



# Canadian Hard of Hearing Association British Columbia Chapter

#216-9181 Main Street, Chilliwack, BC, V2P 4M9  
604-795-9238, 1-866-888-2442, info@chha-bc.org

## The Loop Newsletter

ISSUE 11, July 2017

Welcome to the electronic version of The Loop Newsletter! This two page newsletter is emailed on a bi-monthly basis, thus please keep the office advised of any changes to your email address.

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## CHHA-BC Hearing Loss Online Mentoring Program

CHHA-BC and CHHA Vancouver Branch have recognized expertise in developing peer support programs for hard of hearing and deafened persons. This joint initiative, sponsored by WorkSafe BC, is a web-based mentoring program for people with hearing loss throughout the province of BC. Mentoring will be provided by volunteer peers who are personally experienced in coping with the effects of hearing loss and who have been screened and trained for the mentor role. The program consists of a website, which offers general, useful information on various aspects of coping with hearing loss as well as confidential one-to-one chat rooms, for those seeking guidance and mentoring in adjusting to their hearing loss. Mentees are given the opportunity to develop the tools, knowledge and network to experience an active personal and professional life living with a hearing loss.

Benefits of Being a Mentee:

- Extend personal network and support system.
- Build confidence and self-esteem.
- Reduce isolation and receive support in a period of transition.
- Improve communication skills.
- Get answers to questions and non-judgmental feedback on hard of hearing issues.
- Receive support for setting and achieving goals.

This program is designed to provide value added services, including peer support, to those who have experienced hearing loss affecting their well being, family, job, community engagement or quality of life.

We invite you to make the program known to hard of hearing persons. Should you require brochures, please contact the office to make a request.

For more information about the Hearing Loss Online Mentoring Program visit: <http://chha-bc.org/mentor/>





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## CHHA “Hear by the Sea” Conference

Sidney, BC welcomed us with warm weather! We were pleased to hear that CHHA National gave the hotel and catering staff accessibility training, and were thrilled to embark on this three day highly educational endeavor.

- ⇒ The Exhibitor Networking cocktail was an opportunity to meet with other organizations that are dedicated in their mission. Our booth was joined by Gael Hannan with her book, “The Way I Hear It” (an excellent read), and an educational display by the CHHA-BC Youth Peer Support Program relaying their impact within the community.
- ⇒ The conference consisted of ample workshops with diverse themes. We were able to learn more regarding assistive listening devices, fire safety technology, noise induced hearing loss prevention programs, workplace accessibility supports, the Tiny Ears campaign, Loop systems and how to foster collaboration between Hearing Health Professionals and CHHA, among many other initiatives, programs and services.
- ⇒ The Breakfast Panel Discussion: Spotlight on Invisible Disabilities, focused on five essential priority areas: administration, employment retention and standards, technology, barrier free access and public education. The goal is to effectively bridge from theory into practice for employment retention and the use of assistive technology. There are means in which the federal government can facilitate this implementation for both short and long terms. Phase II will focus on creating recommendations for policies and standards of practice.



Stephanie Bryant and Courtney Walliser at the CHHA-BC Booth.

**News from the CHHA-BC AGM:** Text with **9-1-1** is now available for Hard of Hearing, Deaf and Speech Impaired persons within the Fraser Valley Regional District. Please contact your cell phone provider to become registered with the service. CHHA-BC would like to extend a warm welcome to **Ruth Warick**, our new Member at Large, and thank outgoing Member at Large, Joe Smith, for his service!

### Additional Resources:

- ⇒ “**Finding Your Way**” by Bowen Tang. **READ MORE:** <https://goo.gl/8WQhjP>
- ⇒ “**The Best Place to Meet HoHs**” by Gael Hannan. **READ MORE:** <https://goo.gl/Kh9WXS>
- ⇒ “**The Best Hearing Advice I’ve Ever Received**” by Gael Hannan. **READ MORE:** <https://goo.gl/1CrFIB>

Thank you for your continued support!