



British Columbia

Special Education Technology - British Columbia

2004-2005 Annual Report



*Creating
Student Opportunities*



The Special Education Technology-British Columbia (SET-BC) program is pleased to report on the initiatives and activities of the 2004/05 school year.

Our model supports two principal goals: to help school districts succeed in delivering assistive technology solutions to low incidence students; and to provide long term benefits to students and the school teams who support them through training, resources, and implementation strategies.

In this report you will find:

- Key SET-BC facts
- Student service delivery and demographics
- Student loan, training initiatives, and resource information
- The Provincial Software Acquisition Plan (PSAP)
- The Communication Assistance to Young Adults (CAYA) project

The 2004/05 school year was a time of transformation and change for SET-BC. Our program is still hosted by seven school districts, but our 24 consultants are now located in 19 school districts, bringing our services closer to the school teams and students we support.

We hope you enjoy reading about how the provision of assistive technology, services and resources are creating opportunities for students in British Columbia.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Key SET-BC Facts	2	Equipment Loan Bank	17
Our Vision	3	Partners in Action	18
Our Locations	3	Provincial Software Acquisition Plan	19
Our District Partners	4	Making the Transition: Beata's Story	20
Our Services	4	Communication Assistance for Young Adults	21
SET-BC Services to Students	5	Virtual Voices	23
Student Follow Up Information	7	Braille Literacy	23
The Learning Centre	9	Teen Tech and Rec	24
pictureSET	12	The Bookport Project	24
Training and Resources	13	Contact Information	25
Support Centre	15		

KEY SET-BC FACTS

Special Education Technology - British Columbia (SET-BC) is a provincial government initiative to assist school districts and Group 1 and 2 Independent Schools in educating students with physical disabilities, visual impairments, or autism through the use of assistive technology.

Established

SET-BC has helped over ten thousand students since 1989.

Our Mandate

To lend assistive technologies to facilitate students' access to educational programs and to assist school districts in providing the necessary consultation and training to students and educators.

Our Programs and Services

SET-BC's goals are to assist school districts in the provision of assistive technology services and resources and to empower the educational community to develop assistive technology expertise. To meet these goals SET-BC provides the following services to school districts:

- Consultation, planning and follow-up for school-based teams
- Loan and maintenance of equipment and on-going technical support
- Training for school-based teams and students
- Provision of resources and information for school-based teams

Student Eligibility

School districts identify students who require SET-BC services to support their educational program through a district screening process. In order for a student to be eligible for SET-BC services, the school district must be reporting the student in one of the following low incidence categories:

- Dependent Handicapped/Deaf-Blind
- Physical Disabilities/Chronic Health
- Visual Impairments
- Autism

OUR VISION

We want to provide the best AT solutions and supports for students with disabilities in British Columbia.

We want school districts to have the resources needed to implement assistive technology in their schools.

We want school teams to have the skills and knowledge to support students with disabilities in the classroom.

OUR LOCATIONS

SET-BC has a Provincial Centre located in Vancouver, and seven Regional Centres. Staff members at the Provincial Centre support and coordinate all program services and resources. Regional assistive technology consultants provide community-based services, including consultation, equipment loan, training and resources, for all school districts in BC.

Most regional consultants are based in “satellite” offices located in districts they serve. This enables our staff to work more closely with the school teams and students on their caseloads.

SET-BC REGIONS	
REGION 1	Vancouver Island
REGION 2	Lower Mainland
REGION 3	Okanagan
REGION 4	Kootenays
REGION 5	Cariboo-Chilcotin
REGION 6	North Coast
REGION 7	Peace



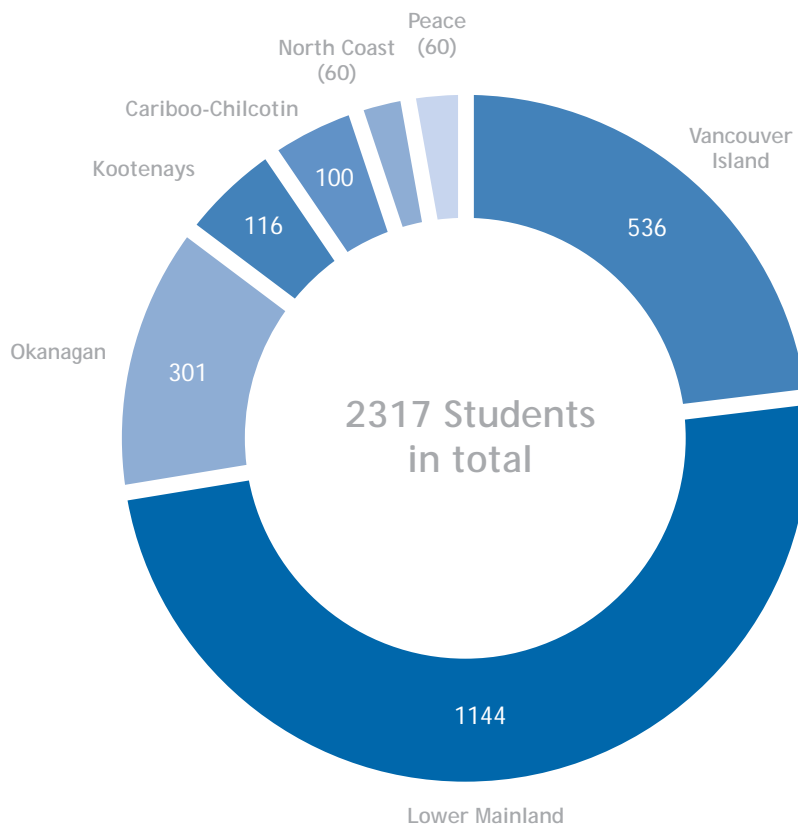
OUR DISTRICT PARTNERS

A representative from each school district and from independent schools is designated as a District Partner to liaise with SET-BC to provide optimal and consistent services to students. Our District Partners carry on the work of disseminating information about SET-BC to district staff, determining district need for assistive technology training and resources, and reviewing district need for implementation and transition support. They also work with school district planning committees to establish priorities for students requiring SET-BC services. We appreciate the tremendous effort that our District Partners make to ensure consistent services to BC students.

