



An Interdisciplinary Institute for Research,  
Education, Accessibility and Design

**First Year Report**

April 23, 2012

---



**Carleton**  
UNIVERSITY

## The Read Institute Initiative

This report summarizes the activities of the READ Institute Initiative, a Carleton Innovation Forum project approved in April 2011 to explore the development of an Institute at Carleton focused on Research, Education, Accessibility and Design.

Building on Carleton's well established reputation as a leader in providing access to students with disabilities, the READ Initiative set out to demonstrate the level of involvement and expertise that Carleton already has in the disability/accessibility field and to establish an organization that can propel Carleton University into a global leadership role in the growing field of accessibility.

In the preliminary phase of this project, research was conducted into the state of Disability Studies in the global community, the potential for community engagement in the field of disability/accessibility, and the extent to which Carleton is already involved in research and teaching activity related to disability/accessibility. Carleton's expertise in this area was clearly demonstrated. A potential unique leadership role for Carleton was identified and a new and unique academic program in Accessibility Studies was proposed.



*Mayor Jim Watson, Carleton President Roseann Runte, and Rick Hansen*



**Carleton**  
UNIVERSITY

This initial research was presented at a public meeting on October 27, 2011 which also served as an opportunity to recognize Rick Hansen and the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his Man in Motion world tour. The occasion also marked the virtual unveiling of an extraordinary sculpture carved from the base of the 300 year old Brighton Beach oak. The sculpture was dedicated by Artist David Fells, the City of Ottawa, and Carleton University to the Man in Motion tour anniversary and Carleton's commitment to accessibility and an inclusive society. The sculpture, which will soon be formally unveiled in Carleton's new River Building, serves as the inspiration for the logo adopted by the READ Institute Initiative.

This preliminary work was overseen by the READ Institute Steering Committee. Three working groups focused on Community Engagement, Research/Solutions, and Curriculum Development. Central to this preliminary development was a commitment to community engagement as an integral component of the READ



Initiative. In addition, it was recognized that the extent to which research and teaching in the area of accessibility/disability at Carleton already exists, the feasibility of developing a new academic program/research emphasis could build on this existing base without the need for creation of new courses or additional faculty in the preliminary phase.

*Tribute to Rick Hansen's Man in Motion 25th Anniversary*



**Carleton**  
UNIVERSITY



*Lieutenant Governor David Onley,  
left, with Sculptor David Fels*

Based on the success of this initial phase of the project, the READ Institute Initiative has been able to generate a series of exciting collaborations and initiatives, highlighted in this document, that hint to the extraordinary potential of READ once it is formally established. Key stakeholders in the disability community, including Rick Hansen, Ontario Lieutenant Governor David C. Onley, and Geoff Ferney, director of the world renowned iDAPT Centre for Rehabilitation Research in Toronto, have already indicated support for the READ concept and a strong commitment to future collaboration toward our shared goal of a solution-based approach to a more accessible and inclusive society.

Beginning with a small financial commitment of \$25,000 from the CIF approval, most of which is still available for the second year, the READ Initiative has already generated over \$150,000.00 in projects and activities and has been recognized by Advancement as having great potential for sustainability.

A measure of the success and potential of this Initiative is the decision by Katherine Graham to establish a senior management Steering Committee to oversee the next phase in the development of the READ Institute.



**Carleton**  
UNIVERSITY

This document highlights this first year of the READ Institute Initiative and offers suggestions for the next steps required to establish Carleton University as a world leader in accessibility. It recognizes that academic program development must follow a rigorous process and a separate timetable from the operational side of the Institute. It also recognizes that the READ Institute Initiative needs its own identity, separate from the Paul Menton Centre, whose leadership is in large measure responsible for the preliminary success of the Initiative, but whose primary mandate is necessarily restricted to the academic support of students with disabilities.

*Advanced Biomechatronics  
and Locomotion (ABL)  
Laboratory presentation to  
David Onley*



With guidance from the new READ Institute Steering Committee, Carleton University can make a significant contribution to the field of accessibility and to a more inclusive global society.



