

CanAssist at the University of Victoria

Family Caregivers of BC

Researching Helpful Technology Aids using Ability411

November 26th, 2019



University
of Victoria

Territory acknowledgement



We acknowledge with respect the Lkwungen-speaking peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Overview of CanAssist

A centre of excellence for disability.

Unique in North America.



Today's team of about 25 includes professional software developers and engineers.



Part of a vibrant campus at the University of Victoria.

We engage many researchers and hundreds of students each year.

Funding

- UVic provides about 25% of CanAssist's operating revenues through in-kind contributions
(e.g. building space, utilities, janitorial services, security)
- Our annual operating budget is provided through:
 - public sector project funding
 - fee-for-service agreements
 - philanthropic donations from foundations and individuals



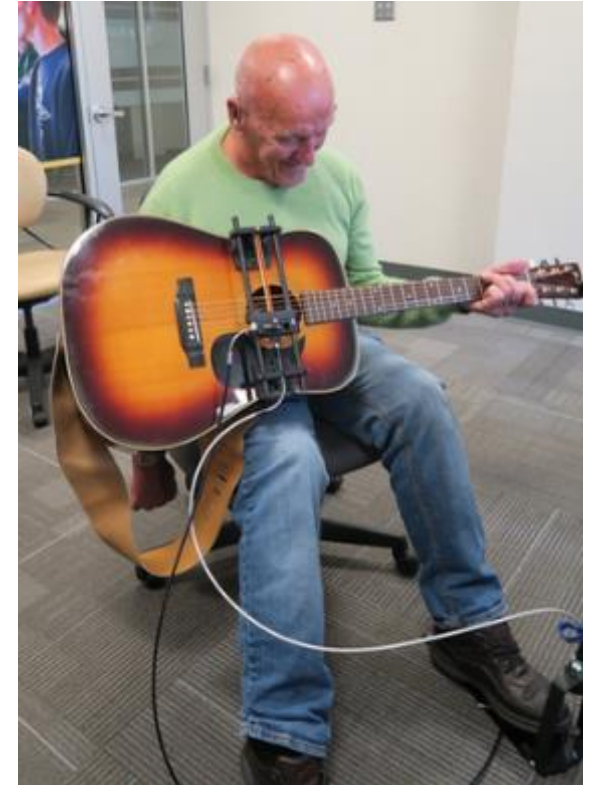
CanAssist Technologies



CanAssist focuses on innovation and unmet community needs.



CanAssist Technologies



We develop
customized solutions.

CanAssist Technologies



We also develop broad impact technologies.



CanAssist Technologies



CanAssist does not compete; instead seeks to collaborate

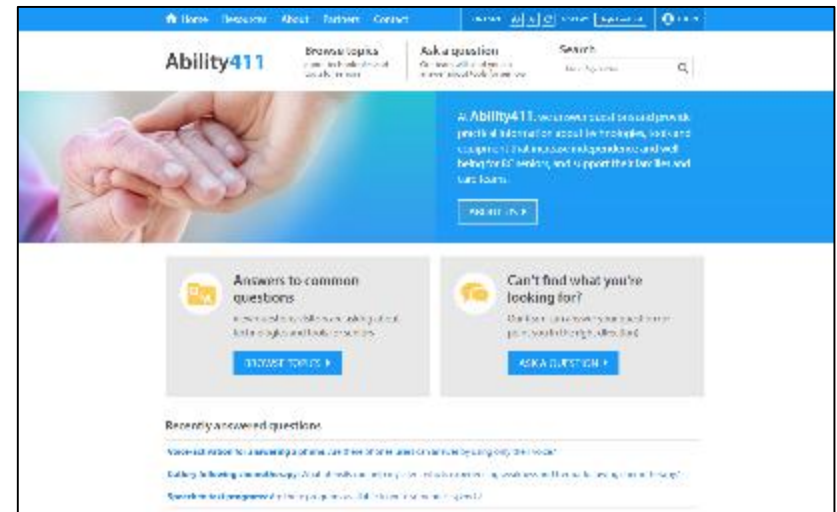


CanStayHome: Technologies to keep BC seniors safe, independent, and in their homes for longer



Ability411

- Ability411 allows seniors and their caregivers the opportunity to ask questions and get answers about assistive technology.
- The website was designed to fill a gap in knowledge about the assistive technologies available to seniors.
- Questions are reviewed by the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists – BC.



Example cases

- Pamela has difficulty navigating the tiny buttons of her blouses and shirts due to her arthritis. She didn't think anything existed that could fix this relatively simple problem.
- \$16 button aid hook from Amazon and other retailers.



Example cases

- Bernice has troubles opening jars and cans due to her reduced grip strength. She knows of other solutions, but doesn't know what would work for her.



- Ability411 provides information about each technology it recommends

Example cases

- Gary is interested in technology. He's especially interested in "smart homes" but he doesn't really know about it or where to begin.
- Ability411 connected Gary to articles about "smart homes", and some of the most popular and useful accessories for a smart home.
 - Lightbulbs, outlets and TVs
 - How to set a reminder, timers and find information.



Product Development

- What is coming up next?
- We want to talk to you!



How you can be involved



- Access www.ability411.ca to help find solutions for seniors in your life.
- Help connect us to user testers for CanStayHome technologies.
- Spread the word, we are always accepting community requests.
- Share your experiences with our product development team.

Thank you!



We sincerely appreciate any opportunity to engage with community leaders, healthcare professionals, clients, and families.

If you have questions, comments, or **if you are interested in becoming more involved with our projects** please feel free to contact me.

Niki Andresen

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Don't Care Alone

CALL US

Caregiver Support Line:

toll free 1-877-520-3267

Browse our Website

www.familycaregiversbc.ca

- Caregiver Support Groups
- Live & Recorded Webinars
- Top Tips & Tools
- Flip Books
- Newsletters / eNews



Thank you!



Family Caregivers
of British Columbia