OUR SERVICES

School teams identify student Individual Education Plan (IEP) goals that are attainable through the use of assistive technology. With these goals in mind, in the 2004/05 school year, SET-BC's consultants guided the selection and implementation of 630 new assistive technology systems for students. Our consultants also provided ongoing consultation, training and resources for students who received technology loans in previous years, for a total of 2,317 students.

ACTIVE STUDENTS BY REGION





COLLABORATIVE
PLANNING WITH
SET-BC CONSULTANTS

DISTRICT REQUESTS
SET-BC SERVICE

DISTRICT SCREENING
PROCESS

STUDENT NEED
IDENTIFIED IN
DISTRICT

SET-BC SERVICES TO STUDENTS

When school districts request assistive technology services, SET-BC consultants participate in a collaborative planning process with the school team, student and family. This process is used to determine which technology and training will help the student to meet educational goals. Technology loans are supported with ongoing training, implementation strategies, technical support and follow up. This process may be repeated several times throughout a student's school years as needs change.



LOAN REQUEST & TECHNOLOGY DELIVERY

SCHOOL TEAM TRAINING

IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

TECHNICAL SUPPORT & MAINTENANCE

FOLLOW UP

CONTINUED CONSULTANT IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

STUDENT NEED MET

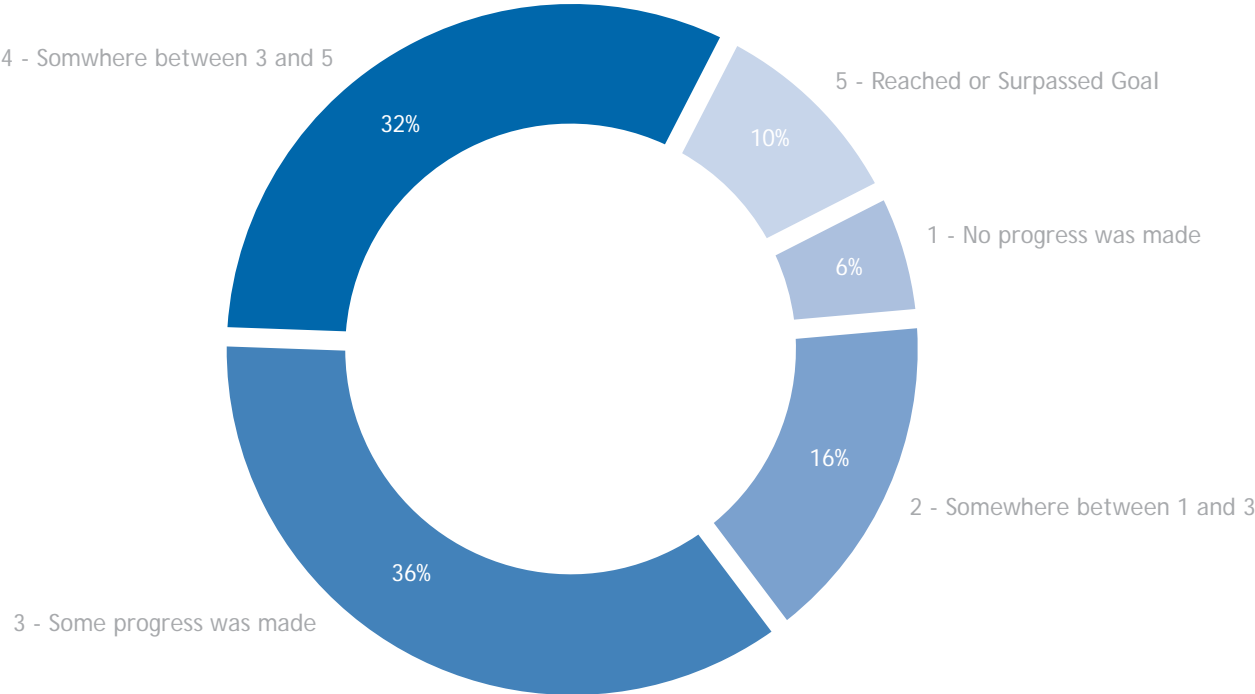
STUDENT FOLLOW UP INFORMATION

Each spring, SET-BC sends questionnaires to school-based teams requesting information about how students use their assistive technologies. We are able to collect data on student progress, educational status and demographics. In addition, we obtain feedback on our services and support programs.

This survey information helps our staff plan for the next school year by updating graduation records and by identifying students who are in transition (e.g. from elementary school to secondary school). The surveys provide information about the training and support needs of district personnel and about how students use their assistive technology in their educational programs. Data collected on our follow-up surveys is also shared with school districts, informing the district planning process and ensuring that further training and support is focused on the teams that require it.

In 2004/05, we asked teams about technology related IEP goals, and to rate the student’s progress toward those goals. The following charts summarize the results.

We asked teams if the technology was successful in supporting the goal stated in the Collaborative Action Plan (CAP). They were asked to rate the student’s progress toward these goal(s) on a scale of 1 to 5.



