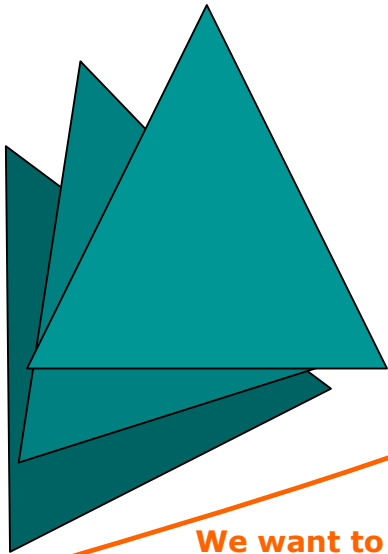




CHHA e-Newsletter



We want to hear from you!

The Town Hall meeting that took place during the CHHA Annual Conference in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories from June 16-18, 2011 was one of the first steps towards concrete results through membership involvement. There was also a "bag questionnaire" that provided us great feedback. Judging from the feedback received, it was a successful trial and should be repeated again at our next conference in Ottawa in 2012. Through these questionnaires,



CHHA works to ensure that we meet members' expectation. These answers will also help us create an effective strategic plan for the next 3 years. We would like to hear from all of you! Please fill out the questionnaire before **January 15, 2012**. The questionnaire is accessible on the CHHA website (www.chha.ca).

Thank you to our volunteers!

Gonzalo Rodriguez left CHHA a few weeks ago and accepted a position in fundraising with the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Ontario. Gonzalo's main focus last year was on the Walk2Hear (W2H) walkathon. We wish him all the best in his new career. After Gonzalo's departure, the National Executive Director reviewed the current job descriptions and assigned new responsibilities. Karla Wilson had her title change from Office Manager to Executive Assistant as of December 1, 2011. With the W2H and the 2012 National Conference, we anticipate hiring a project coordinator with a good fundraising background early next year. Meanwhile, our volunteers are doing a great job in helping us. We would like to thank Beverly Milligan, Dr. Charles Laszlo, Rhonda Smithson, Julie Lytle, Carole Willans, René Rivard and H  l  ne Champagne, to name a

few, and all the CHHA Board Members who have supported the National Office over the past few months.

Walk2Hear Walkathon (W2H)

The W2H walkathon was a great success this year. The event was



held in 3 cities across Canada (Ottawa, Vancouver and Newmarket). Overall, it

attracted 337 participants. Some walked as individuals and others formed teams and walked as a group. The event raised over \$60,000. Most of this money was given back to the branches and chapters participating in the



event to help these groups develop programs and events for hard of hearing people in their communities. The branches and chapters who

participated this year include: BC Chapter, HEAR Branch, Kingston Branch, NCR Branch, Ontario Chapter, Outaouais Branch, Vancouver Branch, Victoria Branch, York Branch and the YA Network. Any branch or chapter looking to

participate in 2012 should contact the National Office. It's a great way to raise awareness in your community as well as raise some much needed funds.

Annual National Conference – 30th CHHA anniversary

The Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA) National Conference will take place in Ottawa from May 17 to May 19, 2012 at the Delta Ottawa City Centre Hotel.

CHHA will also be celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2012. This conference is the only national learning event and

networking conference held in Canada designed for the particular needs of Canadians who are hard of hearing. *Do not miss this very important event!* Every CHHA National Conference has specific objectives. It provides opportunities for the learning and development of persons who are hard of hearing, as well as for professionals, service providers and product specialists who work with consumers who are hard of hearing. It also provides a forum for professionals and social networking. For 2012, we decided to offer one workshop session to the general public. This is exciting! We have selected Keynote Speakers for the plenary and workshop



sessions. This will be fun, informative, educational and very interesting.



Members of the community will also be invited to the trade fair that showcases Canadian and American companies that offer products, services or initiatives of interest to persons who are hard of hearing. This year, as the conference theme is focused on wellness and health, the trade fair will also include exhibits relating to these specific areas.

Young Adults (YA) will be well represented in Ottawa!

If funding comes as planned, YA delegates will be coming from all over Canada to participate in a 2 day retreat and join us at the CHHA National Conference for an extra 3 days! The young adults will visit Parliament Hill and other attractions while they are in Ottawa. We will also invite the YA delegates to meet with Ministers at Parliament Hill for a special gathering on Leadership. The retreat will also help create a sense of belonging. We want to encourage young, hard of hearing adults to learn how to be leaders, and to motivate them to go out and advocate for all persons with hearing loss in their communities. We will offer ice breaking

activities and encourage participation. The YA will be participating in workshops and will also be presenting a workshop on Employment in front of the 300 delegates during the Saturday morning plenary. This is a great opportunity for the young adults to talk about issues that concern them. The youth who are interested in participating in the retreat and conference should fill out the YA registration form (available at the end of January 2012) and submit a letter of intent. We hope to have 2 YA per province and 1 per Territory. The young adults participating in the retreat and in the CHHA Conference must be members of the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association. In



addition, the cost of conference registration for young adults will be between \$135 and \$280 (depending if the young adult is a student or not). Be sure to promote it to the young adults in your area. Christopher Sutton from Toronto and Monique Les from

Vancouver will play an important role in the planning and coordination.

Listen/Écoute

You should be receiving the latest issue of the CHHA magazine in the next week or two.

Letter to Minister Finley



A *Globe and Mail* article of October 29, 2011 stated that Minister Finley's trip to the United Kingdom had been very inspirational and that she intends to put forward a series of tax initiatives and structural changes with respect to organizations receiving government funds to ensure accountability for monies received. The article also stated that part of the social responsibilities traditionally belonging to the state would be delegated to the private sector and that policies would be put in place to include tax rules that would make it easier for charities and non-profits to raise money through personal tax credits for charitable giving and other tax credits.

A meeting that brought together many of the associations receiving funding from the *Social Development Partnership Program - Disability* was held in Ottawa at the "End Exclusion" conference on November 3, 2011. Those agencies agreed that:

- it would be prudent and wise for the ministry of HRSDC to renew

funding for a year or two while this new model is being developed

- it is recommended that the disability associations be consulted and involved in the development of this new model

The President of CHHA, Louise Normand, sent a letter to Minister Finley addressing those important issues. So far, we have not heard back from the Minister's Office. CHHA proposed to contribute in its own way and be part of any committee mandated to develop this new model.

It's time to make a donation!

It is Christmas in a few days from now! CHHA sent to all its members a Christmas letter to thank them for their support. The letter also indicated our accomplishments in 2011. If you did not receive this letter, you may access it online at <http://www.chha.ca/documents/donation-request.pdf>. We invite you to make a generous to CHHA.



We would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!