

Volume 5 "The EnableLinker" Issue #1

The E-zine Linking You to Canada's Disability Community.

November 2006

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Welcome to the November issue of The EnableLinker!

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1. WIT & WISDOM

WIT:

A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse. "But why?" they asked, as they moved off. "Because", he said, "I can't stand chess-nuts boasting in an open foyer."

WISDOM:

"We must accept finite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite hope." - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Send jokes, favourite sayings and humorous, true disability-related stories to able@abilities.ca

2. NEWS

JOIN THE CELEBRATION!

It's time for the 5th Annual Celebration of the United Nations' International Day of Disabled Persons National Kick-Off Event, to be held November 30 at Parliament Hill, Ottawa. Join the Canadian Association of Independent Living Centres (CAILC) and other organizations and distinguished guests at Room 200, West Block, House of Commons, Wellington Street, to celebrate the current and potential economic, cultural, political and social contributions of Canadians with disabilities. The House of Commons requires names of all guests for security purposes. To register, call CAILC at 613-563-2581 ext. 10 or e-mail marketing@cailc.ca. Also, kindly identify disability-related accommodations.

"THE TIES THAT BIND" TOUR IS ON THE MOVE

PLAN Institute for Caring Citizenship, in partnership with five national organizations, is hosting a cross-Canada tour of the award-winning film "The Ties That Bind" to assist families to plan for the future for their relative with a disability. For info, visit <http://www.planinstitute.ca>. Remaining dates:

Nov 3/4: Chatham, ON

Nov 4: Medicine Hat, AB; Montreal, PQ; Seattle, Washington

Nov 17/18: St. John's, NF

Nov 24/25: Peterborough, ON

Nov 25: Prince George, BC

Nov 30: Burnaby, BC

Dec 2: Calgary, AB

FIRST PROPOSED STANDARD FOR AODA ANNOUNCED

On October 23, Ontario's Community and Social Services Minister Madeleine Meilleur made an announcement that the first proposed standard developed under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, for customer service, is available for public review and feedback at this website: <http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/accessibility/index.html> Recruitment has also begun for a new Standards Development Committee, which will draft a proposed standard on accessible information and communications. For info, visit: <http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/accessibility/index.html>

NEW AUTISM AWARENESS PROGRAM

North Vancouver's Heather McCracken announces the release of "That's What's Different About Me! - Helping children understand autism spectrum disorder" an innovative packaged autism awareness program. It uses child-size puppets and tailored scripts that focus on differences, similarities and friendships between children with autism spectrum disorder and their peers. For info, visit <http://www.friend2friendsociety.org>.

PHYS. ED!

A new program from the Canadian Paralympic Committee, "Changing Minds, Changing Lives," is aimed at educating healthcare professionals on the benefits of using sport and physical activity as part of rehabilitation for people living with a physical disability. For info: andrea@paralympic.ca

SHARE YOUR BEST SOFTWARE FINDS

The Adaptech Research Network is looking for your favourite free or inexpensive software titles! How can you help? If you use or know of software that is either free or inexpensive (\$200 or less) that you feel would be beneficial to students with disabilities, they want to hear about it. Please send the name of the software and, if you have it, the name of the company that makes it and a website to catherine.fichten@mcgill.ca . You can browse the collection at http://adaptech.dawsoncollege.qc.ca/fandi_e.php

COURT CHALLENGES PROGRAM CANCELLED

The Court Challenges Program has been cancelled by the Conservative government. This is a blow to all those in Canada who believe in fairness, equality and language rights for French and English minorities. Visit <http://www.savecourtchallenges.ca> .

NEW ISSUE OF ABILITIES!

The Winter 2006 issue of ABILITIES MAGAZINE is coming soon! This issue has exciting articles about wheelchair curling, travel in Greece, and assistive technology. Don't miss it! Subscribe or purchase a gift subscription for just \$14/1 year (4 issues) or \$26/2 years (8 issues) for individuals and \$24/year or \$34/two years for organizations and companies. <http://www.abilities.ca/abilities/subscribe.html>

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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COMING UP IN NOVEMBER...

Crohn's Disease and Colitis Awareness Month

<http://www.cafc.ca>

Diabetes Month

<http://www.diabetes.ca>

Osteoporosis Month

<http://www.osteoporosis.ca>

National Down Syndrome Awareness Week (first week)

<http://www.cdss.ca>

National Marfan Awareness Week (2nd week)

<http://www.marfan.ca>

3. EVENTS

"2006 DeafNation Expo"

November 4, Rochester, NY, U.S.A.