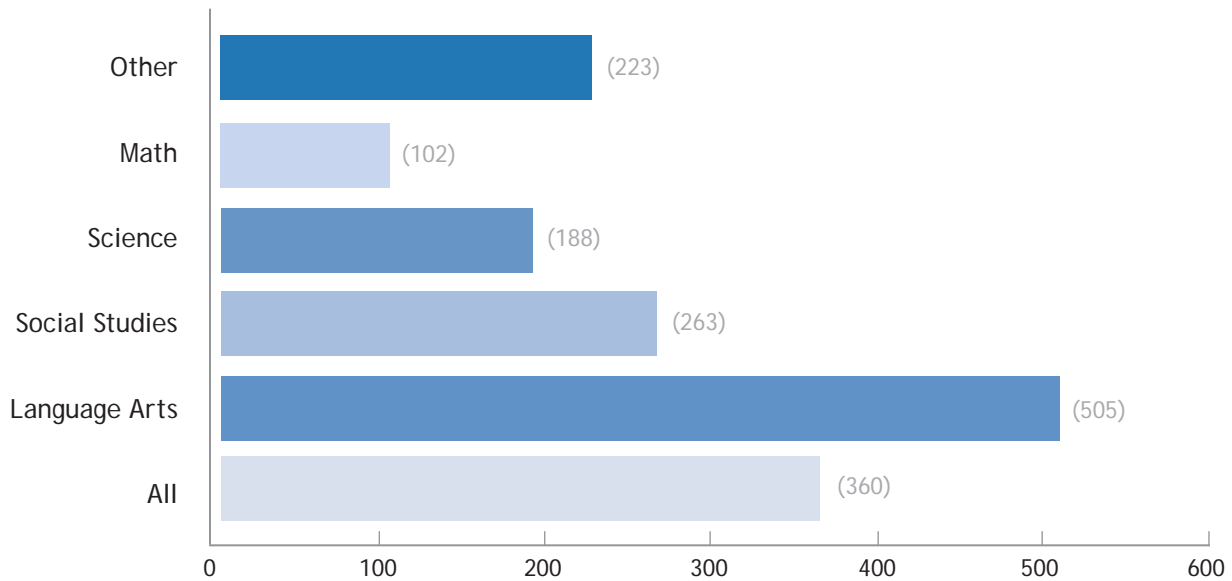
We asked school-based teams about the value of SET-BC training. Of the 60% of respondents who attended SET-BC training sessions, 98% reported that SET-BC training met their needs.



Teams were asked if their experience with equipment support was positive this year, and of the 55% of respondents who asked for support with SET-BC equipment, 98% reported a positive experience.



Teams were asked to choose curriculum areas that were supported by SET-BC technology. Many teams selected more than one area where assistive technology increased student productivity, with Language Arts chosen most frequently.



THE LEARNING CENTRE

Creating Effective Classroom Resources for Online Sharing and Training

SET-BC's online Learning Centre is a rich source for valuable classroom materials and training resources on assistive technology. Educators from across the province can access the Learning Centre at anytime from their homes or classrooms.



Some of our most useful resources are developed in cooperation with teachers, specialists and assistants working in BC classrooms. SET-BC consultants encourage district staff to contribute resources and work with them to adapt materials for on-line presentation or downloading.

Other online resources are developed as part of SET-BC projects or training programs. Small groups of SET-BC and district staff work together to design and develop in-depth content and materials that may be presented in face-to-face sessions, prior to being shared online.

SET-BC students also contribute to the Learning Centre by sharing their stories and by demonstrating how they use assistive technology to learn, communicate and participate in the classroom. Student successes are highlighted in "Student Stories" and in videos in our resource collections.



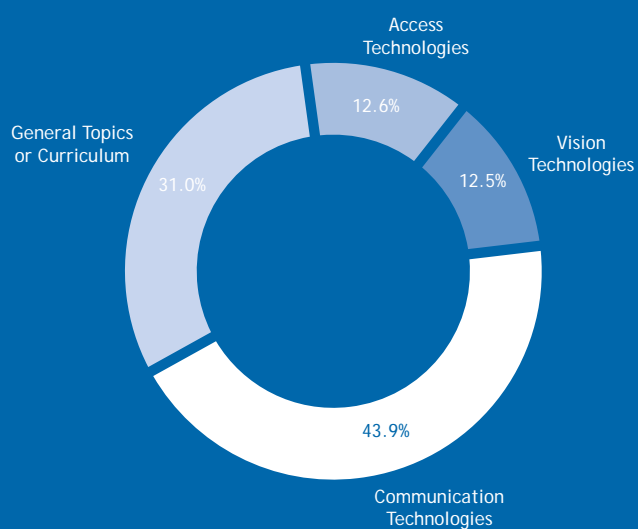
Our training modules frequently incorporate narrated software demonstrations which provide step-by-step instruction on software features and options. SET-BC consultants record sequential sets of these demonstrations so viewers can independently learn to use a range of software programs.

SET-BC's multi-media technician works with our content developers to adapt materials and produce our online collection of resources. This technical and design support ensures that the Learning Centre is an appealing and easy-to-use AT information source for BC educators.

The Learning Centre resources are used throughout BC schools for teaching and learning. School-based teams download student lesson plans or pictureSET communication boards, watch our webcasts, refer to our software demonstrations or resource guides for information, and view student videos to learn strategies for implementing AT with their own students.

During each month of 2004/05, over 8000 visitors (more than 350,000 hits) accessed resources in the SET-BC Learning Centre. They also downloaded more than 22,000 communication resources from pictureSET, our online collection of picture-based student resources.

Learning Centre Visits by Topic Area



Future Directions

We will continue to develop new content for our collection of resources and training modules, ensuring that the Learning Centre remains a dynamic and informative source for the assistive technology community. In the coming year, we also plan to add exciting new features and tools that will expand our ability to provide effective training and support. Look for:

- **Virtual Voices Village** – This new website will feature work by BC students who use assistive technology for writing and communication within their academic activities. Virtual Voices Village will promote literacy and independent learning activities around a 2010 Olympic theme.
- **Increased accessibility** – SET-BC will continue to improve the accessibility of our online resources so educators and students with disabilities are able to access all sections of our website and participate in online events and activities.
- **curriculumSET** – Teachers will be able to find effective classroom materials in this new collection of student templates and learning resources. Downloadable files in this searchable database will be categorized across different curriculum areas, grade levels, software, and activity types. District staff will be able contribute resources that they create, ensuring that good ideas and materials are shared across the province.
- **Interactive online training** – SET-BC will begin live, web-based training sessions where small groups of participants connect with an instructor online. Our virtual classrooms will extend our ability to support BC school district; participants will be able to listen and talk to our instructors present new concepts and demonstrate software.
- **SETInstitute** – Teachers, therapists and classroom assistants working in BC schools have limited access to in-depth AT courses and programs. SET-BC will introduce interactive certificate-based courses on a range of topics that will be offered online during the coming year.



