

# gizmo

THE TETRA SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA: CUSTOM ASSISTIVE DEVICES

## TETRA NATION

2019 awards recognize local Tetra volunteers. Visit [tetraNation.org](http://tetraNation.org) to view all submissions!

**PHOTO:** Voted "Most Liked Video" the bbq power lid was DESIGNED AND built by REGINA volunteer George Bliss



## Story Behind Innovation

**THE 2019 TETRANATION CONTEST** wrapped up on October 11th with participation coming from chapters across the country. Your innovations and creativity truly encourage us to *re-imagine what is possible!* One of the highlights was a project from the Regina chapter. Their BBQ power lid, built by volunteer George Bliss was awarded the title of "The Most Liked Video"!

George has been volunteering with Tetra Society of North America for two years and finds his interests and skills resonate with Tetra's mandate, to empower and inspire people with

disability to overcome physical barriers through innovations. George says, "I like to tinker and help others. Tetra combines the two."

### Simple, yet uneasy

His BBQ power lid project was initially designed for a quadriplegic client who loves barbeque. It enables users to open the BBQ lid with minimal effort. The lid is controlled by a three-way switch with a rechargeable battery that can last for a season. "Simply release the button when the lid is where you want it."

George explains, "It was a bit of trial and error over a period of time." One of the difficulties that he faced during the design process was distance. The client lives 150 miles north of Regina, far from George's workshop. That posed a challenge for measuring,

cutting and testing, though the distance did not stop him. He managed to refine his design so that the lid is easy to use and maintain while also being aesthetically pleasing.

Hard work certainly pays off. George is proud to see that the client is satisfied with his device and able to satisfy his love for barbeque.

Once again, thank you for all of the support.

Additionally, congratulations to other winning chapters: Hamilton-Halton for raising the most donations with \$295 raised. Vancouver chapter earned the title for Most Creative Device.

To learn more about these devices and many others please visit [tetrasociety.org](http://tetrasociety.org) or email [info@TetraSociety.org](mailto:info@TetraSociety.org).

# Innovation & Creativity at TetraNation 2019



**TETRA  
NATION**

*Thank you for your participation!*



## TETRANATION VOLUNTEERS

### Calgary

- iPad holder – Doug Brown
- Phone holder – Doug Brown

### Kelowna

- Ruth's adjustable table – Les Ebl, Cathy Grover

### Regina

- Dave's BBQ lid – George Bliss

### Vancouver

- Guitar table – Chris Bhatla
- Guitar neck – Chris Bhatla

### Ottawa

- Parallel bar – Jim Larcoque, Russ Jones
- Children desk – John Mckinlaykey, Mike Perry

### Hamilton-Halton

- BBQ cover modification – Sylvia Baliko
- Transom Ramp – Gus Baliko
- Mobility stairs – Jim Ronnie, Sylvia Baliko
- Wheel stop – Jim Ronnie
- Drinking tube – Mike McNally

### Toronto

- Sling holder – Wayne Smith

### Prince George

- Ball holder – Bob Wayne

### Windsor

- Power chair – Dave Harshaw, Nestor Musso
- Kitchen Island – Donna Nelson, Bill Frazier
- Coil cupholder – Mike Hark

# netClé is Coming!

## We are very excited to introduce your new Regional Coordinators

**Nichole Yamchuk**  
Tetra Regional Coordinator  
Prairie Provinces (AB, SK, MB)



Nichole brings more than 10 years of experience in both fundraising and programs and was the recipient of the “Volunteer of the Year” award with Kids Help Phone in 2014. She is excited to begin building Tetra communities, inspiring change to make a positive impact throughout the prairie provinces.

