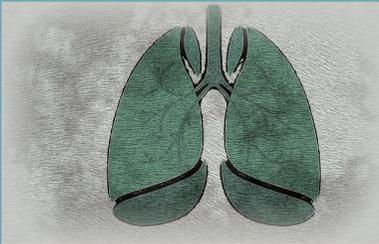


# balance

... what it's all about

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## Moving towards a post pandemic world

By Christine Gordon

**As** I write this in mid-April 2021, British Columbia is in its third wave of Covid-19 and we are experiencing what the baseball player Yogi Berra called 'déjà vu all over again'. This feeling is best characterized as a weary resignation to the inevitability of repetition. Its antidote is the recognition that we have changed over the past year – we are not the same people or the same organization that we were in March 2020 when the first wave of Covid arrived. We have learned a lot about ourselves and tested our resilience to the limit.

Here at TFL, we have improvised, redevise and reimagined everything that we do and we have supported self-help and empowerment. Here are some examples. TFL collaborated with Disability Alliance BC's CARMA program at George Pearson Centre to provide a TIL technician onsite to help locked in residents access the personal technology they needed to stave off loneliness, boredom and

despair. Thanks to a generous donation from a Foundation, residents who needed cell phones, laptops or adaptive technology could get them with TIL helping them to use them effectively. With

our partners from IFRC, we expanded the Pathways to Independence program, quadrupling monthly on-line attendance and providing vital information to our members about how to cope with the pandemic. Our TIL bio-meds and our PROP Respiratory therapists learned how to help members remotely and how to

don PPE effectively for safe home visits. Our Simon Cox Student Design Competition continued with virtual collaborations between our members and students and an on-line awards presentation.

It has been the best of times in the midst of the worst of times. At TFL, we will hold onto the best as we move forward to a post pandemic world.





## Cough Assist Machines at Technology for Living



Nancy Lear: "One of the main reasons for using a cough assist is to clear secretions. I have little secretions which is why I am a non-user. It is important to know that the decision 'when' to use a cough assist is a personal health decision. If you are a TFL member, you can request a cough assist device through the PROP program. Call us at 1-866-326-1245 to discuss your needs."

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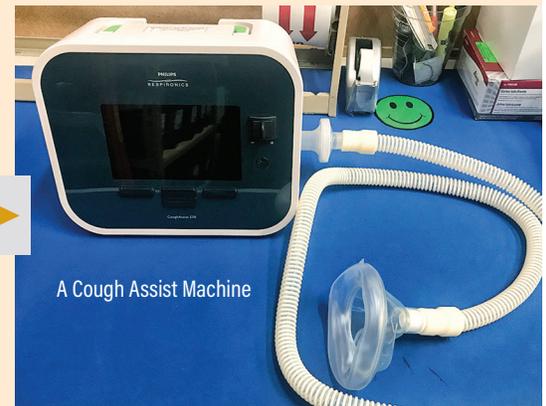
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B.S.: "I have been ventilator-dependent since February 1991. I use a cough assist four to five times per day for the last three years. A PROP team member introduced the machine to me. The biggest advantage in my opinion is the reduced need to suction. The main disadvantage is that the mechanics make my neck sore. Thicker secretions require quite a few coughs to bring up."



Johanna Johnson: "I've been ventilated for 36 years. Roughly, I started using the cough assist in 2016. I use it three times every day. An RN with PROP told me about it. It is extremely helpful and necessary to my lung health. I haven't had pneumonia or a sickness since I started using it. I would say: be very patient and persistent. Just when you think you aren't going to get anything up, you do."