Free admission for exhibitions, workshops and entertainment. <http://www.deafnation.com/t/dnexpo.aspx?articleid=37&zoneid=17>

"Women's Connection, for All Women with Disabilities"

November 8 (Brampton) and November 22 (Mississauga), ON

Learn about healthy and abusive relationships. Lunch will be served at all sessions. Attendant services will be provided. Limited support available for transportation and child care. E-mail france.tolhurst@sympatico.ca .

"10th Annual Active Living Conference"

November 10, Toronto, ON

The theme is Moving Forward - Introduction to Inclusion, Promoting Fitness and Recreation for People of All Ages and Abilities. Event takes place at Variety Village. For info, call 416-699-7167.

"NEADS 20th Anniversary National Conference"

November 10 to 12, Ottawa, ON

celebrate the 20th anniversary of the National Educational Association of Disabled Students at its conference, "Creating Our Future: On Campus and Beyond." Workshops include job search strategies, the future of post-secondary education and more. For info, visit <http://www.neads.ca/conference2006> .

"Mapping the Future of Your Association"

November 15, Toronto, ON

In this collaborative learning forum, you'll explore critical issues and key factors on the theme "Exploring the Future: Seven Strategic Conversations That Could Transform Your Association and Mapping the Future of Your Association." Visit <http://www.csae.com/trillium/public.asp?WCE=C=56|K=224246|CAL=220579>

"Real Talk, Real Answers: Living with MS in Your 20s and 30s"

November 16, 7 to 9 p.m. ET, Washington D.C., U.S.A.

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society and MS LifeLines hosts this summit, which will give young adults with MS the chance to hear from experts on health and life decisions. The event will be webcast at <http://www.RealTalkRealAnswers.com> .

"Learning Disabilities Association of Alberta Conference"

November 16 to 18, Edmonton, AB

The theme "Extending our Visions" celebrates the work that educators and other professionals have done to ensure the success for people with LD and ADHD. <http://www.ldaa.ca/conference.htm> .

"Elder Abuse and Ethical Decision-Making Workshop"

November 17, Toronto, ON

North York Elder Abuse Network presents this event at Cummer Lodge Home for the Aged. \$30. For info, e-mail Mee Ling Cheung at mcheung@nyseniors.org .

"A BALANCE Affair"

November 17, Toronto, ON

BALANCE, an organization supporting people with vision disabilities in the Greater Toronto Area, is celebrating its 20th anniversary. Join the staff, board members, participants and community members at the Berkeley Church. Tickets are \$40 and include a fabulous sit-down meal, wonderful entertainment and the opportunity to participate in a raffle for great prizes. The last day for ticket sales is Nov. 8. For info, visit the event webpage at <http://www.balancetoronto.org/affair.htm> .

"Breast Health Awareness for Women with Disabilities"

November 18, Toronto, ON

This free workshop, led by Linda Muraca from Mt. Sinai Hospital, will dispel common myths and provide you with info to take control of your health. Call 416-599-2458 or TTY 416-599-5077.

"Thinking in the Future Tense"

November 18, Burnaby, BC

Planning for the future is the path to ensuring a good life in the present. Preparing your will, setting up a trust, tax issues, helping your relative with a disability have the decision-making support they need are all components of the plan. Come to this workshop and hear from experts from B.C. \$60 per individual or family of two; \$50 for associates - individual or family of two. For info, e-mail inquiries@plan.ca.

"Movie & Munchie Night for Women with Disabilities"

November 24, Toronto, ON

The Women with Disabilities Action Awareness Group is for women with mobility disabilities and the women who support them. For info about movie nights, contact Lucy at 416-486-8666 x 226.

"The Elder Abuse Puzzle: Is it Abuse and Whom Can I Call?"

November 24, Ottawa, ON

This is a workshop for caregivers, seniors and friends of seniors. \$35 includes full-day workshop and lunch. For info, e-mail info@citizenadvocacy.org.

"Mix Community Club Christmas Party & Dance 2006"

November 24, Toronto, ON

See the popular band Vaslav! <http://www.mixcommunityclub.com>

"Hamlet by William Shakespeare using Live Describe"

November 25, 2 p.m., Toronto, ON

An experience where audience members with vision disabilities will be able to hear a rich description of a theatre production as it is being performed. An innovative technology called Live Describe will be used to hear "Hamlet" at the Hart House Theatre. The organizers are looking for support to assist people in attending this event. If you are interested in sponsorship or need info, contact Smriti Dev at smriti.dev@utoronto.ca or visit [CulturAll's website](http://www.culturall.ca) For tickets, contact the theatre at 416-978-8849 and ask for "Hamlet Described." Live description of this show will be provided by The Centre for Learning Technologies (CLT) at Ryerson University. This event is part of the CulturAll Project initiated by Adaptive Technology Resource Centre (ATRC) of UofT.

