

Breaking News

Blissymbolics Service Established in Toronto

Blissymbolics Communication International (BCI) is very pleased to announce that Blissymbolics instruction, consultation, technology and mentoring is now being provided at the Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy (OFCP), 1630 Lawrence Ave. West, Suite 104, Toronto, M6L 1C5, phone: 416-242-9114, email: info@blissymbolics.org.

This new service, based in Toronto, is under the direction of Shirley McNaughton C.M., Ph.D., Chair of Blissymbolics Communication International, and is administered by Gordana Skrba, OFCP. The Bliss-trained special education teacher is Sherly Thankappan and technical support is provided by Paul Marshall. Both Sherly and Paul have extensive experience in Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) and will be providing support using specialized Blissymbolics software - both directly to Bliss users and alumni in Toronto, and by means of computer assisted instruction to Bliss users throughout southern Ontario.

The need for this service became apparent as the Learning Centre in Bala, established in 2002 and originally known as *Blissymbolics Learning Centre*, began changing its focus. As the Centre moved to the provision of technology support for print literacy and computerized distance educational programs, Bliss users needed an ongoing service providing Bliss expertise on an individualized basis. After providing extensive funding for the *Blissymbolics Learning Centre* in Bala for its first seven years, the *Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy* (OFCP) is now continuing its support of Blissymbolics through supporting the new *Blissymbolics Service* in Toronto.

For residents in Muskoka, the acronym BLC now has a new meaning, and the Centre has new management and a broader mandate. We extend our congratulations to the *Bala Learning Centre* as they form a new alliance with *Community Living – South Muskoka*, (CLSM), an organization which provides residences and services to persons with developmental disabilities.

We, at BCI, are very appreciative of OFCP's continuing support of Blissymbolics. We look forward to the many learning opportunities the new Blissymbolics Service will provide throughout southern Ontario.