## BITS & BYTES FROM TIL

### WE TALK TECH wants you!

*We are looking for topic ideas and/or participants for our monthly YouTube series WE TALK TECH. If you are super passionate about a piece of technology that makes your life more independent why not join Wayne Pogue and Ean Price in one of the upcoming episodes? All taping happens via Zoom, so no need for masks, social distancing, or travelling!*

*Whether it's tech TIL already provides, some new technology, or an obscure device you discovered while travelling: get in touch and share it with the community on a future WE TALK TECH episode.*

#### CONTACT US!

*We are always happy to discuss any member's needs. Simply phone us at ☎ 604.326.0175 or send an email to ✉ [info@technologyforliving.org](mailto:info@technologyforliving.org)*

## TIPS & TRICKS

### Audiobooks

*You can play audiobooks through the TIL provided voice assistant and use voice commands to control the audiobook. To listen with your Google Nest Mini/Hub, access the Google Play Store using the same Gmail account used to setup Google Home to download books. For the Amazon Echo Dot/Show, access your Audible account connected to your Amazon account to download books.*

# What does video gaming mean to me

By Ari Kinarthy

**V**ideo games can provide a tremendous amount of inclusiveness for people living with a disability. In my opinion, with the right assistive technology, anything is possible in the world of gaming. Technology for Independent Living (TIL) helped me to set up the assistive technology I require to play, for example microlight switches. Having access to this kind of technology and technical assistance helps to overcome challenges and means equality.

I am proud to be a disabled gamer. I was born with a genetic disability called Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) type 2. It progressively weakens all the muscles in the body.

I started playing games as early as I can remember. At age 6, my muscles were strong enough to use standard video controls. In those days, I played Super Mario and Street Fighter. However, struggles were ahead.

By age 16, my muscles became too weak to keep using standard controls. I was devastated. But thanks to my amazing mother, and the very talented and compassionate team at the GF Strong Rehabilitation Centre, I was introduced to assistive technology that works for me.

Being able to play video games has been an ongoing challenge throughout my life but the struggle to make it work is well worth it. When I play a video game with someone, my disability becomes irrelevant. It is an amazing feeling. I strongly believe that playing video games can build bridges across any ability gaps.

For 12 years, I used a 'Sip and Puff' device called the Darci USB (<https://bit.ly/39XLd3J>). It uses Morse code to control game functions like moving your character. I also used a simple pen tablet with good sensitivity settings and a series of microlight switches plugged into a switch configuration device. Last year, I upgraded to a different 'Sip and Puff' device, the Quad-Stick (<https://www.quadstick.com>) which offers even more features.

I'm 31 now, and I am able to play almost any game. My biggest loves are shooter and survival games. Some of my current favourite games are Apex Legends and ARK.



All this brilliant tech has brought my gaming to a whole other level. Check out how I rock with my gaming on my live stream Twitch channel ([www.twitch.tv/combodudethegamer](http://www.twitch.tv/combodudethegamer)). In the gaming world, I go by Combodude. Live streaming is so rewarding! I love to talk with all the people I meet in real time.

Never stop gaming!

*If you need help with setting up your own gaming environment, contact [TIL@technologyforliving.org](mailto:TIL@technologyforliving.org).*

## INHALE / EXHALE

### The PROP TEAM in action

Even during the warmer months, Covid-19 continues to be a part of our lives. We would like to let all our members know that in these challenging times, the PROP team is always there for you and your respiratory needs.

If a home visit is planned, please take note that the PROP team has been vaccinated to minimise risks in transmitting Covid-19. To provide further protection during home visits, all RTs and RN are wearing appropriate, professionally fitted N95 masks in your home. Your respiratory health is our priority, and we are taking essential precautions at all times to deliver our services in a safe manner.

#### CONTACT US!

If you need respiratory advice or support please contact the PROP team at  
📞 1.866.326.1245

## IDEA CORNER

Do you employ caregivers who may need a refresher trach/vent course? While PROP is temporarily unable to host face to face classes, we do offer virtual options. In April, PROP held a refresher course via Zoom for 10 caregivers. The feedback was positive. If this is something you are interested in, please contact us at [prop@technologyfor-living.org](mailto:prop@technologyfor-living.org)

# Cough Assist Machine: an overview

By Karla Kuzmich

Cough assist machines are also known as an 'Insufflator/Exsufflator' or a 'Mechanical Cough Assist Device.

While coughing is the ideal way to clear your lungs, not everyone has a strong enough cough to do so. A cough assist machine mimics a strong cough to help clear the lungs.

There has been a recent increase in using these machines in hospitals and throughout the community. PROP recognizes that our members may benefit from the device, particularly during periods of illness. Members are eligible to access a small pool of cough assist machines for short-term loans with a prescription.

