

Poster

**Title: Three Countries Connect**

Presenter: Tracey Veldhuis, DeafBlind Ontario Services, Canada  
Co-presenters: Michael Karlsson  
Melaine Gauthier  
Mireya Cisne  
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Main focus: Mainly practice/Both congenital and acquired deafblindness

Abstract: Despite more than 10000 km separating them, organizations from 3 different countries began a partnership in November 2015 which has brought them together and created a solid social connectedness.

This presentation will speak about the partnership that has taken place between MoGard, (Sweden) Asociacion de Sordociegos, ( Nicaragua) DeafBlind Ontario Services (Canada) and Canadian Helen Keller Centre (Canada). We will highlight the successes and challenges of collaborating and how, despite distance, cultural and language barriers we have been able to work together, learning from each other and sharing experiences and knowledge for the benefit of all organizations.

The presentation will include a brief overview of each participating organization, how we became involved in the partnership. We will also share tips on how others could start partnerships like this.

During the workshop, we will highlight successes from participating organizations, and the benefits we have had from the collaboration, as well as some of the challenges we encountered. We will highlight the recent training program, which took place in Masaya, Nicaragua with educators and deafblind consumers, as well as feedback from the facilitators and participants.