

# Working Together to Promote Accessible Library Service

Faline Bobier

Donna Christensen

Alberta Library Conference 2013

seeing beyond vision loss

# CNIB Library Partners Program

## What is the Partners Program?

Partnership between CNIB and public libraries in Alberta to expand accessible library service to people with print disabilities



Donna Christensen receiving Dayton Forman Memorial Award

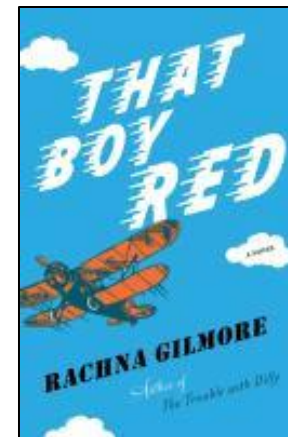
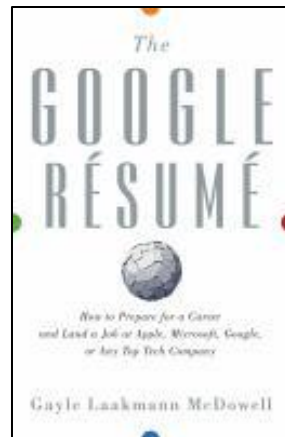
# Partners Program in Alberta

- Over 15,000 DAISY titles in deposit collections in 96 libraries
- Plus 15,000 titles circulated through ILL
- Over 200 staff from 110 libraries trained
- Libraries received over 20,000 promotional items



# CNIB Library collection

- Bilingual collection & services: English & French
- Books for all ages, from pre-schoolers to adults
- Books for all interests: fiction, non-fiction, award winners



# Access to alternative formats

## Physical formats:

- DAISY audio books on CD
- Braille & printbraille books
- Descriptive movies



# Access to alternative formats

And online:

- Downloadable MP3 and DAISY audio
- Online newspapers & magazines
- Databases

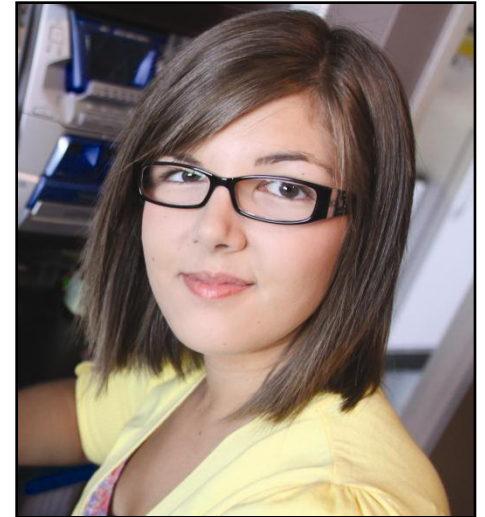
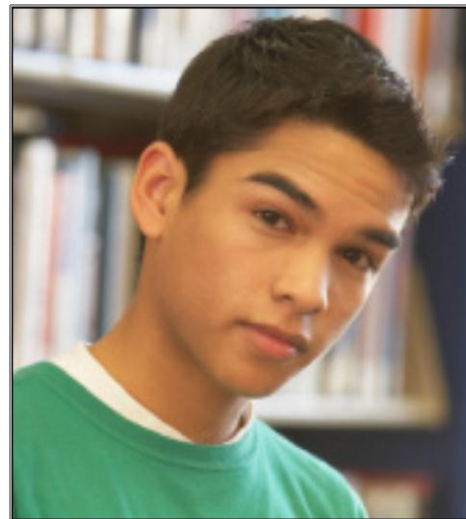
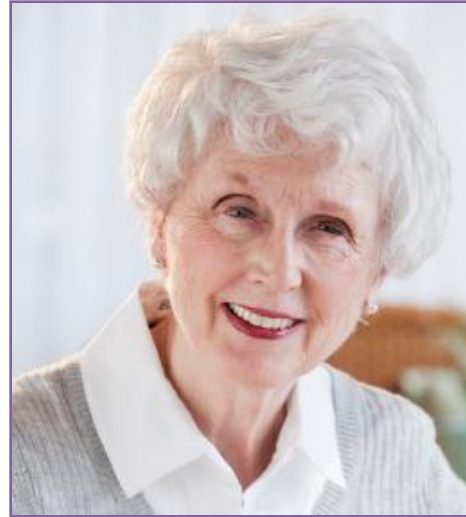




# Who can access the program?

Anyone who has trouble reading regular print due to:

- learning disability (dyslexia, some forms of autism, etc.)
- physical disability (severe arthritis, stroke, MS, etc.)
- visual disability (blindness or partial sight)



# Support for accessible programs

- Book clubs & community reads programs
- TD Summer Reading Club
- Free promotional materials for outreach: bookmarks & posters





# What do Alberta libraries say?

"I have one lady who would like to try it out when it arrives - she is over 90 and her vision is failing to the point that large print books are getting difficult for her to read. She's a very sweet woman who loves to read and I am excited to be able to provide this option for her. Thank you for helping libraries provide this wonderful service!"

– Joanne Merrick, **Carstairs Public Library**

# What do Alberta libraries say?

“...**our patrons are thrilled** we have this to offer them.”

– Yvonne Ketcheson, **Blackfalds Public Library**

# What do Alberta libraries say?

“We have a gentleman in his mid-nineties who **for the first time in years** has been able to be a member of a book club...”

- Jean Keetch, **Rimbey Municipal Library**

# Promotion in public libraries

“We reach out to as many programs and organizations as available to promote the materials which are available through the CNIB Partners Program.”

Colleen Vaughan, Library Manager, **Provost Public Library**

Mary Heck, Assistant Manager, **Provost Public Library**



# Promotion in public libraries

“We recognized that partnering with the CNIB would provide an additional level of service to our community members who are unable to read traditional print...The Didsbury Library is grateful that we are able to facilitate a full library experience for all – without exception.”

- Donna Christensen,  
Librarian, **Didsbury  
Municipal Library**



# Promotion in public libraries

“While the books themselves enrich the lives of seniors and other special needs individuals, it is the regular, one-on-one contact with library staff and volunteers that give this program extra significance to its users.”

–Margaret McGrory, Executive Director, CNIB Library, quote about **Wetaskiwin Public Library’s Homebound Service**