"Ontario Literacy for Deaf People"

November 25, Toronto, ON

15th Anniversary Banquet, \$50/adult or \$35 student/senior. Includes dinner, speakers and entertainment. For info, visit <http://www.deafliteracy.ca>.

"Social Skills Training and Adolescent Behavior Solutions in ASD"

November 28 to 29, Minneapolis, MN, U.S.A.

Visit <http://www.spectrumtrainingsystemsinc.com/minneapolis.html>. Special parent price: 2 Days: \$160, 1 Day: \$95.

"Smashing Stereotypes"

December 1, Toronto, ON

This event is geared toward the local business community. It will highlight success stories and address

many myths surrounding employment and people with disabilities, as well as available supports for employers, info about disability legislation and more. Visit <http://www.ysstab.on.ca> or call 1-888-763-2168 .

"2006 Ability Symposium"

December 1, Niagara, ON

This event will bring together experts, community leaders and people with disabilities to share research and best practices, and also to work together to support independent living. For info, visit <http://www.abilitysymposium.com> .

"ICAST - Intelligent Computational Assistive Science and Technology"

December 4 to 5, Toronto, ON

This is a ground-breaking national symposium on assistive devices for people with physical disabilities. Attendees are Canadian leaders in research and development of assistive device technologies from the academic research community, government and industry. Contact Gary Gudbranson gudbranson@prearn.ca .

"Workplace Education and Learning Conference"

December 5 to 6, Toronto, ON

Looking for ways to improve performance and productivity in your workplace? Join experts from the US, UK, Europe, Australia, Canada and others to learn how you can meet the global challenge of finding and developing employees. To find out more, visit <http://www.conferenceboard.ca/education/conference/workplace2006>

"Grants 101: Professional Grant Proposal Writing Workshop"

December 13, Toronto, ON

This is an intensive and detailed introduction to the process, structure and skill of professional proposal writing. \$597 USD tuition includes all materials and certificates. For info, visit <http://www.thegrantinstitute.com> .

"SATH 11th World Congress"

January 10 to 13, Miami, Florida, U.S.A.

Join the Society for Accessible Travel & Hospitality for its annual event! For details, <http://www.sath.org> .

"Women's Health Matters Forum & Expo"

January 19 to 20, Toronto, ON

An interactive, information consumer and health provider event providing fresh perspectives and new information on hot issues in women's health. \$15 per day. <http://www.womenshealthmatters.ca>

"8th Annual ATIA Conference"

January 24 to 27, 2007, Orlando, Florida, USA

For info about the Assistive Technology Industry Association's conference, please visit <http://www.atia.org> .

"World Physical Therapy 2007"

June 2 to 6, 2007, Vancouver, BC

The World Confederation for Physical Therapy invites you to participate in its 15th International Congress, hosted by the Canadian Physiotherapy Association. For details, please visit <http://www.wcpt.org/congress/index.php> .

"Festival of International Conferences on Caregiving, Disability, Aging and Technology"

June 16 to 19, 2007, Toronto, ON

FICCDAT will include five important conferences running concurrently as well as many joint events.

For more info about the conference or submitting an abstract, please visit <http://www.ficcdat.ca> .

"TRANSED 2007 - 11th International Conference on Mobility and Transport for Elderly and Disabled Persons"

June 18 to 21, 2007, Montreal, QC

This conference will review advances in research, evoke international breakthroughs and explore perspectives for technological innovations in order to respond to the mobility challenges of an aging population and of persons with disabilities. For info, visit <http://www.tc.gc.ca/transed2007> .

If you'd like your event to be considered for The EnableLinker, send an e-mail to: able@abilities.ca

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4. WEBSITE OF THE MONTH
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<http://www.independentliving.org/fashionfreaks/introeng.html>

Fashion Freaks is a website of free patterns to create jackets and pants for male and female wheelchair users. Financed by The Swedish Inheritance Fund.

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5. CLASSIFIED ADS
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** Advertise your product or service to people with an interest in disability! To place an ad in this section, please e-mail able@abilities.ca \$25 for 60 words. We accept VISA. **

FOR SALE

Accessibility Wheelchair Van available in Toronto area: Green/gold, 2000 Chevy Astro Ext Model with 4-wheel drive! Looks and drives great! Engine in great condition - runs smoothly! Leather interior and fully loaded! Side entrance with power hideaway lift. Optional driver controls and driver spinning seat. 200 km - selling certified and e-tested. Sacrifice - asking \$12,000 or best offer. Please call Mike at 416-606-3504.

