



News Release.

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Empowering independence through Assistive Technology. CNIB opens AT Centre in St. John's.

St. John's, NL - Assistive Technology refers to any device that enhances access to information for a person living with vision loss or a print disability. As a result of \$35,000 in funding received through United Way of Newfoundland and Labrador, CNIB was able to purchase some of the latest assistive technology available. The Centre will officially open with a special ribbon cutting at 11:00 a.m. this morning at CNIB on The Boulevard. The devices purchased were selected based on identified needs of people in Newfoundland and Labrador who seek assistance from CNIB. The Assistive Technology Centre will provide training, technical support and guidance in selecting the most suitable devices to meet individual circumstances, goals and objectives.

Bradley George, Board Chair, CNIB Newfoundland and Labrador, is enthusiastic about the impact this Technology Centre will have on those who face challenges as a result of vision loss. "We want to thank United Way for supporting this initiative. We can only provide these types of programs with the help of our corporate partners. To a person who is blind or living with vision loss in Newfoundland and Labrador, assistive technology is an opportunity to move beyond life's challenges. They are tools that enable independence at home, at work or in a post secondary setting. The other great thing about having this equipment is our technology specialist will be able to travel to remote areas of the province demonstrating how these tools can provide an opportunity for greater access to information."

United Way's key funding areas support opportunities for children and youth, individual health and well-being, services for seniors, intervention and support, social and economic enhancement and community support services. In addition to these six target areas, donations can be directed toward specific charities as chosen by donors.

"There are solutions to improving quality of life for any of us experiencing vision loss," said George, "but it takes experience and a helping hand. CNIB relies heavily on the generous financial support of individuals, corporations, government and funders like United Way who help make our programs and services possible."

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