

Simon's Speech - October 4, 2007

One of the devices you see here today symbolizes the efforts that the people of BC have made to provide communication devices to people with disabilities throughout BC. It was one of the first such devices provided in Canada to an individual with a physical disability that was unable to speak (in the late 60's and 70's.) It was provided by the Kinsmen Foundation with funding raised in the community.

We have come a long way since then. We now have devices that incorporate different physical access methods, digitized speech and word prediction. They are much more intelligent and give all our clients the opportunity to communicate and contribute to their lives, families and communities.

The CAYA project gives us an incredible opportunity to design a program that will benefit all persons in BC with disabilities requiring complex speech generation devices.

On behalf of the clients of BCITS and CAYA, I would like to thank Minister Claude Richmond and the Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance and the BC Government for their support and funding towards this valuable project.