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KUTAWAYS, Coats designed to maintain the quality of living for people in motion. Unique in style, comfortable, warm and accessible! Sized for toddlers to seniors. Please visit <http://www.kutaways.com> for more details.

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FOR RENT OR SALE

Fully equipped accessible cottage available in Combermere, Ont., just 3.5 hours from Toronto. Wheelchair access to the lake, many amenities, several points of interest nearby. Ideal for couples or families with children. To discuss timing and availability Contact Joan at 416-533-9875 or joansinclair@bellnet.ca

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

A cross-sectoral coalition is taking shape to resist the recent federal government spending cuts. The Canadian CED Network is taking the lead on organizing. Read about it by visiting <http://communitiesagenda.wordpress.com> .

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TAKING THE NEXT STEPS TO BECOMING AN ARTIST

Are you an emerging artist with a disability? Do you want to connect with other artists with disabilities and learn more about being a professional artist? If this sounds like you or someone you know, for more information send an e-mail to christine@abilities.ca . The Canadian Abilities Foundation is proud to be part of the CulturAll Network, a national multi-sector network working to ensure that everyone in Canada is able to participate in the Canadian cultural exchange. To learn more about CulturAll Network projects, please visit <http://culturAll.atrc.utoronto.ca> . #####

Co-op Cabs announces Toronto's new On-Demand Wheelchair Accessible Taxicab Service. Wheelchair users can flag or call for an accessible taxi-van at the same rate as regular taxis. Call 416-504-2667 or book online at <http://www.co-opcabs.com> .

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Families of children with multiple disabilities in York Region and Simcoe County, Ontario, can now call a toll-free number to access an integrated plan of care. When parents call 1-866-377-0286, they will be connected to a service that links regional healthcare, recreation, education and social and community resources from 25 organizations and agencies.

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The Canadian Abilities Foundation congratulates Tracy Odell, whose research paper, "Not Your Average Childhood: Lived Experience of Children with Physical Disabilities Raised in Bloorview Hospital, Home and School 1960 - 1989" has been awarded the John Lord Award. The paper documents the recollections of several adults with physical disabilities who lived at the Bloorview Hospital. For info, contact Ms. Odell at tracyo@yorku.ca .

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North Toronto Memorial Community Centre is offering a FREE Wheelchair Stretch & Strength Fitness Class on Mondays from 2 to 3 p.m. until Christmas. Build strength, increase flexibility and reduce stress! For info, call Mary at 647-895-6844.

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TRAVEL MEXICO - Tropical island paradise. Opening New Year's Eve 2006! New universal designed hotel & restaurant on 300' beachfront. Every room including bathrooms wheelchair-accessible. Trained aides, chefs, TV, WiFi. Relax in the sun weeks, months or yearly. Contact Bill - <http://www.isla-aguada.com> or isla_aguada@msn.com . #####

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

SexAbility, a program in Toronto, seeks volunteer peer facilitators to assist with workshops on sexuality and disability, organize events and develop new workshops. For info, please e-mail Madeline at madeleinet@ajhs.ca .

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Applications for entry to the Fall 2007/08 session of the MA (Critical Disability Studies) program at York University in Toronto are now being accepted. The application deadline is March 1st, 2007; however, prospective students are encouraged to apply as early as possible. Information and admission details are on the program website at <http://www.atkinson.yorku.ca/cdis> . Prospective students are also invited to our Graduate Open House being held on November 11th from 1 pm to 3 pm. Online registrations are accepted at the website. For further information, call 416-736-2100 ext. 44494 or e-mail gradcds@yorku.ca .

#####

Swift Trade Inc., one of Canada's leading stock trading firms, proudly announces the launch of a new program geared at providing jobs for individuals with physical disabilities. In addition to donations of \$50,000 to the BC Paraplegic Association and \$30,000 to Pacific Assistance Dogs, Swift Trade Inc. is looking to recruit people with spinal cord injuries and other physical disabilities to be stock traders in its British Columbia offices. For employment information contact jobs@swiftrade.com .

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Job Posting: Instructor/researcher for Transition to Employment for the Deaf District School Board of Niagara (St. Catharines, ON). The teaching component will be 6 weeks long. The research/writing component will be for 5-6 weeks and may be done in another location. Time frame: Winter 2007. Apply by Nov. 30. Contact Shirley Henley at Shirley.Henley@dsbn.edu.on.ca .