**Carleton**  
UNIVERSITY

## Potential Directions

### Research/Solutions

- ⇒ Further contact with Carleton Faculty to identify research initiatives and potential future research and projects
- ⇒ Continue to provide ongoing support to projects in progress
- ⇒ Identify collaborators and potential members of the Working Group
- ⇒ Meet with the Office of University Research to discuss the Initiative and how to work collaboratively
- ⇒ Develop the concept of a regular seminar series highlight current research activities in this area at Carleton
- ⇒ Develop the READ web presence and the concept of a comprehensive, searchable web-based database on disability-related research

### Community Engagement

- ⇒ Connect with specific disability organizations to identify potential for collaboration and to gain input on the governance structure of READ
- ⇒ Continue working with local companies that specialize in assistive technology of all kinds to identify areas of need
- ⇒ Continue to work with student groups at Carleton to foster awareness
- ⇒ Facilitate opportunities for student learning in community settings

### “Barrier Free” University

- ⇒ Continue to liaise with Local, Provincial and Federal Governments
- ⇒ Continue to work with key stakeholder organizations (i.e. Rick Hansen institute, iDAPT Centre for Rehabilitation Research)

### Develop Curriculum Program

- ⇒ As per the Steering Committee’s directive, this portion of the READ Institute Initiative is proceeding under separate direction.



**Carleton**  
UNIVERSITY

## PMC and READ

Carleton's traditional leadership role in the field of disability, along with new legislation, an aging population, and changes in attitudes, means this is the perfect moment to launch the READ Institute.

At the conclusion of this academic year, the PMC has a historic high of 1600 students with disabilities registered with documentation for which we are required by law to provide individualized support services. PMC has one of the highest student case loads in Canada averaging about 250 students per Coordinator. Providing accommodations and student supports is what we are mandated to do and while it has been a privilege to initiate the READ Institute, we cannot continue to commit significant resources indefinitely.

Given PMC's mandate and obligations, the fact that we are not an academic unit, and the tremendous opportunity that will be lost if READ is not minimally resourced. We recommend the creation of an office that is distinct from the PMC.



*David Onley with Paul Menton Centre Staff*





**Carleton**  
UNIVERSITY

## **“Sailing Through Time” by David Fels**



*The completed sculpture was recently installed in the River Building and awaits its official unveiling*



**Carleton**  
UNIVERSITY

## **Visit with Lieutenant Governor David Onley November 30, 2011**



After receiving his honorary degree, Lieutenant Governor David Onley met with READ Institute organizers, Larry McCloskey, Dean Mellway, Roy Hanes, and Karen March.

Mr. Onley extended an invitation for Mr. McCloskey to visit the iDAPT center in Toronto. This world-renowned solutions-based rehabilitation facility is interested in collaboration with READ and a follow-up meeting is scheduled for Spring, 2012. Mr. Onley has also extended an invitation for READ Steering Committee members to meet with him at Queen's Park.

Mr. Onley will entertain a request to serve as Patron once the READ Institute is formally recognized.



**Carleton**  
UNIVERSITY

## Canugan Initiative — Kasese, Uganda



The Canugan Project is a joint project between the Hindu Society of Ottawa Carleton and the Kasese District Union of Persons with Disabilities in Uganda. This project, headed up by Navin Parekh, is raising money to support a local enterprise that is manufacturing hand cycles for individuals with disabilities in the district.

The READ Institute is bringing Carleton expertise to bear on the production process as well as the communication and organization strategies of the project. We have received a \$7,000 commitment of support from Tony Bailletti and the OYE Program to allow two Carleton students—Cam MacIntosh and Edward Ndupo—to help with the development of the READ Institute's collaborative strategy.



**Carleton**  
UNIVERSITY

## Avatar Project—Nuket Nowlan/Dr. Ali Arya

This project is supporting research into the use of virtual world technology to develop social skills training sessions for students with Asperger's Syndrome. With funding support from an annual fund donation, we are exploring the development of a virtual training program with the Carleton virtual environment.

Project participants include members of the PMC staff, (Laura Brawn, Sonia Tanguay and Boris Vukovic) who consult with students with Asperger's Syndrome, PMC student participants, Nuket Nowlan, President of 3D Virtual Crafting, and Dr. Ali Arya. Peggy Hartwick, an ESL instructor who has successfully used virtual environments in the classroom has also offered to assist with the development of this project.