### 'Breath Stacking' (Lung Volume Recruitment)

Manual breath stacking using a bag is the first process to try and help improve someone's overall lung health, to increase someone's lung volume, to improve cough strength, and to reduce the risk of respiratory illnesses. It resembles a deep yoga breath.

If this method isn't sufficient, the respirologist may suggest to move to a cough assist machine to help support a very weak cough or when a person is dealing with a lung infection.

### How to assess if a person has a weak cough

You can ask a PROP therapist to conduct a 'Peak Cough Flow' (PEF) test during a home visit or at the hospital as part of a 'Pulmonary Function Test'

(PFT). The results of the test will help determine if a cough assist device may be beneficial.

Additionally, a respirologist will also look at your complete medical history, including incidents of lung infections, before deciding if a cough assist machine is the right choice for an individual and then submit a request and prescription to PROP for the device.

A PROP team member will program the settings of the device based on individual needs and comfort, teach users how to operate it, and make adjustments as needed.

*After PROP donated an older style cough assist device to the Thompson Rivers University Respiratory Therapy Program we received this message:*

*"Thank you so much for the donation of the cough assist to the TRU RT program! It has already been a great learning experience for students. I knew nothing about cough assists when I graduated, yet they became very commonplace in Victoria (especially when I worked at Aberdeen long-term care). I always had to teach students at the bed side and they had no prior experience, so it's very cool to have it in the lab now."*

*Allison Innes-Wiens, RRT, BHSc, CRE, Assistant Teaching Professor and Clinic Supervisor, Respiratory Therapy.*

# Looking back and moving forward

## The Peers On Pages (POP) creative writing workshop series

By Nancy Lear

**POP** or Peers On Pages, is an online, co-facilitated creative writing workshop series that provides an opportunity for members to share their writings and to receive feedback, writing tips and guidance from the hosts and group participants. So far, two workshop series have been completed.

The first POP series ran from February to June 2020 with eight peer participants, and the second series ran from November to March 2020-2021 with five peer participants.

Both POP series were facilitated by Jackie Haywood, a published writer, and by me, the Peer Support facilitator for Technology for Living (TFL). We were supported by TFL staff Susan Dessa and Benson Au. POP's success was clearly based on everyone's efforts and support.

At a typical workshop session Jackie assigns two pieces of homework: one to practice 'impromptu' writing while the second exercise requires writing to deadlines. During subsequent meetings, it felt very empowering to share, listen and give feedback to each other on the assigned homework.

As the workshops progressed, peers became more relaxed while at the same time improving their writing. Fiction, non-fiction, memoirs, poetry, fantasy and sci-fi were all genres explored in the workshop series.

One of my goals at TFL is to bring peer voices to the forefront. I believe we succeeded in doing that with the POP workshop series. One of the initial reasons for starting a creative writing workshop was the hope to develop an environment for like-minded creative writers, to gather and showcase each other's writings, but indeed, it became more than that. The participants became part of a mutually supportive environment and we all felt a very unique

sense of belonging. The two POP series were of course different in some ways, but the encouragement for each other's growth as writers and beyond remained a strong, underlying foundation for both.

Creative writing can be as much a natural craft as a learned skill. It doesn't matter which path a writer follows to arrive at their written words, either journey can be a wonderful experience. It can bring as much joy to the writer weaving their words and phrases together as to the reader/listener. I believe I have a natural gift for creative

writing, but I also know I can improve my craft by participating in structured learning exercises as offered in the POP workshop series. The phrase 'practice makes perfect' can undoubtedly be applied to creative writing.