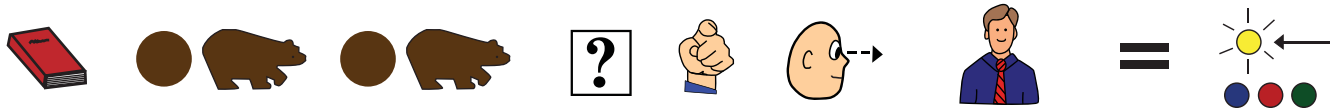
pictureSET

In 2004/05, SET-BC developed and launched pictureSET. This resource-sharing vehicle created great excitement in the education community. School teams, families, and community programs now benefit from the opportunity to search the pictureSET database and download ready-made resources for picture-symbol-based visual schedule, behavior, and communication supports. The pictureSET collection includes over 1000 files primarily in Boardmaker and pdf format. Topic areas include Community, Health, Holidays, Home, Mall and School activities. All pictureSET resources are created and updated by dedicated professionals working with students in British Columbia.

Here are a few of our most popular downloads for this past year.



The book Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Eric Carle was a favourite!

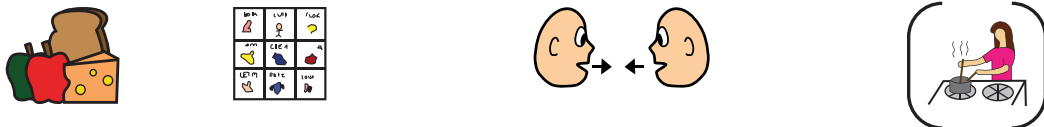


The calm down visual was found to be useful.



Calm Down	
	Sit on chair
	Feet on floor
	Fold hands
	Take 3 deep breaths
	Count to 10
	Good work

Food descriptors vocabulary was used for discussions in home economics class.



TRAINING AND RESOURCES

SET-BC provides comprehensive training and resources for BC school districts on the educational uses of assistive technology. We train school-based teams, present technology workshops and seminars, and host online learning opportunities on our website. In cooperation with our partners in education, community and health agencies, and the AT industry, our provincial training and resource network continues to build AT capacity and knowledge in our schools.

Type of Training	# of sessions	Attendance
Small group training sessions for student teams	613	1532
Regional and provincial workshop and seminars	140	2264
Total	753	3796

“I am a special education teacher in School District #20. I am so impressed with the visual clips, downloadable information and the ease of browsing on the site. I look forward to continuing to use the site to find even more useful information to assist the students I work with.”

~ Denise Laurie, Robson Community School

Highlighting guest presenters

Each year SET-BC sponsors presentations by guest speakers who bring a wealth of knowledge and effective AT strategies to share with BC educators.

- Lorraine Kamp and Laurie Smith, highly regarded educators from Surrey School District, presented popular training sessions in Courtenay, Victoria and Vancouver on “Speaking out and joining in: Using voice output technology to enhance the social inclusion of students with autism spectrum disorders”.
- In a northern training partnership, SET-BC, the University of Northern BC, Prince George School District and its Professional Employees Association joined forces to host a 2-day workshop. This session, “Communication & cognitive development: Assessment & intervention for children with multiple disabilities” was presented by Philip Schweigert, of the Oregon Institute on Disability and Development.
- Kelly Fonner, who consults internationally on AT issues and approaches, presented “Integrating assistive technology across the curriculum”. School based teams in the Lower Mainland were taught a systematic method for implementing AT adaptations and accommodations for reading and writing.
- Dr. Caroline Musselwhite, an AT specialist with more than 25 years of experience, shared ideas for interactive literacy learning with groups in Victoria and Vancouver in her presentation “What’s to read? Locating, analyzing, & adapting appropriate literacy materials for older students who are emergent readers”.

Highlighting Online Training and Resources

SET-BC's online Learning Centre offers convenient training options for people who want to learn more about strategies and assistive technologies for students with special learning needs. The presentations and resources that we develop for face-to-face workshops are frequently adapted into electronic versions on SET-BC's Learning Centre. Online learners can watch webcasts of SET-BC consultants, guest presenters, or students using assistive technologies in BC classrooms.

SET-BC effectively uses the power of the internet to help educators access resources and information. A treasure-trove of AT resources is available for download on our website. Educators can review narrated software demonstrations that provide step-by-step instructions on assistive technology features as well as case study information to support the implementation of assistive technology in meeting student goals. They can also refer to and download helpful resource guides, tutorials, and student lesson plans.

This year, SET-BC added 44 new resource titles to our informative collection of guides, classroom activities, templates, and teaching materials. Educators from across the province enjoy easy access to downloadable resources for use in their classroom activities.

- The **“Alternate Access Technology Overview”** provides an overview of access options for students and highlights considerations for matching technology to student needs, abilities, and goals.
- In **“Building Skills of the Switch User”**, Kelly Fonner gives an overview of the use of switches and scanning and demonstrates a number of software programs with built-in switch access.
- **“Classroom Activities and Record Keeping Strategies using Boardmaker and the Tech Talk II”** includes demonstrations of communication and curriculum overlays for an elementary-grade student.

