



# CANADIAN HARD OF HEARING ASSOCIATION (CHHA)

Bringing Visibility to the  
Invisible Disability

# CHHA Background

- Formed in 1982 to be the voice of hard of hearing and deafened Canadians.
- Includes approximately 90% of the approximately 3,000,000 (three million) Canadians with hearing loss.
- Hearing loss is the largest disability in Canada.
- The Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA) was formed to give visibility to this invisible disability.
- Main objective is to promote self-help among hard of hearing and deafened person.
- Encourage support for individual and collective action.

# Organization Structure

Members

(2,223)

Local Branches

57

Provincial Chapters

8

National Board of  
Directors 15

National  
Office

# MISSION STATEMENT

- CHHA works to eliminate the isolation, indignation, and frustration of hard of hearing and deafened persons by assisting in increasing personal self esteem and confidence which will lead to total integration in society.

# VISION

- CHHA serves as the voice for the issues and concerns of HOH and deafened persons in Canada.
- We foster self-reliance, hearing accessibility and a safe hearing environment for all Canadians through our awareness, educational, advocacy and consultation efforts.
- We involve all individuals whether hard of hearing, deafened or hearing; children, youth, adults; consumers, parents or professionals. We work in partnership with business, government and community.
- We believe that our sustained and focused efforts will reduce hearing loss and eliminate hearing access barriers for all Canadians.

# VALUES

- CHHA respects the contributions of individuals, volunteers and partners who give their knowledge energy and resources to fulfil CHHA's mission.
- We value the concept of organizational and fiscal responsibility through the use of good management practices for the benefit of our members and supporters.
- We value supporters who recognise the needs and potential of hard of hearing and deafened Canadians.
- We value the unique character and collective expertise of hard of hearing and deafened people and their ability to be self-reliant.

# CHHA Objectives

- CHHA's objectives encompass both the individual and the collective interests of hard of hearing people. CHHA strives:
  - to voice the concerns of hard of hearing people
  - to make society aware of the obstacles that hard of hearing people face in their everyday life
  - to assist hard of hearing people in achieving their potential
  - to encourage individual hard of hearing people to overcome obstacles and to learn how to cope with hearing loss
  - to promote hearing accessibility in education, at the workplace, in travel and at leisure
  - to promote research into the problems of hard of hearing people and to foster solutions
  - to promote the development of assistive listening devices
  - to promote the availability of technical aids and other services

# Publications

- **Listen/Écoute**

Listen/Écoute magazine is the flagship of the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association. This bilingual magazine is published three times per year in Winter, Summer and Fall. Submissions are accepted, at all times at the CHHA National Office.

## Publications (Continued)

- **A Series of Six Informational Brochures**

- A Chance to Hear/A Chance to Be Heard

- Consumer Advice for Buying Hearing Aids

- Noise Annoys

- Living with a Hearing Loss

- Communicating with a Hard of Hearing Person

- Making the Invisible Visible

- **A Series of Post-secondary Education Manual**

- Hearing the Learning for Students

- To Be Heard an Instructors Guidebook

- Resource Binder for Post-secondary Facilities

- **Hard of Hearing Youth Speak Out**

- What hard of hearing young people think*

## Publications (Continued)

- **Equal Access for the Canadian Justice System for Persons who are Hard of Hearing or Deafened**  
*This policy paper addresses the complex issues related to access for hard of hearing or deafened persons in the Canadian Justice system.*
- **Education Issues for Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened Persons**
- **Manual for Senior Citizens who are Hard of Hearing**
- **Self Help Guide for Persons who are Hard of Hearing**
- **Working with Hearing Loss: A manual for employers, employees and entrepreneurs.**

# Newest Publications

## ■ Series of Youth Leadership Development Manuals

1. YOUR'RE A LEADER! Leadership skill development for persons who are hard of hearing and late-deafened - Facilitator's Guide
2. YOU'RE A LEADER! Leadership skill development for persons who are hard of hearing and late-deafened
3. Towards the Future: Soundings - *Strategies for Post-secondary students.*

# CHHA Projects

- **Youth Leadership Development**
- **Working and Coping with Hearing Loss**
- **Remote Real-Time Captioning Project**
- **Community Based Conflict Resolution Project**
- **Television Captioning Study**
- **National Access Awareness Project**
- **Branch Access Persons Project (BAP)**
- **Post Secondary Education Project**
- **National Education Seminar**

# CHHA Committees

- **Advisory Committee to Social Development Partnerships**
- **National Transportation Committee**
- **Disability Reference Group to the Canadian Labour Force Development Board**
- **Ontario Ministry of Education Special Advisory Committee for Deaf, Deafened and Hard of Hearing Students**
- **Internal Committees: CHHA has several internal committees that are concerned with specific interests of the membership. These committees ensure the accurate procedure of the Association nationally.**

# Partnerships

- Service Organizations such as CHS, SDHHS, WIDHH, MSPD
- National Organizations such as CAA, CASLPA, CCRW, CCD
- International Organizations such as IFHOH, SHHH

# CHHA Future

- **Technology,** In CHHA's vision, technology is the future to the lives of hard of hearing Canadians. We would like to be a part of the technological revolution.
- **Integration,** We believe that integration in Canadian society is the key to success for our membership.
- **Communication,** The most important part of all these items is communication. Without effective communication there is no integration, there is no inclusion there is no success.
- **Awareness,** For all aspects of community. The Deaf community, the deaf community, the deafened community and the hard of hearing community. People need to be aware of who they are and what their individual needs are.

## CHHA Future (Continued)

- **Education,** The need to educate, starting with family members and moving on to the workplace, social and business communities needs to take place. This is not just to educate on technology but on hearing loss itself.
- **Acceptance,** The hearing loss community itself must be aware of what they need and accept the needs that they have to include themselves at home, at work, and in the community. Hearing loss is a disability and it can be assisted.
- **Assertion,** When accepting hearing loss the individual must then be there own advocate. They must learn to educate those around them, they must help people to understand and to include them in society.

# CHHA Action Plan

- Continue to act in the best interest of Canadians with hearing loss
- Continue to educate
- Continue to produce Listen magazine
- Continue to produce Chatter
- Continue to promote awareness
- Continue to research new technology

## CHHA Action Plan (Continued)

- Continue to represent deaf, deafened and hard of hearing Canadians to the Federal, Provincial, and local governments
- Continue to be the area of expertise on a national level.
- Continue to have a National conference once a year.
- Continue to educate.
- Continue to advocate.

## CHHA Action Plan (Continued)

- Continue to work with affiliated groups.
- Continue to encourage membership.
- Continue to seek partnerships with Industry.