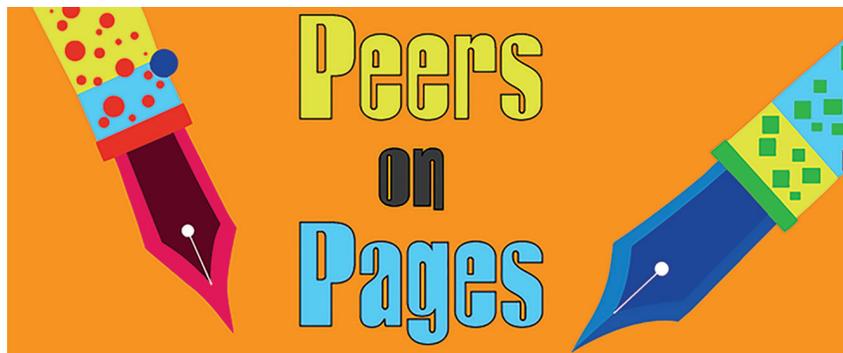
Due to COVID-19, both workshop series remained strictly virtual. But I hope eventually there will be an in-person POP creative writing group running alongside a virtual POP group for peers living too far away to commute. Stay tuned for any announcements to that effect once the pandemic has receded enough to safely allow it.

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**One announcement I am already happy to make: we are in the early planning stages for a third POP creative writing workshop series which will run from November 2021 to March 2022. Contact me at [nlear@technologyforliving.org](mailto:nlear@technologyforliving.org) for more information.**

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Being involved in the creation of POP, I would like to leave you with this: no matter if your writing skills are innate or learned, creative writing is alive and well within our peer community. Come and join us!





# PLANNED GIVING— LEAVING YOUR LEGACY

by Ken M. Kramer, Q.C., TEP KMK Law

**In** addition to the many benefits of having a “Will” in place to plan for the distribution of your estate when you are no longer alive, a Will also enables you to make a contribution to a charity or non-profit organization that you or a family member may have a strong association with.

The decision to plan a gift for “tomorrow” will also bring you benefits today. By creating your own legacy, you can take some control and build a bridge to coming generations. The rewards go beyond the personal as you will have a lasting impact and inspire many people in our communities. There are also fiscal advantages when contemplating a gift in your financial and estate plan.

Although many British Columbians continue to make donations to charitable organizations while they are alive, many are unaware of the various methods and available benefits associated with giving a charitable gift when we die.

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**As governments continue to scale down their social services responsibilities, the concept of community-building becomes vitally important to the survival of such organizations.**

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Many of us may think, “I really don’t have much to leave, so why bother!?” Giving a gift through your Will or a Trust does not have to be painful or costly. In fact, the Federal Government has recognized the importance of charitable giving by creating a more flexible environment for making a gift. Receiving a tax benefit remains a strong incentive for many in making a charitable gift, but many people value the “social benefit” attached to making such a gift.

What then are some of the charitable vehicles available for making a gift and which one(s) are most appropriate for me? A planned giving vehicle may be as simple as making a cash bequest to a specified charitable organization in your Will. However, new approaches to planned giving may include life insurance policies, publicly traded securities or trusts. Each method will have its own associated benefits for the donor and the recipient. The following represent some of the more common planning vehicles worthy of consideration:

## Bequests

You can bequeath a sum of money, an item, or any portion of your estate. You can also arrange to donate proceeds from your registered retirement savings plan (RRSP) or registered retirement investment fund (RRIF). Charitable tax receipts issued to your estate can offset taxes on your income in the year of death and in the previous year.

## Gifts Involving Annuities

You can buy an annuity and then use a portion of the annuity payments to pay premiums on a life insurance policy assigned to a charitable organization. You'll receive charitable tax receipts for the premium payments. Remarkably, with this charitable insured annuity plan, your income may increase. It is even possible to structure the gift so that both the charitable organization and your heirs receive a return on the investment by using the increased income to fund the premiums on a life insurance policy naming your heirs or your estate as the beneficiary.

### Life Insurance

Through relatively small life insurance premiums, you can provide a legacy of support. If you assign a new or an existing policy to a charitable organization, you will receive a tax receipt for the value of the policy and for subsequent premium payments. Insurance proceeds are contractual in nature and do not fall within your estate, thus, you can avoid probate fees and other taxes. Alternatively, you can designate a charitable organization as the beneficiary of the policy and a tax receipt will be issued to your estate.

## Trusts

You can make a gift today and benefit from the donated assets during your lifetime. You can accomplish this through a trust to which you transfer cash or assets. You or someone chosen by you will then receive either a fixed payment or interest income. When you transfer property to a trust, you receive a charitable tax receipt for the present value of the charitable entity's interest. Trust assets are placed outside your estate and the tax receipt may be used to reduce your taxes during your lifetime. When the trust terminates, the remaining assets will be used in the future to support the mission of the charitable organization of your choice.