**Sylvia Baliko**  
Tetra Regional Coordinator  
Eastern Canada (ON, QC)

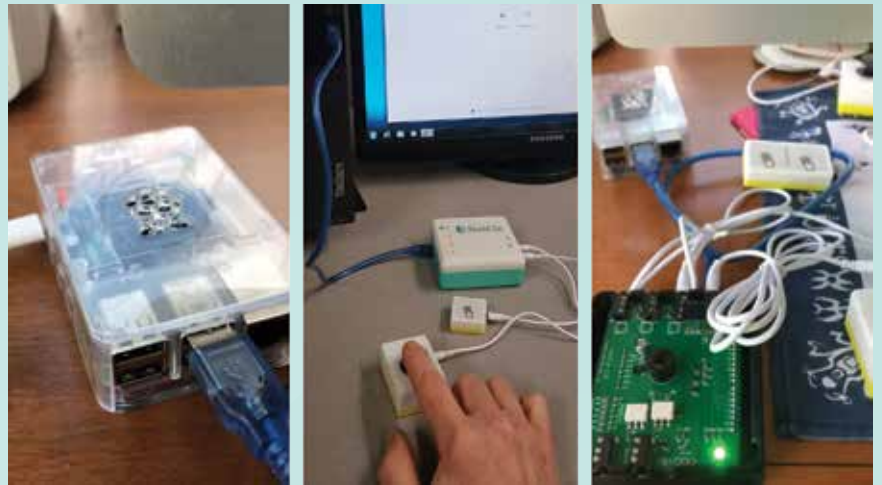


Before taking on the Regional Coordinator role, Sylvia was previously the chapter coordinator for Tetra Hamilton-Halton since 2001, including very successfully fundraising for Tetra in Ontario over the past five years. She is excited about the new challenges the regional coordinator role will bring!

**Andrew Jantzen**  
Tetra Regional Coordinator  
Atlantic (NS, NB, PE, NL)



With a background as a researcher and technologist, Andrew is committed to creative problem solving to build a better world. He brings to Tetra not only his technical expertise but also his successes in community engagement and policy development for accessibility in Nova Scotia.



**TETRA SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA** has received funding from Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada to build an assistive technology device called netClé (pronounced net-clay) for people with physical disabilities.

The affordable and customizable device provides simple access for people with disabilities to connect with the digital world.

A pilot project will be launched in early 2020 for 100 participants to receive a free device and test use it to control their computer keyboard and mouse. Each pilot community and its participants will work directly with an occupational therapist and technical support to first set up the device at a home or work computer. In two subsequent sessions, the pilot team will work with participants to address any technical challenges and generate feedback about usability.

“Although there are similar products out there, netClé is intended to be much more affordable,” said Tetra’s Director of Operations, David Fong. “We also believe this product can be equally if not more effective. While we are starting with testing netClé to control a keyboard and mouse, it is a programmable device, so in the longer-term there will be more versatility in how a person with limited mobility can better control their digital environments. That’s something we will explore once we get feedback from the pilot.”

The pilot will take place in four communities across Canada: Vancouver, BC, Edmonton, AB, Ottawa, ON and Fredericton, NB with a national roll-out in late 2020 or early 2021.

Interested in testing out netClé? Sign-up at [www.tetrasociety.org/solutions/netcle.php](http://www.tetrasociety.org/solutions/netcle.php) to get the latest news and updates about the pilots and the product roll-out.

## INDEPENDENCE, FREEDOM & ACCESS

Tetra is a registered charity that enables people with disabilities to overcome barriers in the physical landscape. We recruit technically skilled and compassionate volunteers who work one-on-one with individuals requiring custom engineering solutions. The completed gizmos empower people with disabilities to live independent and active lives.

## TETRA *Thanks!*

- Agape Foundation of London
- Alice and Murray Maitland Foundation
- Brampton and Caledon Community Foundation
- Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation
- Edmonton Civic Employees Charitable Assistance Fund
- Government of Canada
- Hamilton Community Foundation
- Mr. and Mrs. P.A. Woodward's Foundation
- Servus Credit Union
- Sifton Family Foundation
- St. Albert Community Foundation
- The Community Foundation of Mississauga
- The Province of British Columbia