- Our **Clicker 4** module includes 5 tutorials that provide a stress-free start to using the powerful features of this software to support classroom reading and writing activities.
- **“Creating Opportunities for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders”** includes extensive resources, including student videos, which will help teams considering AT for these students.
- **The BookPort Student Lessons Resource Book** includes student-focused, practical resources, specifically designed to help students and teachers implement the technology.
- Our **Intellitalk II** module includes video clips of two students, tutorials, activities, and demonstrations and will help teams develop the skills needed to begin using this powerful talking word processor.
- **“Secondary School Solutions through Social Language”** focuses on the use of social stories to create curriculum supports at the secondary level.
- **“Speaking Out & Joining In: Using Voice Output Technology to Enhance the Social Inclusion of Students”** explores social communication for students with autism spectrum disorders.
- **“Using Technology to Create Personal Histories and Roadmaps”** demonstrates strategies to support students with autism spectrum disorders in all environments.
- In **“Write to Talk”**, Dr. Caroline Musselwhite explores the integral relationship between communication and the writing process and how easily that is overlooked for AAC users.
- **The Accessible Books Collection** makes electronic, alternate format books available to students with special needs in BC. These books, with their rich graphic content and human-voice narration, provide access to reading materials so children can read and reread their favourite books independently. Teams can access the list of more than two hundred titles from the Learning Centre.

SUPPORT CENTRE

Equipment support and repair is part of SET-BC's technology partnership with BC school districts. The Support Centre provides direct technical support to school teams using SET-BC equipment through its telephone support team, SET-Desk, and performs more complex configuration and repair work on equipment that is returned to its facility at the SET-BC Provincial Centre.

Launched in January 2004, SET-Desk completed its first full year of operation in the 2004/05 school year. SET-Desk creates efficiencies and improves the quality of service for students, their school-based teams and school districts. School-based teams call the Support Centre directly, providing a faster, more streamlined service. Many equipment problems can be resolved directly by telephone, without the need to return equipment to the Provincial Centre for repair.

When school-based teams contact the Support Centre, they have improved access to technical support, including better coordination with vendor and manufacturer support systems. Teams also have direct access to software upgrades. Orders and deliveries are streamlined, reducing costs, number of steps and people involved. This means faster turn-around time for repairs and replacement of broken parts, improved delivery of short term loan requests, and reduced student downtime.

The SET-BC Support Centre handled 871 support calls for the 2004/05 school year. The SET-Desk support team was able to resolve approximately one quarter of all problems by telephone, keeping equipment in schools and in use by students. The remaining calls resulted in a need to return equipment for repair. Repairs are sent directly to our technicians for service and returned directly to the school when complete, minimizing the time equipment is out of service. A majority of these repair jobs were completed within 7 days of arrival at the Support Centre.

The number of equipment repair jobs handled by the Support Centre has been increasing by approximately 10% per year. With the addition of SET-Desk in 2004, and recent growth in the number of new loans, the total workload processed by the Support Centre has grown substantially. The Support Centre has kept pace with this growth by adding new team members, expanding facilities, and working to streamline its processes. The Support Centre has been able to maintain consistent average repair times despite the growing workload.

SUPPORT DESK CONTACT INFO

By phone

1-866-SET-DESK (1-866-738-3375)

or locally at 604-269-2222

By email

support@setbc.org

or

click on the Support Tab at www.setbc.org



SET-DESK CALLS	2003-04 ¹	2004-05
Calls Received by Telephone	145	240
Calls Requiring Equipment Return	351	631
Total SET-Desk Calls	496	871

SUPPORT CENTRE JOB TOTALS	2001-02 ¹	2002-03 ¹	2003-04	2004-05
SET-Desk Support Calls*	-	-	496	871
Equipment Repairs	503	550	598	649
New Equipment Configurations	1120	1086	1187	1404
Total Support Centre Jobs	1623	1636	2281	2924

REPAIR TIMES	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Total Jobs (handled internally) ²	436	501	529	587
Average Repair Time (Days) ³	12	15	12	12

1 SET-Desk began operation in January 2004

2 Jobs where equipment was returned to outside suppliers for repair are excluded.

3 Average time in days from receipt of job at the Provincial Centre to completion of repair

EQUIPMENT LOAN BANK

SET-BC's equipment loan bank delivers and supports custom assistive technology solutions to address individual student learning needs. 2317 students who currently have SET-BC assistive technology receive comprehensive technical support, training and repair services.

SET-BC's collaborative service delivery model guides the selection and implementation of effective AT solutions. This year, 630 students received new assistive technology systems custom configured by our technicians. 285 students received accessory loans of additional hardware and software to keep their systems current.

Speech generating devices and refreshable Braille notetakers are very expensive and range in price from \$7,000-\$12,000 each. SET-BC gives these devices a high service priority as research points out that effective training, maintenance and support are vital to successful student usage. In the 2004/05 school year, SET-BC provided 21 sophisticated speech generating devices and 17 refreshable Braille notetakers to meet the unique learning needs of students with disabilities.

Equipment Recycling

Recycled equipment was used to replace 327 assistive technology systems that were no longer effective due to changes in student need or the school environment. Damaged, lost, or stolen equipment was also replaced through the use of recycled equipment.

Short Term Loans

SET-BC configured and shipped over 330 short term loans to school based teams for assessment, evaluations, trials and training. SET-BC also helped school teams obtain short term loans directly from suppliers for expensive or special technologies. Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children, BC Children's Hospital and BC Rehabilitation Centre also borrowed technology through our short term loan program.

EQUIPMENT LOAN BANK STATISTICS

Hardware	Assistive technology on long term loan	New student loans in 2004/2005
Braille Notetakers	51	17
CCTV	53	22
Communication Aid Low Tech	266	96
High cost VOCA	61	21
Adapted computers	1648	491
Portable Word processors	256	107
Software		
Access Software	8734	508
Screen Readers	68	16
Screen Magnification	97	39

PARTNERS IN ACTION

SET-BC's partnership with BC school districts improves service and support for the loan of assistive technology for students with disabilities. During the school year, SET-BC met with district information technology staff to streamline school based implementation of assistive technology. As a result of district input, SET-BC has developed custom shipping and configuration arrangements with several school districts. In addition, District Partners gained access to information on equipment and repairs through the SETpartners web-based database.