## Personal Assets and Real Estate

There are also opportunities to make a gift of personal or real property to a charitable organization and retain a right to use the property during your lifetime. The transferred property may be art, your residence or commercial real estate. In each case you will receive a charitable tax

receipt for the present value of the charitable entity's interest which will offset taxes on your income. In addition, you may continue to use the property or receive income from it. At the end of your lifetime, the property may be sold and the proceeds will support programs and services of the intended charitable organization, as you have directed.

The answer to which planned giving vehicle is most appropriate for you must be assessed in light of your goals, your financial abilities and your creativity. Consultation with professional advisors (lawyer, accountant, financial planner) and the associated Planned Giving Manager of the intended charitable or non-profit organization will ensure that the right gift plan is chosen for you.

About the Author: Mr. Kramer, Q.C.'s, law firm, KMK Law, provides specialized legal services in the areas of Wealth Management, Estate Planning, Estate Litigation and Mediation. Mr. Kramer Q.C. is also involved extensively in both his community and the legal profession, having served on numerous Boards and Committees over his 25 year legal career. Currently, Mr. Kramer Q.C. serves as a Board Member with the Vancouver Airport Authority ("YVR"), Vice Chair of the Board of the College of Chiropractors of British Columbia, and a Board Member with Technology for Living.

Mr. Kramer Q.C.'s assistance in providing this information is appreciated. Readers are cautioned that the information expressed in this article should in no way be construed as legal advice.



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# The SMART space at the George Pearson Centre

By Benson Au

**Our** readers met bio-tech Benson Au in the March issue of the Balance. He provided an overview of how Technology for Independent Living (TIL), one of the two programs run by Technology for Living (TFL), has expanded its services into the George Pearson Centre (GPC). One of the projects he was describing, the SMART space, has nearly reached completion.

## What is the SMART space?

The SMART space is a room where residents can gather and use voice control activated electronics. Residents can come down to read a book on the iPad or watch anything they like on the TV. They can even use an XBOX for gaming, equipped with a controller so different types of adaptive switches can be plugged in, making it easy to deal with the requirements of a very diverse and differently abled group of residents. Benson is currently in the process of setting up a Virtual Reality (VR) environment after receiving a VR headset from the Recreation Department of GPC. He is optimistic logistical issues of offering the device to the residents will be soon sorted out, and he believes it will add another great experience to try out in the SMART room.

With social distancing rules in place, the SMART space is not being used at full capacity at the present. This does help with refining the overall set up. Scheduling access

to the SMART space is also still being worked out. "Once the world leaves the pandemic behind, I can imagine at least three to four residents will use the space at the same time as we have stations for that many different activities available. Maybe at the beginning, residents will simply pop in but the more popular the SMART space becomes, eventually there may be the need for a sign-up sheet," Benson suggests.

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**Benson has conducted a couple of trial runs with some volunteers, and he is very pleased with the overall positive feedback.**

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## Why a SMART space?

Activities that require the help of staff often need to be planned weeks in advance at the GPC to fit into the staff schedule. The SMART space offers residents the ability to be spontaneous. Using the technology of the SMART space, residents no longer need to ask staff for help to engage in every-day activities like watching TV and changing channels using voice control, playing computer games using easily adaptive switches, and more. "The sense of independence the SMART space is able to offer will be a major draw and a valuable addition to the social life at GPC," Benson suggests.

TFL, a keen supporter of working in collaboration with other community partners, would like to give a special shoutout to Joanne Bengert of CARMA (The Community and Residents Mentors Association). Funding concerns, debates of how to use the final space and of course the question of how to operate during a global pandemic were navigated successfully due to the teamwork. Benson explains: "We were able to get plexiglass installed between units and have the cleaning staff come every night to clean them. Joanne was able to facilitate a lot to get these needs met."