*Nuket Nowlan, President of 3D Virtual Crafting*

## Online Training App for children with Autism



Preliminary discussion with Natasha D'Souza regarding collaboration on the development of an online training application that can assist therapists working with children with autism. We are hoping READ will connect Natasha with appropri-



**Carleton**  
UNIVERSITY

## Paralympic Sport Initiative



We are exploring with Athletics the development of a sport awareness and training program for students at Carleton who are eligible to compete in the Paralympics. The facilities at Carleton are world class and several major competitions and training camps have been held here over the years. Several Carleton students and staff have successfully represented Canada

in Paralympic competition. There have also been successful recreation and fitness programs organized by Athletics and the Carleton Disability Awareness Centre in the past. This opportunity could also lead to funding from the Canadian Paralympic Committee for both programming and equipment.

In addition, as part of the Canugan project mentioned above, we are exploring the introduction of sport for disabled opportunities for the citizens with disabilities in the Kasese organization in Uganda.





**Carleton**  
UNIVERSITY

## Local, Provincial and Federal Government Initiatives

### City of Ottawa:

After attending the READ Institute Town Hall, Mayor Jim Watson announced that he would spearhead efforts to make Ottawa the first barrier free capital. The Institute is working on the concept of a major event for Spring, 2014. This event will be developed collaboratively by the READ Institute and all levels of government, to celebrate the commitment and progress being made in the capital and at Carleton to achieve "Barrier Free" status.



### Provincial Government:

The READ Institute arranged a meeting with two key individuals from the provincial ministry responsible for the implementation of the AODA, Ellen Waxman and Alfred Spencer, to discuss the accessibility initiatives at Carleton and the role we can play as a model of accessibility as the AODA Standards are implemented. The visit in January was very positive and has led to further discussion and potential support for the concept of recognizing Carleton as a "Barrier Free" university.





**Carleton**  
UNIVERSITY

## **Federal Government:**

We have been in discussions with a key individual in the Federal Government about the potential for a significant partnership involving the collaboration referred to above with the City of Ottawa, to move forward an agenda related to a “Barrier Free” capital.

# Canada

We are also investigating an Interchange Canada proposal that could bring a senior federal employee into the READ Institute for a 2 year secondment to help us develop a workplace accommodation and assessment service that could be contracted to government and industry, bringing sustainable funds to READ and supporting a research component that will place Carleton on the leading edge of workplace accommodation.