SET-BC continues to build on the many partnerships formed with companies in the assistive technology industry. Two local resellers, Aroga and Bridges, supply SET-BC with the majority of assistive technology products in the loan bank. Annual planning with these companies helps bring the best possible products, pricing, training and support to BC students and their school teams.

Bridges Canada

Bridges Canada supplies SET-BC with a wide variety of assistive technology software and hardware. Bridges supported numerous training events and developed resources for our Learning Centre. Bridges also provided support and training for software for school teams through the Provincial Software Acquisition Plan (PSAP).

Aroga Technologies

Aroga Technologies is based in Vancouver and provides SET-BC with assistive technology equipment for students who have vision impairments and severe language impairments. Aroga supported numerous training activities in 2004/05 and they also provided financial, technical and professional support to VisionTech and Virtual Voices summer programs.

Toshiba Canada

SET-BC is granted large account status allowing for advanced ordering and allocation of laptop computers at special pricing from Toshiba Canada.

Dynavox Systems

Dynavox Systems trained a SET-BC technician at their head office in Pittsburgh and provided SET-BC with the parts and tools to service Dynavox communication aids. This partnership reduces costs and speeds repairs for students in BC.

SET-BC would also like to thank the following companies for their support:

Ablenet, AI squared, Alphasmart, Apple Canada, Clarity, Crick, Daedalus Technologies, Dell Canada, Don Johnston, Duxbury, Enabling Devices, Dynavox Systems, Freedom Scientific, Humanware, IBM Canada, Infogrip, Intellitools, Insight Media Service, Madentec, Mayer-Johnson, Kurzweil Education, Optelec Canada, , Quantum, R.J. Cooper, Seacrest Resources, TLD, Zygo Canada.

PROVINCIAL SOFTWARE ACQUISITION PLAN (PSAP)

The Provincial Software Acquisition Plan (PSAP) was created to give BC school districts the opportunity to participate in SET-BC's provincial site license agreements for special education software titles. By joining the plan, BC school districts acquire software at preferential prices and enjoy the many benefits of the software loan program.

School districts received shipments of Kurzweil 3000 and Co:Writer 4000 at the start of the school year. Implementation was supported with initial training and extensive online resources and school-based teams and districts indicated strong interest in additional curriculum based titles. Feedback was gathered from teams and relayed to focus groups who selected software based on:

- Universal access
- BC curriculum goals for literacy, numeracy, and concept development
- Multi-modal information delivery
- Assistive technology research studies

In the spring of 2005, licenses for new software bundles for Literacy, Early Literacy, Early Mathematics and Concept Development were made available. New versions of existing software were added as well as communication software and programs that support written output. The PSAP list grew to a total of sixteen different software titles and school district orders increased accordingly.

By the end of the 2004/2005 school year, the following profile was generated:

Total number of PSAP orders	169
Total number of software titles shipped	3593
Total number of districts placing orders	54
Total amount of 2004/05 orders	\$505,400
Amount of individual software orders	range from \$40 to over \$63,000

One of the goals of PSAP is to support school districts' acquisition of software at a significant cost savings. This was accomplished by building on the SET-BC provincial site license agreements for the various titles, as well as making use of a special one-time grant from the Ministry of Education. School districts were able to realize substantial savings on individual titles from 3-69% of the manufacturers' suggested retail price, saving an average of 42%. One district order for \$24,693.00 of software realized a savings of \$17,881.00.

School districts recognized the value of purchasing through the SET-BC provincial license agreements not only for cost savings, but also for training and technical support. SET-BC provided online software overviews, tutorials, and demonstrations while our knowledgeable consultants answered specific questions from school district staff.

School district response was overwhelmingly positive and many school teams have requested expansion of the plan for the 2005/06 school year. PSAP will undoubtedly grow as new titles are considered, new support resources are created, and software is successfully implemented in classrooms across British Columbia.

For more information on the Provincial Software Acquisition Plan, including a list of available software titles, teams can visit www.setbc.org/psap.

MAKING THE TRANSITION: Beata's Story

Beata graduated with honours in June 2004, which is quite a feat for anyone. For someone who uses single switch access it is a truly remarkable accomplishment. She began using assistive technology from SET-BC in 1991 with a Mac LCII and Ke:nx and is now using an iMac with a Discover Switch. Beata is also using a Pathfinder for writing and communication. The Pathfinder stayed with Beata after graduation through the CAYA Project. We wish Beata every happiness and success in her post secondary career.



In her own words...

My name is Beata. I have Cerebral Palsy. My Cerebral Palsy was caused when my brain got a bleeding in it during birth. Cerebral Palsy can also be caused by a lack of oxygen, or injury to the brain during birth, shortly before birth, or up to 5 years of age. Mine is very severe, I am a spastic quadriplegic. This means I can not control any of my 4 limbs. I can't eat. I have a walker, to help me walk. This machine that I am using to write this is called a Pathfinder, it helps me to communicate with the world. Living with Cerebral Palsy is very difficult, but to wish it away would be wishing away everything that I love. Thanks to a loving family, great friends, and technology, I would not be happier if I had been born without Cerebral Palsy. Please do not feel sorry for me, or say "Oh, that's sad." Oh brother! I am so happy. I am so happy with who I am, and there is nothing sad about that!

My good friend Jordan Powell passed away because of Cancer in November 2004. Yuck! I decided to do something to help people that have Cancer. I can't run a marathon, and I don't have much money to donate, so I decided to donate one of the most precious things to me. My beautiful, long, hair! It took me awhile to convince my mother but eventually she agreed to let me do it and I had my pony tail chopped off right at the top. I was a little sad to see it go, but I do LOVE my short hair, and of course I still look gorgeous!