## 6<sup>th</sup> STUDENT DESIGN COMPETITION

# The 2021 competition was a resounding success

By Taylor Danielson

### SIMON COX AWARD (\$2500):

🏆 **University of Victoria** ▶ MobilArm

**Concept:** A modular multi-use power wheelchair arm attachment.

**Team members:** Kim Arklie, Jacqui Moreland, Adam Chen, Irene Lopez, Lauren Mark, Lilly Roberts, Logan O'Reilly

### JEANETTE ANDERSON ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (\$1,500):

🏆 **BCIT** ▶ Hot Goo

**Concept:** Hot Goo is intended for wheelchair users with limited motor function and poor circulation, to safely provide comfortable warmth to hands, wrists, or forearms with minimal effort.

**Team members:** David Cui, Terrence Lam, Stan Szeto

### TERRY LEBLANC INNOVATION AWARD (\$1000):

🏆 **Kwantlen Polytechnic University** ▶ Mobile Warmth

**Concept:** A clothing solution for ensuring the warmth of people who use wheelchairs, in adverse weather conditions.

**Team Members:** Emile Routley-Long

### People's Choice Award (\$500):

🏆 **UBC** ▶ Adjustable Portable Tabletop

**Concept:** A low-cost, light-weight, and portable tabletop that is inconspicuous and easy to use.

**Team Members:** Sabiha Sultana, Angelica Phelan, Evin Li, John Cookson

This year's Simon Cox Student Design Competition took place on May 8 as a virtual YouTube event. This type of presentation format was a new way to showcase Technology for Living's (TFL) signature event. But 2020-21 has been a year and a half of many firsts. The Covid-19 pandemic and the necessary restrictions put in place to deal with the impact, have demanded many rapid changes. In the light of these completely unprecedented hurdles, the event not only continued to highlight what an incredibly unique opportunity the competition offers for showcasing innovation and collaboration, but it also demonstrated resilience and determination from all people involved. We hope everyone enjoyed the event produced under unprecedented circumstances.

### Thoughts about Assistive Technology (AT)

Once a year, Technology for Independent Living (TIL), a program housed at Technology for Living (TFL), invites postsecondary students from across the British Columbia (BC) to design and create ground-breaking assistive technology solutions. These projects can be based on ideas conceived of by student teams, but more often than not they are developed in response to ideas and requests submitted by persons living with a disability (PWD) in BC.

'Assistive technology' in itself is a very broad term. That means it is very difficult to predict what type of devices

and technology will be entered into the competition. One common way to define AT is anything that assists a person living with a disability to accomplish a task. However, it is essential to stay away from *any sweeping assumptions* about what the task or technology might include. This can too easily and quickly lead to restrictions on creativity and therefore inhibit surprising developments and unexpected functionalities.

Each PWD is unique. It is important to avoid defining all PWDs as people using similar ATs like wheelchairs, canes, ventilators, braille, etc.

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### **Suggesting PWDs face similar challenges, which therefore require similar technological solutions, can easily lead to limiting unique AT solutions.**

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Any design will be flawed if it isn't based on the understanding that PWDs are first and foremost people with individual personalities, desires, and passions and exist independently of their disability.

The projects entered into the Simon Cox Student Design Competition attempt to solve a variety of challenges PWDs encounter on their quest to live as independently as possible. Throughout the process of participating in the competition, it becomes clear to the everyone involved that the nature of the obstacles experienced by individual peers, as much as the wealth of ideas how to overcome these obstacles, are entirely unique. "Wow, I never thought of that," was a sentiment, which wove through the whole competition.

Another thought to bear in mind is that while AT is often thought of as a collection of devices or technology **necessary** to overcome day-to-day challenges around mobility and communication, that is only true to some extent. AT can be so much more. It can enable PWDs to focus on things they **want** to do and engage with a myriad of activities not only those which are essential or necessary.

### **The judges' deliberations**

This year's competition was the largest yet in our seven year history. Five post-secondary institutions from across BC took part, with a total of ten teams entering the competition. Judging the many, very diverse projects is no simple

task – that's why we brought in the experts: Wayne Pogue (Team Lead, Biomedical Engineering at Technology for Living), Joanne Bengert (Electrical Engineer, Disability Advocate with the CARMA program of Disability Alliance BC), and Ean Price (Innovation Strategist with Technology for Living).

