



Marine Science Program for Students with Visual Impairments



This spring, the Provincial Resource Centre for the Visually Impaired (PRCVI), a Provincial Resource Program (PRP) funded by the Ministry and overseen by the Inclusive Education Branch of the Learning Division, supported a Marine Sciences Program for students with visual impairments. Several BC Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments (TSVIs) developed and delivered the week-long program in collaboration with staff at the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre that was accessible and meaningful for students with visual impairments – even accessible whale watching!

A film crew joined the group and produced a video documentary on this excellent example of accessible place-based learning. Students had many opportunities for hands-on exploration as they learned about the coastal ecosystem. [Here is a link to that documentary.](#) There is also a separate documentary on the [journey of one of the students who participated in the program.](#)

PRCVI's support of the program included the production of braille and large print materials, including tactile diagrams and graphics. Also, some of the highly motivated and engaged TSVI's who made the program possible came into the TSVI professional community by way of the TSVI Training Grants initiative which is supported by the Inclusive Education Branch and the Provincial Resource Program.