Communication Assistance for Young Adults

CAYA is a one-year project initiated by SET-BC to serve adults between the ages of 19-27 who require alternative or augmentative communication (AAC) assistance. Funded by the Ministry of Education, CAYA is designed to address the crucial transition period to adulthood for young people with severe communication disabilities. The goal of CAYA is to ensure that eligible individuals have access to communication tools and professional support to enable them to create an adult life to the best of their abilities.

Creating Communication Opportunities for Graduating Students

One of the initial goals of CAYA is to create a transition process for graduating high-school students using AAC. Information, procedures and relevant forms are now posted on the CAYA web-site and are being accessed by secondary school teachers and speech language pathologists (SLPs) to enroll eligible students into the CAYA project. In the coming months these individuals will receive priority attention to ensure that the past 12 years of work and energy continue to build vibrant lives based on functional communication.

Identifying CAYA Clients

Many of the individuals eligible for CAYA services have been out of the education system for years. Much of the client based activity in this initial period has been to identify these individuals from SET-BC archives, and information from health and community service providers. Over 100 individuals and their families have been contacted by mail and telephone to outline services now available to them. CAYA has created a comprehensive database referencing these individuals and their demographic information for future contact and service.

CAYA Clients by Regional District

CAYA has received requests for service from 67 individuals to date (December 15, 2005). These individuals live in communities across BC.

Fraser Regional District	16
Interior Regional District	10
Northern Regional District	6
Vancouver Coastal Regional District	12
Vancouver Island Regional District	23

Creating a Service Network

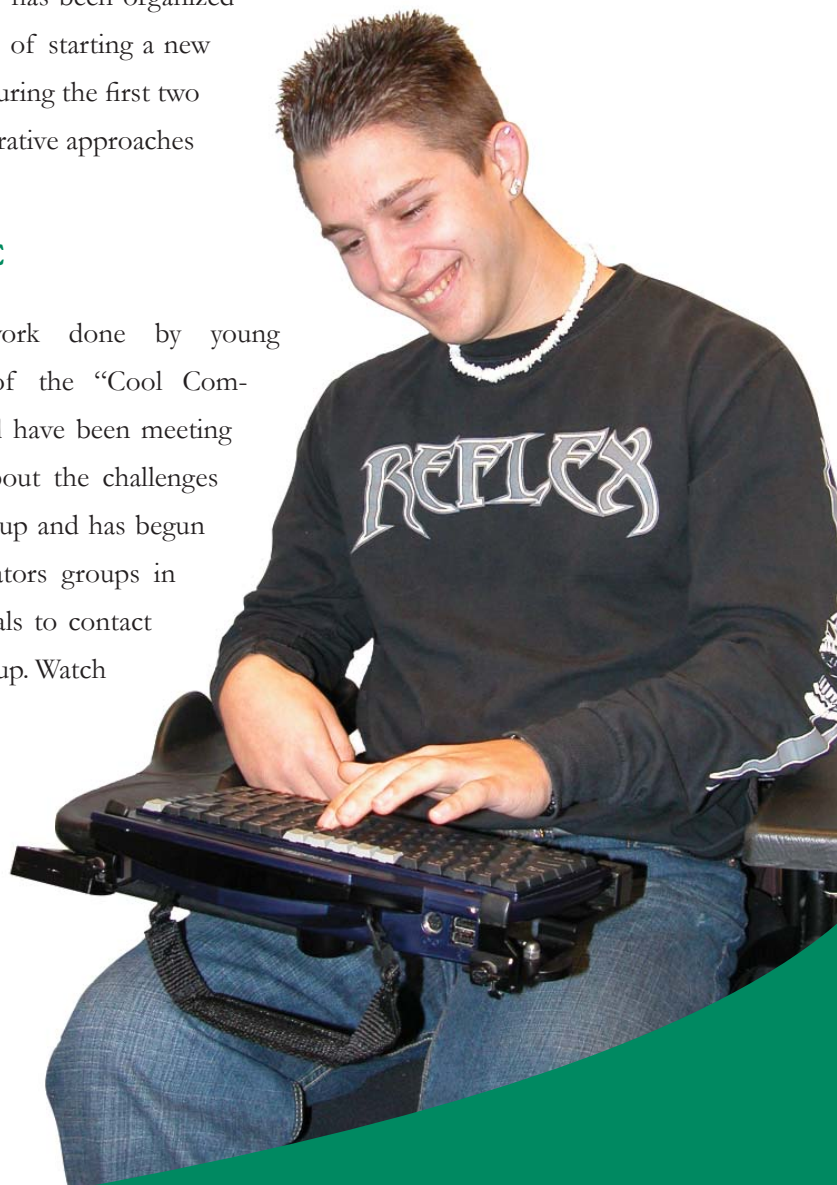
CAYA has engaged SLPs and SLP assistants to provide service on Vancouver Island, in Greater Vancouver, the Okanagan, and the North. Our website www.cayabc.org provides the public with an overview of CAYA as well as access to forms for services and information on new developments.

Delivering Services

To reach our project target of 100 clients, service delivery has been organized into four service delivery cycles. In spite of the challenges of starting a new service, CAYA initiated or delivered services to 45 clients during the first two cycles. We are continuing to explore innovative and collaborative approaches to ensure the best quality service to our clientele.

Building Community for Young Adults using AAC

CAYA has begun to build on the excellent work done by young augmentative communicators in Nanaimo. Members of the “Cool Communicators” group range in age from 14 to 30 years, and have been meeting monthly since January 2002 to socialize and network about the challenges of life with AAC. CAYA has provided support to this group and has begun working with clients to organize local Cool Communicators groups in other BC communities. We encourage interested individuals to contact us for opportunities to establish a Cool Communicators group. Watch our website for more details.



VIRTUAL VOICES

In partnership with the Easter Seal Camping Program, SET-BC hosted Virtual Voices 2005. This fun-filled program of literacy, communication and recreational activities was held at Camp Squamish from August 31st to September 3rd, 2005.

Virtual Voices focused on an Olympics theme while building literacy, augmentative communication and technology skills. Campers used their voice output communication aids to create Olympic presentations, interview friends about favorite Olympic sports and play Olympic games.