Together they formed a panel presenting extensive experience of working with AT but also offering an unwavering commitment to improving the lives of persons living with disabilities.

The question of course is how to judge these many, varied entries and choose a winner. Our team of expert judges broke down the process by defining three benchmarks and then assessing each project against them:

#### **> Peer Involvement**

This key metric was used to evaluate how much the individual teams involved a peer or Technology for Living member in the development of their projects.

#### **> Testing**

This metric refers to the extent to which teams tested their project. It was usually one of the first things that was discussed by the judges. A successful project was defined as one that had completed valid calculations and went on to back these theoretical premises up with real-world tests. In other words, it was not enough to simply state that a project could support a 40kg load without showing real-life evidence. Since projects are built for actual users, it was important to demonstrate that as many limitations as possible were tested and addressed and provide thoughtful observations about how a project might fail.

#### **> Scalability**

Although most projects were developed for and with a specific individual, the judges were looking for evidence that teams had considered whether their project would be scalable for a wider range of users.

### **Peers and the People's Choice Award**

Peer involvement is the cornerstone of the competition. From the onset of a project, student teams are encouraged to work in partnership with a peer. Many of the projects are based on an idea submitted by a TFL member which lends itself to establishing a natural partnership: a peer has a problem that needs solving and the student team

commits to finding a possible solution. During the process of creating a solution, the student team will ask for and receive ongoing feedback from the peer, eventually progressing to the stage of doing real life testing of a prototype with the peer. The ideal outcome for the peer is to have a functional solution to the initial problem. It's a win-win situation for both parties.

There are 4 awards given: the 'Simon Cox Principle Award', the 'Jeannette Anderson Achievement Award', the 'Terry Leblanc Innovation Award' and 'The People's Choice Award'. This year, peers of *Pathways To Independence*, a group dedicated to supporting each other in their quest for independent living in the community, were polled on their preference for the 'People's Choice Award'.

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**The result of the poll showed overwhelmingly that projects which heavily involved a peer were viewed more favourably than those which didn't.**

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## Looking ahead to the 2022 competition

The team putting together the competition worked tirelessly and passionately to make sure the first ever virtual event hosted on YouTube Live would be a success. For many, it was a new experience entailing a great deal of experimentation. We learned a lot along the way. In the end, it was all worth it and the event was a huge success for both Technology for Living and for our community of peers.

After a short reprieve from competition-related duties, the team will be back looking at how we can make next year's event even better. There is a consensus amongst team members that the flow of the competition, from when the initial student applications come in to the end when the awards are being announced, could benefit from some behind-the-scenes enhancements to smooth out the overall process.

However, for the entire team the big elephant in the room is of course putting on an event during a pandemic. Planning this year's event has been extraordinarily challenging due to COVID-19. As we move forward attempting to overcome this continuing crisis, we do hope to see the award ceremony return to an in-person event. The value of building community by bringing



together our membership, student teams, and others interested in AT cannot be overstated. But we won't forget one valuable lesson learned this year: the pandemic has demonstrated clearly how we can easily connect with each other virtually.

Any in-person event for next year's competition would be in Vancouver; however, Technology for Living serves all of British Columbia and we want to give everyone an opportunity to take part. Rest assured, the team will be exploring options for making the event available virtually for anyone who is unable to attend a blended in-person-virtual event. This idea is very much in its infancy and needs further development, but we are committed to reaching everyone who would like to participate.

We are eager to hear from anyone who has some ideas and thoughts about the Simon Cox Student Design Competition 2022! Please email Taylor Danielson, Peer Technician at [tdanielson@technologyforliving.org](mailto:tdanielson@technologyforliving.org). Taylor is always open to brainstorming any thoughts or ideas about fresh approaches to assistive technology no matter if it is part of the Simon Cox Competition or more general. It's his favourite part of the job!

**Revisit the award show  
on YouTube at  
<https://bit.ly/3tApRjU>**

**To see all entries visit:  
[simoncoxcompetition.com/  
competition-history/](https://simoncoxcompetition.com/competition-history/)**

Subscribe to our YouTube Channel and never miss another informational video hosted by Wayne Pogue & Ean Price



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