

gizmo

THE TETRA SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA



Tetra Volunteer, Ron Sidon, custom designed and built a brand new play structure for preschool children with disabilities.

Happy Birthday Tetra!

"Tetra started with a few quadriplegics discussing how many things they couldn't do because an assistive device didn't exist. I offered to write to the professional engineering association. I was surprised by the talented people who offered to help and the partnerships they formed with those who needed their help.

Here we are 35 years later, and I am amazed that these relationships and the devices that spring from them continue to improve many lives. Both those who use the devices and those who see their ingenuity making a real difference in the world."

—Sam Sullivan, Tetra Society of North America Founder



"I have been with the organization for 20 years. I have seen it evolve into an organization supporting volunteers and clients. This is the only job I get a "warm fuzzy" from completing the task. Congratulations on 35 years of successful service!"

—Terri Sleeva, Tetra Regina Community Coordinator

"I have been involved with the Tetra Society since 1996, and after more than a quarter century, my passion and enthusiasm for our work have not waned. Working with Tetra clients and volunteers is one of the most fulfilling endeavors of my engineering career and life. Tetra's services will always be needed, and I hope that the Tetra Society of North America will continue for another 35 years and more."

—Dr. Leonard Lye, St. John's, Newfoundland, Chapter Coordinator

"The Tetra Society has been in my family since my brother Ron had an accident and became quadriplegic. Ron started with Tetra in 2000 as a Hamilton/Halton chapter coordinator and asked me to volunteer my sewing skills. He also enlisted my father, Gus, a master carpenter, and my mom, Hilda. She enjoyed engaging with people and was the perfect person to operate the Tetra booth at events and engage new Tetra clients.

My sister Nancy and her husband Jens, who recently became paraplegic from back surgery, are now leading the Hamilton/Halton chapter since the passing of Ron. Our family continues the legacy of serving people with disabilities from Oakville through the Niagara region to Fort Erie. For the Baliko/Thieme family, Tetra is a family affair that continues after 22 years.

Derry House, the Tetra office for many years in Ontario, was central to the Peel chapter. I heard from Glenn that 11 people worked out of here at one time (before my time.)"

—Sylvia Baliko, Tetra Society of North America National Coordinator/Central Region Coordinator





netClé Is Back In 2022

Do you or a loved one struggle using a computer due to physical limitations? netClé might be the solution for you. To purchase your affordable personalized computer hardware solution, go to netcle.ca

netClé is a unique, customizable device that makes computers more user-friendly for people with mobility limitations, allowing them to stay connected and maintain their independence.

Since early 2019, and with the federal government's financial support, the Tetra Society has been developing netClé to offer an affordable finished product. And we are finally there!

netClé is available in two different kits, standard and deluxe.

For more information, go to netcle.ca

Created by a group of Tetra Society volunteers, netClé underwent an extensive period of testing and refining beginning in 2019 with the support of the Government of Canada. The project resulted in an affordable adaptive device for operating a computer, laptop, or tablet with minimal hand function.

Some actions netClé can perform include:

- Moving the cursor across the screen
- Left and right mouse click
- Scrolling up or down
- Drag and drop
- Keyboard actions (including key combinations)



It's officially the Season of Giving, and what better gift than a gift that brings independence? With netClé, a person with physical limitations can independently operate a computer, allowing them to stay connected to loved ones, participate in school, shop Online and browse the web.



SPOTLIGHTS



New Interim Regional Coordinator for the Atlantic Region

Steve Trussoni is a musician and former educator who finds new inspiration in Tetra's mission.

"It's a privilege to be on board."

New Fredericton Chapter Coordinator (Atlantic Region)

Rick Hutchins is a community development practitioner based out of Minto, New Brunswick. Rick is also an Academic Instructor at the University of New Brunswick, teaching Community Problem Solving and Leadership courses.

"I was interested in TETRA because I love to work with vital projects, and TETRA appealed to me as an innovative approach toward addressing a very distinct community need. I also felt that in this role, I could contribute my background as an advocate for social justice and my experience in the voluntary sector to revitalize the Fredericton Chapter."



New Lethbridge Chapter Coordinator (Prairie Region)

Daniela Aguilar has a Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Kinesiology from the University of Lethbridge.

"As a kinesiologist, I found Tetra suitable to put into practice my skills and knowledge. More importantly, I joined Tetra because its purpose aligned with my life's purpose. I want to spend my time making a difference and impacting those who need it most in my community. Thus, I am thankful that Tetra has provided me with the path and the necessary tools to do so. I am proud to be part of Tetra and am excited to continue this journey with this great organization."

New Guelph Chapter Coordinator (Central Region)

Ryan Sahak is the new chapter coordinator for Guelph in Ontario.

"I was intrigued and happy to find out there were other companies helping people with disabilities in ways they can't for themselves. Being a person with a disability, I was glad to help others connect with those who can help improve their daily lives."



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!