BRAILLE LITERACY

The Braille Literacy Summer Program at the CNIB Lodge on Bowen Island was once again a popular, fun-filled week for 12 BC students ranging in age from eight to twelve. The “research” theme from past camps was taken to a new level with campers in groups of two or three using a “hands-on” approach to checking out a variety of work sites on the island. Campers also interviewed personnel in each of the sites to gather information on their specific jobs and possible future employment options for individuals with blindness. Favourite work sites included the hardware and lumber yard, the Museum and Archives, the farm and butcher shop, the health and massage clinic and, of course, the veterinarian!

The field trips provided a plethora of material for creative writing activities and submissions to the camp newspaper. Campers used a wide variety of assistive technologies for their reading and writing activities and many enjoyed sharing their unique technological expertise with camping buddies. The camp continues to be a successful collaborative activity coordinated by PRCVI, SET-BC and CNIB with support from BC Blind Sports and BC Vision Teachers.



Braille text consisting of three lines of white dots on a blue background.

(Junior reporters interviewing for the camp newsletter.)

TEEN TECH AND REC

In keeping with the futuristic theme, the technology lab at Camp Bowen went wireless this summer. All twenty-four campers learned about VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) by installing Skype and exploring its accessibility with magnification or screen reading software. Skype soon proved to be a popular alternative to text messaging, especially with one camper who has apparently decided to pursue a career in telemarketing. Many campers also enjoyed daily chats with Cybelle, an artificial intelligence Chatbot with an excellent memory and sense of humour.

In other theme challenges, campers explored smart houses and appliances, new gadgets and Geek Chic clothing, robots at Japan's Expo 2005, Disney's new Virtual Reality Theme Park, and the ethics of smart bar codes, and biometric identification. With Steve Barclay (Aroga), Mallory Burton (SET-BC) and Tom Cowper (Kelowna School District) staffing the lab, students were also able to request individual instruction in technology such as Kurzweil 1000 and 3000, JAWS, Magic, PacMate, BookPort, webcams, camcorders, and Windows Movie Maker.

THE BOOKPORT PROJECT

In February 2005, SET-BC and the Provincial Resource Program for the Visually Impaired launched the BookPort Project. The project provided the equipment, training, and resources for fifty blind or visually impaired secondary students in BC.

The BookPort is an innovative portable device designed for the blind to read electronic books, play digital audio files, record voice memos, and enter notes in 6 key Braille entry. Its small size, large storage capacity and battery operation enables students to take their studies anywhere. Data is transferred easily to the BookPort from a Windows computer via USB connection.

In tandem with the BC project, twenty-five students from APSEA, the Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority also participated in the BookPort project with funding for equipment and training provided by APSEA.

Evaluation of the project is being conducted with consultation from the Education Department of the University of British Columbia.

The BookPort Student Lessons Resource, a set of practical lessons developed and designed by a team of SET-BC consultants to help students and teachers learn and implement the technology, was a great support to teams. SET-BC also set up the BookPort Listserv to enable students and teams to communicate with one another as they explore the varied uses of their BookPorts.





British Columbia

SET-BC PROVINCIAL CENTRE

#105 - 1750 West 75th Avenue
Vancouver, BC, Canada V6P 6G2

Tel: (604) 261-9450
Fax: (604) 261-2256

www.setbc.org

Provincial Coordinator

Mike Bartlett

(604) 269-2209
mbartlett@setbc.org

Service Delivery

Joe Cash

(604) 269-2223
jcash@setbc.org

Training/The Learning Centre

Elaine Ferguson

(604) 269-2230
eferguson@setbc.org

pictureSET

Elaine Proska

(604) 269-2230
eproska@setbc.org

Resource Development

Contance McAvoy

(604) 261-9450 ext. 322
cmcavoy@setbc.org

Multimedia

multimedia@setbc.org

Support Centre/IT

Gordon Eddy

(604) 261-9450 ext. 335
geddy@setbc.org

Equipment Loan Bank

John Drescher

(604) 269-2232
jdrescher@setbc.org

PSAP/Online Training

Kerry Randle

(604) 261-9450 ext. 314
krandle@setbc.org

CAYA

Jeff Riley

(604) 261-9450 ext. 318
jriley@cayabc.org

Support Desk

1-866-SET-DESK (1-866-738-3375)
Locally at 604-269-2222
support@setbc.org



For a complete listing of all SET-BC staff, consultants and district partners, visit our website at www.setbc.org.

SET-BC REGIONAL CENTRES

Region One - Vancouver Island

218 Helmcken Road
Victoria, BC V9B 1S6
Tel: (604) 261-9450
Fax: (604) 261-2256

Region Five - Cariboo-Chilcotin

1193 Harper Street
Prince George, BC V2M 2X1
Tel: (250) 562-9650
Fax: (250) 565-4235

Region Two - Lower Mainland

#105 - 1750 West 75th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6P 6G2
Tel: (604) 261-9450
Fax: (604) 261-2256

Region Six - North Coast

825 Conrad Street
Prince Rupert, BC V8J 3B8
Tel: (250) 624-6621
Fax: (250) 624-6572

Region Three - Okanagan

1401 - 15th Street
Vernon, BC V1T 8S8
Tel: (250) 549-9221
Fax: (250) 588-0098

Region Seven - Peace

10105 - 12A Street
Dawson Creek, BC V1G 3V7
Tel: (250) 782-4860
Fax: (250) 782-3204

Region Four - Kootenays

SS #1 Site 19 Box 16
Kimberley, BC V1A 2Y3
Tel: (250) 427-7888
Fax: (250) 427-5301

SET-BC

#105 - 1750 West 75th Avenue
Vancouver, BC, Canada
V6P 6G2

Tel: (604) 261-9450
Fax: (604) 261-2256

www.setbc.org



SET-BC is a Ministry of Education Provincial Resource Program.