



“There isn’t a price one can put on the wisdom and advice Augmentative Communication users can give to each other.”

**Breaking the ICE** is a consumer-centered conference aimed at helping people who use Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) systems to develop their lives to the best of their abilities. ICE stands for:

**I** NDEPENDENCE  
**C** OMMUNITY INCLUSION  
**E** MPOWERMENT

OCTOBER  
28-29  
2017

BREAKING THE ICE CONFERENCE 2017

NOVOTEL TORONTO NORTH YORK  
3 Park Home Avenue, North York ON

## BREAKING THE ICE IS BUILDING FOUNDATIONS

*To communicate is like breathing air in and out. It is impossible not to do. It is the heartbeat of our own existence! It is the cornerstone upon which everything is built.*

-Paul Marshall



## WHO SHOULD ATTEND

The conference will be of interest to:

- People who use AAC
- Friends and family of people who use AAC
- Parents of young people using AAC
- Teachers
- Clinicians
- Community workers
- Students in graduate studies

## HOST



## PREVIOUS SPONSORS (2015)

- ISAAC-Canada
- Microcomputer Science
- Access Apartments
- Tobii Dynavox
- PACE
- North Yorkers for Disabled Persons

## ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

The organizing committee consists of people who use AAC, and representatives from various agencies including the following:

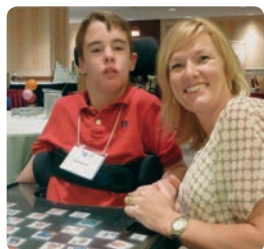
- Bridges Canada
- Hamilton Health Sciences
- Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital
- March of Dimes Canada
- Ontario's Centralized Equipment Pool for AAC
- Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy (OFCP)
- Thames Valley Children's Centre
- West Park Healthcare Centre

## GOALS OF BREAKING THE ICE CONFERENCE

- Provide a forum to discuss issues of importance to people who use AAC
- Promote awareness of AAC and the interests of people who use AAC
- Provide an opportunity for people who use AAC to network with other people of similar experiences, as a way of reducing the feelings of isolation that people who use AAC often describe



“An amazing opportunity to show the powerful minds that use AAC.”



“It opened my eyes and my son’s eyes as to what can be achieved. It lit a fire for him.”



“With the insights I gained, I would insist that my colleagues all attend this conference.”



“People who are new or inexperienced at using AAC have an incredible opportunity here to see how AAC has enhanced the lives of individuals.”

## SPONSORSHIP AND LEVELS OF GIVING

- For the Breaking the ICE Canada Conference to continue we need your help. This is a project undertaken by individuals who use AAC, and in most cases, have limited funds. Sponsorship and donations support the expense of participant bursaries, travel expenses, speaker expenses, honorariums, meals, technology support, attendant care, etc.
- There are three levels of sponsorship: Gold, Silver and Bronze. Each level offers different levels of recognition.
- Any sponsorships or donations over \$10 receive tax receipts.

## SPONSORSHIP PRIVILEGES AND BENEFITS

Privileges	GOLD (\$ 2,500)	SILVER (\$ 1,500)	BRONZE (\$ 500)
Acknowledgement and logo on all conference materials	✓	✓	✓
Public recognition as a sponsor at the conference	✓	✓	✓
Guest Pass for conference	✓	✓	✓
Inclusion of one (1) item in delegate bags	✓	✓	✓
Complimentary advertisement in conference program	✓	✓	
Promotion of sponsor through March of Dimes Canada’s social media channels	✓	✓	
15 minute presentation to conference attendees	✓		
Sponsor Key Note speaker	✓		

## DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

<b>Contribution towards three course dinner, Saturday evening</b> – Public recognition at conference	\$300
<b>Contribution towards the Town Hall, Saturday</b> – Public recognition at conference	\$250
<b>Contribution towards evening entertainment, Saturday evening</b> – Public recognition at conference	\$100

If you are interested in making a donation or sponsoring the 2017 Breaking the ICE Conference, please contact Alexis Dickson at 1-800-263-3463 Ext. 7756 or [adickson@marchofdimes.ca](mailto:adickson@marchofdimes.ca).