



Locating Technology Project

This project, a collaboration between the School of Rehabilitation Science at McMaster University and the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS), is related to gaining a better understanding of the complex realities related to using locating technology with citizens who are at risk of wandering and subsequently becoming lost. The project will be undertaken through Accessibly Yours (AY), the School's consultation arm. AY aims to enhance environments for the purpose of facilitating individuals in their search for living well and participating in their communities.

Initial information indicates that there are substantial numbers of citizens at risk of wandering. For example, the RCMP report between 10-12,000 such individuals within the province of New Brunswick. This research is focused on determining the relative merits of various technologies that may improve the safety and security of individuals dealing with problems in communication and/or cognitive function, such as Alzheimer's disease, pervasive developmental disorder, or other developmental disabilities which cause them to wander. The aim of the project is to provide families and caregivers with knowledge and education concerning the different approaches that are available and their relative merits and application to individual circumstances.

The first phase which evaluated available technologies is complete and Phase 2 is now underway. This phase is focused on "real world" testing of the technologies that met the success criteria as defined and identified in Phase 1. To complete Phase 2, we are recruiting people who would benefit from the use of locating technology due to their tendency to wandering.

If you are interested in participating and for more information about the project, please contact either Mehdi Tabatabaeinia (905) 525-9140 extension 22047 or Nicole Grochowina at ext 26896.