- Access Children's Fund
- Affinity Credit Union
- Alice and Murray Maitland Foundation
- Allard Foundation
- Brampton and Caledon Community Foundation
- Brash Inc
- Burlington Community Foundation
- Calgary Foundation
- Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation
- Charles H. Ivey Foundation
- Community Foundation of Kingston and Area
- Community Foundation of the North Okanagan
- Crown Investment Corporation
- Davies Charitable Foundation
- Edmonton Civic Employees Charitable Assistance Fund
- Employment and Social Development Canada
- Engineers and Geoscientists BC
- Federated Co-operatives Ltd. (FCL)
- Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch (Province of British Columbia)
- George Lunan Foundation
- Hamilton Community Foundation
- Harold E. Ballard Foundation
- Halton Region Community Investment Fund
- Harry P. Ward Foundation
- Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada
- Jack and Barbara Hay Foundation
- The J.P. Bickell Foundation
- Kiwanis Club of Ottawa
- Knights of Columbus - Alberta
- London Community Foundation
- The Minto Foundation Inc.
- Ottawa Community Foundation
- Pilkington-Henniger Charitable Trust
- Sasktel
- Sew-gether
- Sobey's
- SurreyCares
- SX Family Fund
- The Georgina Foundation
- The Guelph Community Foundation
- The Marion Ethel Kamm and Frederick John Kamm Foundation
- Winnipeg Foundation

TETRA CHAPTERS

National and Central Region Coordinator

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

Program Manager & BC Region Coordinator

Eric Molendyk
eric@tetrasociety.org
236-513-6453

Prairie Region Coordinator

Crystal Leochko Johnston
Crystal@Tetrasociety.org
204-998-2551

Atlantic Region Coordinator

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

Fraser Valley, BC
Eric Molendyk
eric@tetrasociety.org

Armstrong, BC
Eric Molendyk
eric@tetrasociety.org

Cranbrook/ East Kootenay, BC
Eric Molendyk
eric@tetrasociety.org

Creston, BC
Andre Hebert
CrestonBC@Tetrasociety.org

Fort St. John, BC
Eric Molendyk
eric@tetrasociety.org

Kamloops, BC
Eric Molendyk
eric@tetrasociety.org

Kelowna, BC
Cathy Grover
KelownaBC@Tetrasociety.org

Nanaimo, BC
Eric Molendyk
eric@tetrasociety.org

Prince George, BC
Nadine Lindstrom
PrinceGeorgeBC@Tetrasociety.org

Salt Spring Island, BC
Derek Emmerson
SaltSpringBC@Tetrasociety.org

Surrey/Langley/Delta
Eric Molendyk
eric@tetrasociety.org

Trail/Castlegar, BC
Eric Molendyk
eric@tetrasociety.org

Vancouver, BC
Eric Molendyk
eric@tetrasociety.org

Vernon, BC
Randy Schellenberg
VernonBC@Tetrasociety.org

Victoria, BC
Eric Molendyk
eric@tetrasociety.org

Edmonton, AB
Crystal Chalmers
EdmontonAB@Tetrasociety.org

Lethbridge, AB
Crystal Leochko Johnston
Crystal@Tetrasociety.org

Medicine Hat, AB
Crystal Leochko Johnston
Crystal@Tetrasociety.org

Red Deer, AB
Crystal Leochko Johnston
Crystal@Tetrasociety.org

Regina, SK
Terri Sleevea
ReginaSK@Tetrasociety.org

Saskatoon, SK
Jean Price
Saskatoonsk@tetrasociety.org

Winnipeg, MB
Sarah Yonagi
WinnipegMB@Tetrasociety.org

Guelph, ON
Nicola Billings
GuelphON@Tetrasociety.org

Hamilton-Halton, ON
Nancy Thieme
HamiltonHaltonON@Tetrasociety.org

Kingston, ON
Nicole Cromwell
KingstonON@Tetrasociety.org

London, ON
Hui Violet Tan
LondonON@Tetrasociety.org

Thunder Bay, ON
Glenn Barnes
ThunderBayON@tetrasociety.org

Ottawa, ON
Zahra Mohammad
OttawaON@Tetrasociety.org

Peel Region, ON
Scott Capper
PeelRegionON@Tetrasociety.org

Metro Toronto, ON
Cassandra Beaumont
MetroTorontoON@tetrasociety.org

York Region, ON
Glenn Barnes
YorkRegionON@tetrasociety.org

Trenton, ON
Sylvia Baliko
SBaliko@Tetrasociety.org

Windsor, ON
David Harshaw
WindsorON@Tetrasociety.org

Montréal, QC
Sylvia Baliko
SBaliko@Tetrasociety.org

Fredericton, NB
Andrew Jantzen
ajantzen@tetrasociety.org

Halifax, NS
Steve Trussoni
HalifaxNS@tetrasociety.org

St. John's, NL
Dr. Leonard Lye
StJohnsNL@Tetrasociety.org

Los Angeles, CA
Dr. Sam Landsberger
slandsb@exchange.calstatela.edu

Salt Lake City, UT
Kent Remund
kremund@gmail.com

Columbus, OH
Russ Weir
weir.russ.linda@att.net

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 Suite 110 – 2285 Clark Drive, Vancouver, BC, V5N 3G9

Charity #14043 5108 RR0001



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of North America