies on volunteers! Please reach out if you are interested in any of these committees or have other ideas. While we have wonderful people on each of these committees, we are always looking for new people and new ideas to ensure we are working to support our vision...**to promote the best possible communication for people with complex communication needs.** This vision takes a village (people who use AAC, their families, the professionals that support them) am hoping to hear from many of you who are interested!

Final Thoughts...

ISAAC Canada exists to bring together people who use AAC across Canada and their family, friends, and supporting professionals. We are so glad to have you all a part of ISAAC Canada to bring to life its mission of promoting the best possible communication for people who require and use Augmentative and Alternative Communication in their daily lives.

Please reach out to me at kateconsulting@icloud.com or to admin@isaac-canada.org, and we will make sure to get back to you with more information on any of the things I have shared and particularly if you are interested in volunteering for committee work 😊

Kathy Look Howerly, PhD
President
ISAAC Canada

