

# gizmo

THE TETRA SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA: CUSTOM ASSISTIVE DEVICES



TetraCon participants attend a talk on how universities work with Tetra to provide university students with real-world design and engineering projects.

## TetraCon Goes Virtual... and Coast to Coast.

**ORIGINALLY**, the plan was for this year's TetraCon to be held in Halifax. As the COVID-19 pandemic took shape, however, this plan needed to change. The decision was made to move TetraCon online and we gathered virtually on September 19th, bringing representatives from nearly every chapter from across the country to discuss all things Tetra.

Divided into three streams, 50 people from around Canada gathered for a five-hour series of workshops on topics such as the importance of Tetra University Clubs, Chapter Development strategies and, for those new to Tetra, an introduction of what Tetra is all about. The day was a big success, leading to more project requests being submitted,

more projects being completed, and volunteers connecting with one another through the volunteer forum.

We're certainly hoping that we'll be able to gather together in person for next year's TetraCon but are already looking at ways to ensure that people who cannot get to the event will be able to stay engaged and involved with the day by connecting with TetraCon online.

Thanks to all those who attended and helped make this year's **TetraCon** a success!

If you missed it, you can get caught up by visiting

[www.tetrasociety.org/tetracon/](http://www.tetrasociety.org/tetracon/)

**SOLUTIONS.  
INCLUSION.**

*You're invited to the*  
**TETRA NATIONAL  
CONFERENCE 2020**

Saturday, Sep. 19  
**Online**  
9:00AM-2:00PM PDT

PICK A  
STREAM  
➔➔

**STREAM 1**  
University Clubs

**STREAM 2**  
Improve your Chapter

**STREAM 3**  
What Tetra Can Do for You

# TERRI SLEEVA

Regina, SK



Terri Sleeva has been with Tetra in different roles since 2003 and is currently the chapter coordinator for Tetra's Regina chapter.

Having been with Tetra since 2003, **Terri Sleeva** is one of Tetra's longest serving Coordinators.

**STARTING WITH TETRA** as a community connector, Terri used her network of contacts to create awareness about Tetra, letting people know of the customized devices they could receive through Tetra.

Moving from her community connector role, Terri became the Coordinator of the Regina chapter and has served in that capacity for over 15 years.

Always soft-spoken and pleasant on the phone or online, Terri is also filled with a passion to help people with disabilities overcome physical barriers in their lives.

Moving from her community connector role, Terri became the Coordinator of the Regina chapter and has served in that capacity for over 15 years. Always soft-spoken and pleasant on the phone or online, Terri is also filled with a passion to help people with disabilities overcome physical barriers in their lives.

Over the years, Terri has maintained a loyal volunteer base, leading her crew of volunteers to make customized devices like bike trailers, adapted phone dialers, and work on things that make somebody's day to day living easier.

Terri is never shy to promote Tetra at the many community events she attends, organizing events like summer hot dog sales where the proceeds go towards the creation of Tetra devices for Regina residents.

**"JFK once said, "If not us, who? If not now, when?"... Terri is the who, and the when for her, is right now.**

Her personal drive to advocate for the disability community is a passion that most people can only dream of. It is a true blessing to have such a selfless and inspiring person on the Tetra team. Thank you Terri," says regional coordinator Nichole Yamchuk. Everyone at Tetra is so grateful for Terri's many years of support and are looking forward to seeing what's ahead as the Regina chapter continue to grow.

## UBC Students Working with Tetra on COVID-19 Projects

**AS IN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**, we've all heard about what we can do to protect ourselves from the virus. For many people with disabilities, though, following recommended guidelines can be a challenge.

For people with limited hand function, putting on a mask and handwashing are not simple procedures. Tetra is excited to, once again, be partnering with UBC students who are completing their Capstone projects by coming up with solutions to these barriers. Ultimately, the students are looking to give someone with the use of only one hand the ability to independently put on and take off a PPE mask and access hand sanitizing stations.

**The students are seeking feedback** from Tetra clients across Canada and are working towards having working prototypes in place by the end of April, 2021.

**If you would like to contribute to their research, complete their project survey at:**

<https://bit.ly/3oOLZVG>

Ahmad Manzoor, David Stewart, Faheem Saeed, and Sachin Choudhury are UBC students looking at ways to address barriers that prevent people with disabilities from following health guidelines to protect against the spread of COVID-19.



