



“An Intervenor’s biggest reward is watching other people reach their potential — watching them gain their place in the real world.”

Joan Mactavish, Intervenor
Donor of the annual Joan Mactavish Award
in memory of Mae Brown

INTERVENOR [for Deaf-Blind Persons]

Intervenors are the eyes and ears for people who are both blind and deaf. This program, the first and largest in the world, was developed in partnership with a number of service providers and deaf-blind consumer associations. It provides the knowledge and basic skills to work with children and adults who are deaf-blind, including those who may be medically fragile. Intervenors make it possible for persons who are deaf-blind to access information and to interact within the environment. The program combines theory and practical experience, allowing participants to learn the specialized techniques of intervention including a variety of alternative communication methods. Skills are applied during three field placements that consist of 28 days per semester in semesters two, three and four. Further learning is enhanced by a variety of field excursions and guest speakers currently involved in the field.

“I have enjoyed being an Intervenor from the moment I started at George Brown College. Having recently graduated, I find this work challenging, interesting and rewarding. I haven’t regretted for one moment going back to school to follow this career path. Thank you George Brown College for having a program like this available and to all the teachers in the program. Thank you to all of the Intervenors I have met and have yet to meet, who have inspired me to reach my potential while helping individuals who are deaf-blind meet theirs.”

Sherrill Bentley
Freelance Intervenor, CNIB
Graduated in 2003

Career paths

Graduates find career employment as intervenors with boards of education, social service agencies, community residential settings and specialized school programs as well as freelance intervenors. They may also work for people who are deaf-blind. There is a demand for intervenors in a number of countries throughout the world.

Skills and aptitudes

You may want to consider this career path if these terms describe you:

- Able to process and convey visual, oral and auditory information
- Self-motivated
- Flexible
- Strong work ethic
- Creative
- Mature
- Dependable

Admission requirements

- Ontario Secondary School Diploma or equivalent
- Grade 12 English and English testing required
- Interested applicants must also attend an information session

For more information,
call the [Centre for Community Services and Development](#)
at 416-415-5000, ext. 2185 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.
or visit georgebrown.ca/communityservices