

# **Helen Louise Gillis**

**National President ? Volunteer at Canadian Council of the Blind**

Sydney, NS, CA

She has served on the CCB at all levels including committees advocating for accessibility for blind/vision impaired Canadians.

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## **Biography**

Louise received Nursing Diploma from the Aberdeen Hospital School of Nursing followed by several nursing, management and communication courses over several years prior to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1996. In 1997 she became involved with the CNIB following sudden vision loss, and served on their Advisory Board, Sydney District for many years. Further volunteering began in 1998 when Louise became a member of the CCB Sydney Chapter of the Canadian Council of the Blind (CCB). She has served on the CCB at all levels including committees advocating for accessibility for blind/vision impaired Canadians. In 2010 she was elected to the position of National President and re-elected in 2014 and 2017. Other committees Louise served on include: Cape Breton Infrastructure Engagement Group; Accessible Canada Act; Accessible Nova Scotia; Accessible Electronic Payment Committee; Library Committee; Accessible Media Inc.; Media Access Canada (MAC), Coalition of Blind Rights Holders (CBRH) ? of Canada; ? Consumer Access Group (CAG); WBU ? World Blind Union; WBU ? Women?s Committee, ILNS ? Independent Living Nova Scotia; Society for Accessible Transportation ? Sydney; Marine Atlantic Accessibility & Inclusive Advisory Committee; a Working Group to revise the NS Disabilities Act; Best Medicines Coalition (BMC); and sit on all CCB committees. Louise has represented the blind community at the Canadian Medical Association (CMA), Innovative Medicines Canada / Médicaments novateurs Canada, International Federation on Aging (IFA), and CADTH (Canadian Agency on Drugs & Technology in Health. Louise is a Polio survivor and also a member of Polio Nova Scotia. Louise has met with and made presentations to many other disability groups, organization of seniors, schools ? including the Canadian Teachers ?Seeing Beyond the Horizon? meeting, Ophthalmologists ? individually as well as the Canadian Ophthalmology Society, and meet with many provincial & federal government offices. Most recent were two presentations to the International Ophthalmology Conference in Xingtai, China as well as working with a group on a mobile eye clinic in remote areas of China.

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## **Areas of Expertise**

Vision, Healthcare, Vision Health, Blindness, Nursing

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## **Education**

**St. Francis Xavier University**

B.Sc. Nursing

**University College of Cape Breton**

Certificate in Institutional Management, Healthcare

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## **Accomplishments**

**Mel Hibb Hourglass Award for Exceptional Service**  
2016

**Holly Bartlett Advocacy Award**  
2012

**Volunteer of the Year award NSLEO**  
2010

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