Ahmad Manzoor



David Stewart



Faheem Saeed



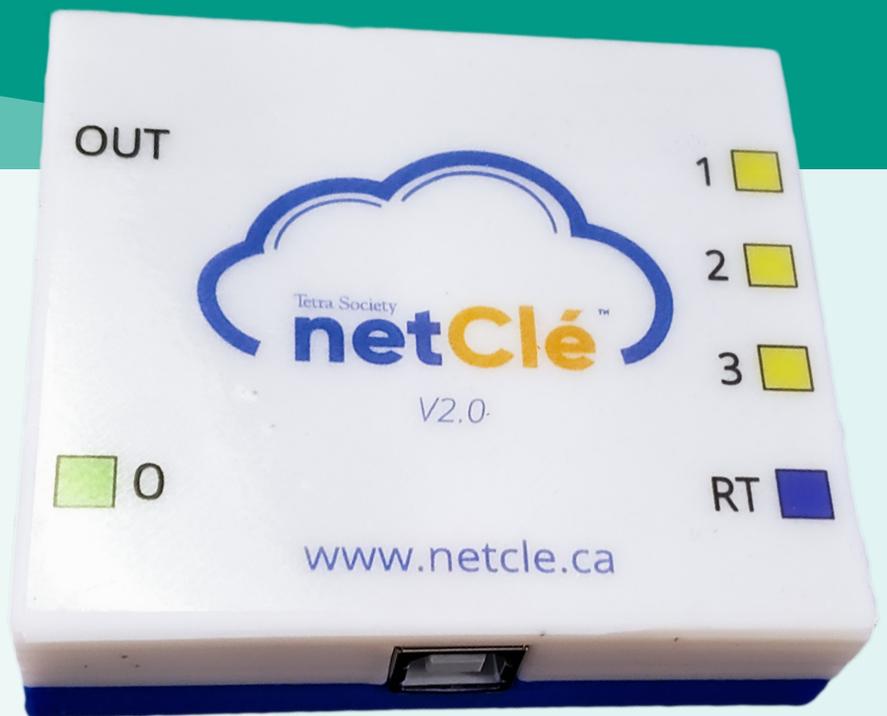
Sachin Choudhury

# netClé Reaches New Milestone!

**SINCE BEING INTRODUCED EARLIER THIS YEAR**, netClé, a programmable hub that connects users to their computers with a wide range of customizable peripherals that serve as alternatives to standard inputs like a keyboard and mouse, has supported over 100 individuals looking to engage with the digital world.

We are excited to announce the launch of the netClé Generation 2! Based on feedback from users of the original netClé device, changes have been made towards a sturdier and more compact design. This new version of netClé also introduces a robust and dependable USB-B connector to make connecting with the digital world even easier.

In an effort to make the internet accessible to all during these isolating times, we are continuing to distribute netClé at no cost. Assessments and installations are done remotely with in house Technicians and Occupational Therapists, to keep clients and staff safe and healthy as we do our part to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.



netClé continues to look for people who can help test this new version of the device.

**If you or someone you know can help, sign up at:**

[www.tetrasociety.org/netcle](http://www.tetrasociety.org/netcle)



## Jim Stone Recognized by Volunteer Central

**IN OUR LAST ISSUE OF GIZMO**, we profiled Alberta volunteer Jim Stone. It seems we aren't the only ones awed by Jim's contributions to Tetra, which now includes hosting a "Mentoring Session" for new and/or young Tetra volunteers. In October, after being nominated by Regional Coordinator Nichole Yamchuk, Jim was recognized by Volunteer Central as their Volunteer of the month. To read their profile of Jim, visit:

<https://bit.ly/3mdyzS8>

### OVER THE YEARS

our amazing Tetra volunteers have created thousands of assistive devices and gadgets that have helped with overcoming barriers in physical or environmental spaces. Now you can search for a device that meets your needs.

**Check out TetraBase here:**

<https://tetrasociety.org/solutions/>

# 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!

- Affinity Credit Union
- Alice and Murray Maitland Foundation
- Brampton and Caledon Community Foundation
- Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation
- Charles H. Ivey Foundation
- Community Foundation of Kingston and Area
- Community Foundation of the North Okanagan
- Davies Charitable Foundation
- Employment and Social Development Canada
- Engineers and Geoscientists BC
- Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch (Province of British Columbia)
- Hamilton Community Foundation
- Harold E. Ballard Foundation
- Harry P. Ward Foundation
- Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada
- Jack and Barbara Hay Foundation
- Knights of Columbus - Alberta
- London Community Foundation
- Ottawa Community Foundation
- Pilkington-Henniger Charitable Trust
- Region of Peel
- Sew-gether
- Shoppers Drug Mart
- SX Family Fund
- The Blennerhassett Family Foundation
- The Community Foundation of Mississauga
- The Georgina Foundation
- The Guelph Community Foundation
- The Marion Ethel Kamm and Frederick John Kamm Foundation
- Toronto Community Foundation
- Winnipeg Foundation

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### 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**

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**Tetra Society**  
*of North America*