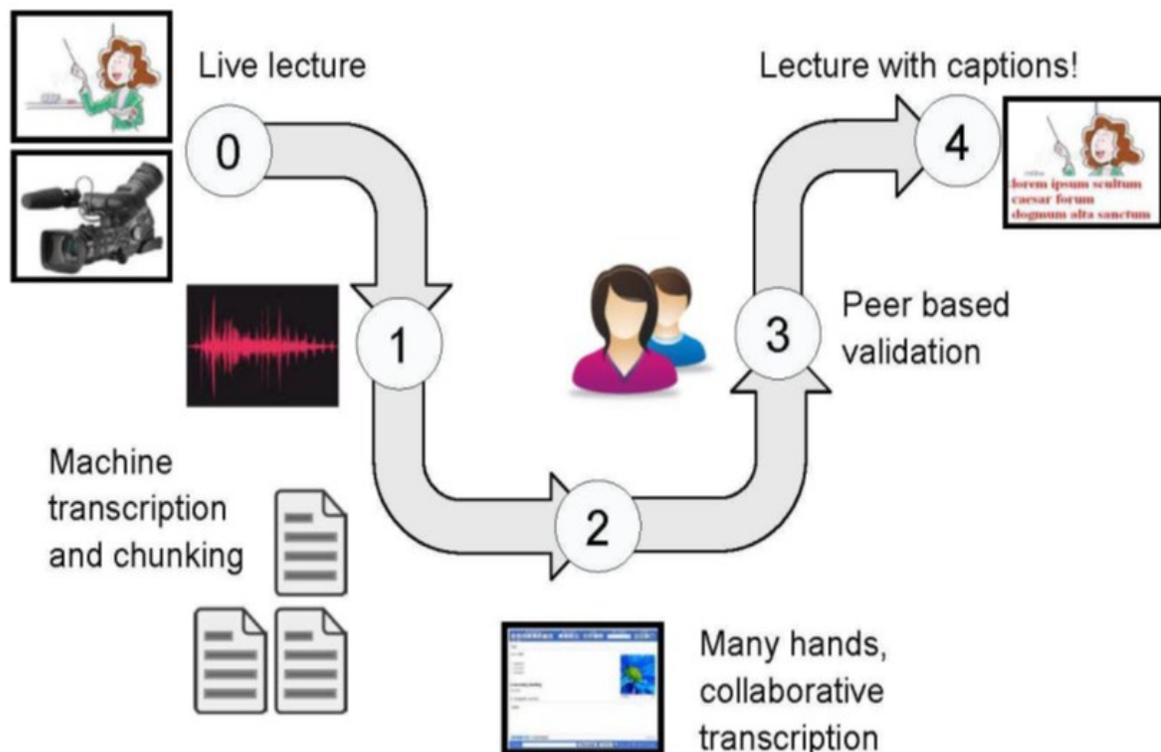




**Carleton**  
UNIVERSITY

## C.A.M.P: Carleton Accessible Media Project

With support from the Federal Enabling Accessibility Small Projects Fund, the READ Institute is developing a wiki-style captioning software that will allow multiple users to simultaneously caption a small section of a video or online lecture. This will allow us to produce timely captioned versions of videos and online classes so that students requiring this accommodation will have access to the course material. The captioning will be performed by students taking the class, offering them a volunteer opportunity as well as a searchable transcript of the course. The project is now at the testing stage and should be available to share with other post-secondary institutions in the summer of 2012.





**Carleton**  
UNIVERSITY

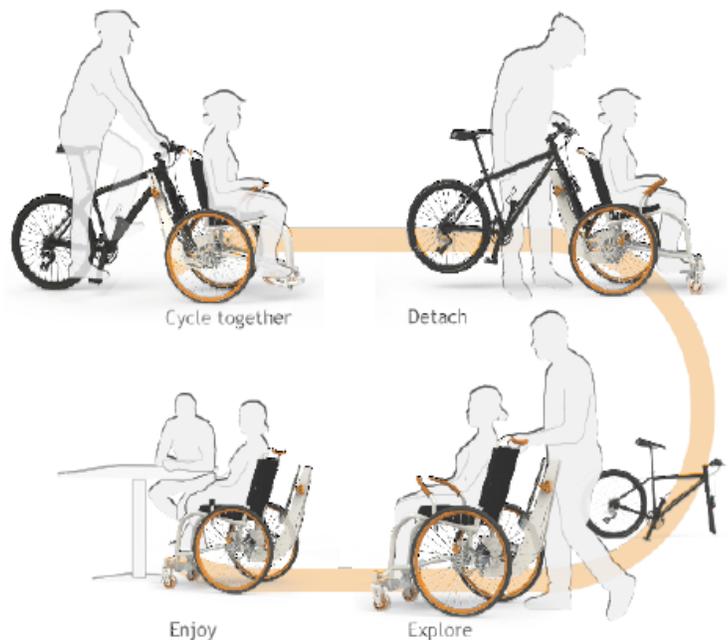
## The Innovative Designs for Accessibility (IDeA) Competition

The Council of Ontario Universities (COU) has initiated a competition to recognize undergraduate students who undertake initiatives that impact on accessibility for persons with disabilities. Institutions will select their top two submissions in each of the five categories, which have been chosen based on five barriers to accessibility as identified by the AODA.

- Attitudinal
- Information or Communications
- Technology
- Systemic
- Architectural and Physical

The Research/Solutions Working Group of READ publicized this opportunity and reviewed the 11 submissions. Six projects were approved for submission to the province. Mojtaba Ahmadi is the primary contact for Carleton University.

### Accessible Tandem Cycling





**Carleton**  
UNIVERSITY

## Carleton Accessible Innovation Fund Project

We are working with Advancement to develop a small projects fund that will allow READ to arrange summer employment for innovative students. Students who have undertaken course work that addresses issues affecting persons with disabilities or accessibility receive their course credit and often no further action is taken. We are proposing that we encourage projects that have a solutions-orientation and, based on the availability of funds, we would provide summer employment to students whose exceptional projects offer opportunity for further development.



The campaign is now underway for this inaugural year of the Fund and we have already [confirmed funding for 2 positions in the summer of 2012.](#) If successful, this project could grow annually and provide tremendous incentive to students to undertake innovative projects that improve accessibility or address disability issues.