#####

BALANCE in Toronto announces that it has added Job Development to its services for people with vision disabilities. If you or someone you know is interested, contact Jeff Overmars at j.overmars@balancetoronto.org . For info on BALANCE, visit <http://www.balancetoronto.org> .

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PUBLICATIONS AND WEBSITES

A new issue of Breath & Shadow, ROSC's Journal of Literature and Disability Culture, is now online. The theme is "Animals, Part II." Please visit <http://www.abilitymaine.org/breath/> .

#####

The Paralympic Shop is now online! Pick up official T-shirts, sweaters, water bottles, keychains and other great gifts at <http://www.paralympicshop.com> .

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Canadian Association of Professionals with Disabilities invites you to visit its website: <http://www.canadianprofessionals.org> . Contact the organization at info@canadianprofessionals.org or by calling 250-361-9697.

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Karen Darke recently became the first paralysed woman to cross Greenland. She tells her story in a new book, "If you Fall." For more info, visit <http://www.o-books.net> .

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A new report from the Public Health Agency of Canada provides updated data and information on mental health among Canadians. Developed in collaboration with the Mood Disorders Society of Canada, Health Canada, Statistics Canada and the Canadian Institute for Health Information, "The Human Face of Mental Health and Illness in Canada" is endorsed by the Canadian Mental Health Association. View the report in PDF format at <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca> .

#####

The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health has published a new bilingual website for health care providers who serve francophone clients. It provides info to help providers understand mental health and addiction issues, treatments and programs. It also provides information to give to clients, family members and healthcare workers. Visit <http://www.reseaufranco.com> .

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Please support the Canadian Disabled Individuals Association (CDIA) with your purchase of the novel LIFE SIDE UP, written by founder Ron Didur. For info, visit <http://www.lifefsideup.com> . \$14.95 plus shipping and handling of \$4.99 for three books or fewer. All proceeds to be donated to CDIA.

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ConnexOntario's websites - including Mental Health Service Information Ontario, the Drug and Alcohol Registry of Treatment and the Ontario Problem Gambling Helpline - have been relaunched with new

features, such as interactive maps that show the location of each organization, as well as an enhanced search function. Visit <http://www.connexontario.ca> .

#####

K roul is a non-profit organization that provides information on accessible tourism and culture. It has a new brochure: AccessiB, the Open Road, for travellers with disabilities, that focuses on Quebec. For info, visit <http://www.keroul.qc.ca/> .

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"Walking on Wheels: 50 Wheel-friendly Trails in Scotland" by Eva McCracken is a guide for wheelchair and electric scooter users who wish to enjoy the Scottish countryside. Includes info on accessible trails ranging from two to 12 miles. Read more at <http://www.anAurora.co.uk> .

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SURVEYS, AWARDS, CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS AND WEBSITES

Mary Hill, a graduate student at the University of New Brunswick, is conducting a study on the consumer experience of users of assistive technology for vision and hearing disabilities. Ms. Hill seeks adults with vision or hearing disabilities to complete a 20- to 30-minute online survey about their experiences with assistive technology. Participants can have their names entered in a draw for \$100. People who wish to complete Braille or large-print paper versions of the survey, or to fill the survey by phone, can call 1-888-487-3222. The survey will be available until Nov. 30. For info, e-mail mhill@unb.ca .

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The deadline for abstract submissions for FICCDAT, the Festival of International Conferences on Caregiving, Disability, Aging and Technology, a global festival for businesses, researchers, policy-makers, practitioners, caregivers, seniors and persons with disabilities (to be held June 16 to 19 in Toronto) has been extended to December 11. For more information, please visit <http://www.ficcdat.ca/General/AboutCallForAbstract.aspx?lang=en-US>

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SERVICES

The Mix Community Club, a non-profit social club providing community entertainment that socially integrates the mainstream and disability community, offers Mix Mobile Events. Book yours today! Events are up to 3 hours. Cost: \$5 per person. The Club provides live entertainment and DJ, an event announcer and door prizes. For info, visit <http://www.mixcommunityclub.com> .

#####

Experienced graphic designer is available to assist non-profit organizations with logos, advertisements, brochures, posters and more. Reasonable rates for efficient work. For info, contact Marta at marta@bijoucom.ca . To view a brochure, visit <http://www.abilities.ca/Ezine/Bijou%20Communications>.

[pdf](#) .

6. SHARE THIS E-ZINE

Share this e-zine by e-mail. Forward it to your friends and associates. If you are interested in reprinting any of the content, please e-mail: able@abilities.ca

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