

OUR PRIORITIES

Imagine, for a moment, you are one of the 4.3 million Canadians living with a recognized disability.

Maybe you won't have to imagine forever. Statistically speaking, as you age you stand a good chance of becoming limited in hearing, sight, mobility, speech, or in your capacity to learn. You may face challenges that Saint Mary's University sees in the students who come to us every day, for support through our Atlantic Centre of Research, Access and Support for Students with Disabilities.

How can we make a traditional university environment more accessible for those with disabilities? How can we live up to our promise to provide individualized support for learners with special challenges ranging from mobility impairments to dyslexia? And, perhaps most importantly, how can Saint Mary's find solutions that help redefine the policy and practice of post-secondary education for disabled individuals in the years to come?

Since 1985, our Atlantic Centre has quietly led the country in finding answers that work. It has built a leadership reputation for accommodation, cultural and functional advocacy and meaningful research surrounding disabled individuals in the learning environment. Experts in our Atlantic Centre have forged unique partnerships within the corporate community and around the globe, in their tenacious pursuit of accommodating disabled learners. The result? World-first, technology-driven initiatives like Liberated Learning Technology that, in partnership with IBM, enables the deaf and other students with learning disabilities, to benefit from real-time, voice-to-text transcription of their lectures.



But to understand only the national and international reputation of the Atlantic Centre diminishes a full appreciation of the profound difference that it effects, day-to-day, year-to-year, for our students. We help those with disabilities integrate into our environment, and achieve their dreams and the dreams of their families, of a university degree. Plain and simple.

An endowment goal of \$1 million in support of the work of the Atlantic Centre represents only a first step in securing its place within our University and community. With technological innovations and a wide range of services, the Atlantic Centre is an integral part of our campus, and represents a cultural imperative for our society.

Imagine what life would be like without it.