### Prairie Provinces Coordinator

Nichole Yamchuk  
Nyamchuk@tetrasociety.org  
587-710-6473

**Abbotsford/Mission, BC**  
Contact head office  
info@tetrasociety.org  
1-877-688-8762

**Armstrong, BC**  
Gary Arbuckle  
ArmstrongBC@Tetrasociety.org  
250-308-8465

**Cranbrook/ East Kootenay, BC**  
Contact head office  
info@tetrasociety.org  
1-877-688-8762

**Creston, BC**  
Andre Hebert  
CrestonBC@Tetrasociety.org  
250-866-5518

**Fort St. John, BC**  
Perry Leonfellner  
FortStJohnBC@Tetrasociety.org  
250-264-2192

**Kamloops, BC**  
Contact head office  
info@tetrasociety.org  
1-877-688-8762

**Kelowna, BC**  
Cathy Grover  
KelownaBC@Tetrasociety.org  
250-863-0650

**Nanaimo, BC**  
Contact head office  
info@tetrasociety.org  
1-877-688-8762

**Prince George, BC**  
Nadine Lindstrom  
PrinceGeorgeBC@Tetrasociety.org  
250-562-3334

**Salt Spring Island, BC**  
Derek Emmerson  
SaltSpringBC@Tetrasociety.org  
250-537-9351

**Surrey/Langley/Delta**  
Eric Molendyk  
eric@tetrasociety.org  
604-688-6464 ext: 117

**Trail/Castlegar, BC**  
Contact head office  
info@tetrasociety.org  
1-877-688-8762

**Vancouver, BC**  
Eric Molendyk  
604-688-6464 Ext. 117  
eric@tetrasociety.org

**Vernon, BC**  
Randy Schellenberg  
VernonBC@Tetrasociety.org  
250-549-2320

### Eastern Region Coordinator

Sylvia Baliko  
SBaliko@Tetrasociety.org  
289-208-2315

**Victoria, BC**  
Chris Marks  
VictoriaBC@Tetrasociety.org  
250-889-1590

**Calgary, AB**  
Tom Parks  
tetralc@yaho.com  
403-281-7641

**Edmonton, AB**  
Nichole Yamchuk  
Nyamchuk@tetrasociety.org  
587-710-6473

**Lethbridge, AB**  
Annae Jones  
LethbridgeAB@Tetrasociety.org  
403-370-3057

**Medicine Hat, AB**  
Nichole Yamchuk  
Nyamchuk@tetrasociety.org  
587-710-6473

**Red Deer, AB**  
Priscilla Kroetsch  
RedDeerAB@Tetrasociety.org  
403-877-9918

**Regina, SK**  
Terri Sleeva  
ReginaSK@Tetrasociety.org  
306-545-7378

**Saskatoon, SK**  
Nichole Yamchuk  
Nyamchuk@tetrasociety.org  
587-710-6473

**Winnipeg, MB**  
Nichole Yamchuk  
Nyamchuk@tetrasociety.org  
587-710-6473

**Guelph, ON**  
Nicola Billings  
GuelphON@Tetrasociety.org  
519-993-3823

**Hamilton-Halton, ON**  
Sylvia Baliko  
SBaliko@Tetrasociety.org  
289.208.2315

**Kingston, ON**  
Nicole Cromwell  
KingstonON@Tetrasociety.org  
613-547-4242

**London, ON**  
Hui Violet Tan  
LondonON@Tetrasociety.org  
519-690-1133

### Atlantic Region Coordinator

Andrew Jantzen  
ajantzen@tetrasociety.org  
902-401-3564

**Ottawa, ON**  
Jon Moore  
moore@tetrasociety.org  
613-857-4886

**Peel Region, ON**  
Scott Capper  
PeelRegionON@Tetrasociety.org  
647-761-9734

**Metro Toronto, ON**  
Wayne Smith  
MetroTorontoON@Tetrasociety.org  
416-407-7009

**York Region, ON**  
Kelly Kells  
YorkRegionON@Tetrasociety.org  
647-618-1530

**Trenton, ON**  
Sylvia Baliko  
SBaliko@Tetrasociety.org  
289-208-2315

**Windsor, ON**  
David Harshaw  
WindsorON@Tetrasociety.org  
519-818-4187

**Montréal, QC**  
Sylvia Baliko  
SBaliko@Tetrasociety.org  
289-208-2315

**Fredericton, NB**  
Sandi Ware  
FrederictonNB@Tetrasociety.org  
506-471-0937

**Halifax, NS**  
Andrew Jantzen  
ajantzen@tetrasociety.org  
902-401-3564

**St. John's, NL**  
Dr. Leonard Lye  
StJohnsNL@Tetrasociety.org  
709-753-0733

**Los Angeles, CA**  
Dr. Sam Landsberger  
slandsb@exchange.calstatela.edu  
1-877-688-8762

**Salt Lake City, UT**  
Kent Remund  
kremund@gmail.com  
801-448-6107

**Columbus, OH**  
Russ Weir  
weir.russ.linda@att.net  
1-877-688-8762

### TETRA SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

Dedicated to assisting people with disabilities to achieve an independent and fulfilling life, one assistive device at a time

Have an idea for a project? Want to know what's possible? Want to overcome a barrier?

Here's how to reach us...

**T:** 604-688-6464 / 1-877-688-8762 (toll-free)

**F:** 604-688-6463

**E:** info@tetrasociety.org

**www.TetraSociety.org**



**Tetra Society**  
of North America