**Carleton**  
UNIVERSITY

## Global Accessibility Map — Student Leaders

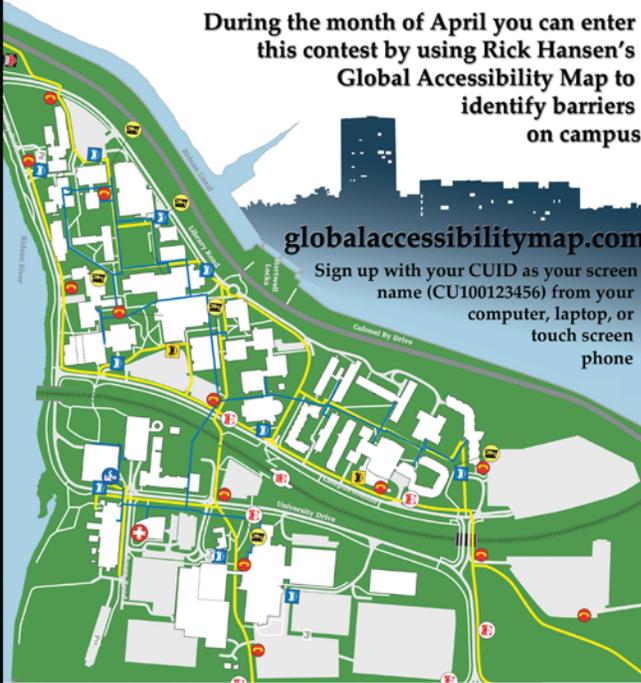
In December, we met with each of the major student organizations at Carleton including CUSA, CDAC, GSA, RRRRA and NSG. During the individual meetings we outlined the READ Institute Initiative and gained support from each association. We followed up with a meeting bringing all groups together in January and discussed a concerted launch of the Global Accessibility Map developed by the Rick Hansen Institute. Student groups agreed to promote mass use of the app.

The Barrier Free Campus project was launched on April 2, 2012 and will run for the month of April, encouraging students and staff to identify barriers on campus using the Global Accessibility Map. The Rick Hansen Institute is viewing this project as a positive collaboration and may initiate similar projects at other universities. We have acquired the support of a graduate to work part-time on this and other READ initiatives.

**WIN THE NEW IPAD  
AND HELP MAKE CARLETON  
BARRIER FREE**

During the month of April you can enter  
this contest by using Rick Hansen's  
Global Accessibility Map to  
identify barriers  
on campus

[globalaccessibilitymap.com](http://globalaccessibilitymap.com)  
Sign up with your CUID as your screen  
name (CU100123456) from your  
computer, laptop, or  
touch screen  
phone



Carleton University is one of the most accessible campuses in Canada, but there is more we can do.  
Enter often and help build a complete list of accessibility issues on campus!

SPONSORED BY








Please go to [carleton.ca/pmc/barrier-free](http://carleton.ca/pmc/barrier-free) for full contest details.

*Barrier Free Carleton Advertising*



**Carleton**  
UNIVERSITY

## Carleton Staff Member Matthew Cole's BSW Practicum

Matthew Cole, the Director of the Attendant Services Program, has been approved to do his BSW fourth year practicum at the READ Institute. Matthew has three project initiatives:

1. Updating the accessibility information on campus, including the costing of projects that will bring Carleton to "Barrier Free" status.
2. Developing a program initiative called LEARN: *Leadership, Education, Advocacy and Research across Nations*. This program will allow governments and universities in developing nations to sponsor students with disabilities to study at Carleton. These students will also receive leadership and advocacy training that they can then bring back to their home country and institutions.
3. The third project will serve as a way to promote the first two, which is the development of a video that will promote the LEARN program and highlight the accessibility features of Carleton.



*Matthew Cole speaking with David Onley*



**Carleton**  
UNIVERSITY

## **READ Website Development**

We have completed preliminary work on the READ Institute website with support from the Department of Communications and are also working on captioning of both the October 27<sup>th</sup> Town Hall event and the speech by Lieutenant Governor David C. Onley at the November Convocation. The web site is ready to launch.

## **Exploring a mobile “way finding” app for public buildings**

In consultation with Tony Bailetti and the Ottawa Young Entrepreneurs program, we have held a preliminary meeting with Jan Ditchfield and Chris Maley of the 20/200 Project to discuss the potential for collaboration on a mobile “way finding” application for public spaces. Based on the concept of universal design, this app would offer information of value to all users of public spaces but also provide specific information to users with mobility or visual disabilities. This initiative will tie in with the collaboration with the City of Ottawa to move both Carleton and the Capital toward “Barrier Free” designation.

