



*Submitted by Marilyn Dahl*

- CHHA-BC Chapter Board of Directors held its first in person meeting since the AGM on September 20th, 2014 at the Resource Centre in Chilliwack, and discussed the action plan for the coming year, focusing on Outreach, Advocacy and Education.
- New Chapter Board member: Joseph Smith, of Chilliwack has been appointed to the board, as Interim Member-at-Large, until the next AGM and election.
- Follow-up to the recommendations of the Hearing Aid Forum:  
The Honourable Don McRae, Minister of Social Development and Social Innovation responded by email letter and stated the Accessibility committee would be taking steps to further our request. Recommendations #1, 2, and 3 will be discussed with the Ministry of Health., and #4 forwarded to the Office of Housing and Construction Standard's Building and Safety Standards Branch, the agency responsible for the application of the BC Building Code which establishes minimum standards for accessibility.
- As a result, the Honourable Rich Coleman, Minister and Deputy Premier, emailed a letter regarding recommendation #4 which seeks "improved policies and regulations to improve hearing accessibility in society." he urged us to submit our suggested technical revisions to the National Building Code of Canada through their code change process.
- Therefore, we have requested the information regarding the code to see which new accessibility changes have been included, and will be submitting changes as appropriate to our needs. More on this later!
- The next edition of the National Building Code will be available in 2015. BC adheres to the National Building Code, in its own code.

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*Remembrance Day—November 11th*



*Submitted by Marilyn Dahl* continued from page 1

- B.C. has declared October as the first Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) Awareness Month to help raise awareness for people with disabilities, their families and friends about the benefits of RDSPs. Please visit the B.C. government website for more details about [Registered Disability Savings Plan \(RDSP\) Awareness Month](#).
- On October 14th, 2014 a meeting took place in Vancouver between National President, Myrtle Barrett, Executive Director Robert Corbeil, Communications Officer Jennifer Duggins, and representatives of CHHA-BC Chapter, and North Shore and Vancouver Branches. Attending from the Chapter were Marilyn Dahl, Sharon Davis, Sharon Perry and Nora McKellin. Hugh Hetherington and Mike Hocevar represented the North Shore Branch, and Ruth Warick and Rosalind Ho represented CHHA Vancouver Branch. Topics on the agenda included the Stakeholders Initiative (a project seeking closer cooperation between stakeholder in the hearing loss field, professionals, consumers and industry); new strategies for membership processing and growth; and governance issues. The group was also invited to view and comment on the proposed name changes and logo, which will be voted on at the Halifax 2015 AGM.

## **New Technology uses bone conduction for hearing device worn in the mouth**

*No surgery, no dental work, no batteries required.*

*By Gwen MacGillivray*



**The BTE unit is tiny**



**The ITM unit shown on model**

Science was never my strong suit, but even I remember the principle of bone conduction...well, at least remember hearing about it. What's so fascinating about it now is that scientists have merged bone conduction with wireless sound processing technology, discovered a way to make it [bone conduction] work in a non-surgical and removable hearing device.

Known as the *SoundBite Hearing System*, this tiny, nearly invisible device transmits sound via the teeth and is intended to help those who have single-sided hearing loss.

The system consists of an easy to insert and remove in-the-mouth (ITM) device which is custom fit around the upper, left or right, back teeth and small behind-the-ear (BTE) microphone unit. No modification to the teeth is required.

By all reports, patients find the system comfortable to wear and easy to handle and were able to eat and drink normally.

Sound is picked up by the BTE microphone and transmitted to the ITM that converts those signals to vibrations.

Another nice convenience of the system is that it does not require batteries! A system charger powers both the BTE and the ITM units which last approximately 6 to 8 hours.

For more details on this system visit: [soundbitehearing.com](http://soundbitehearing.com)

## "Creating Listening Environments for the Hard of Hearing"



**ADVANCED LISTENING's** mandate is to create listening environments for the hard of hearing throughout Canada and has recently launched the **"Let's Loop Canada"** campaign.

Based in Victoria, BC and founded in 2012, ADVANCED LISTENING was created to address the need for accessibility by the hard of hearing community in businesses and public places. From banks, pharmacies, and restaurants to theatres, boardrooms and lecture halls, ADVANCED LISTENING designs and installs the best listening system for the location. Using both cutting edge technology and methods, ADVANCED LISTENING works to combine crystal clear sound while maintaining discretion for the user.

Following in the footsteps of Europe and the UK, where assistive listening devices are as common as wheel chair ramps, ADVANCED LISTENING is changing the way hard of hearing Canadians interact in their communities. As a result of the overwhelmingly positive feedback from a pilot project with Vancity Credit Union in 2012, ADVANCED LISTENING was commissioned to design and install assistive listening systems in all (56) Vancity Branches and their meeting rooms, boardrooms and training centres across the Province of British Columbia, to the benefit of clients and employees alike. This innovation won Vancity the "City of Vancouver's 2013 Inclusion and Accessibility Award" in November 2013.

Other forward-thinking companies have endorsed assistive listening technologies and have installed systems in their facilities. These companies include **HSBC Bank of Canada** – all (155) Branches across Canada, **BMO Bank of Montreal** – James Bay

Branch, **Island Savings Credit Union** – Mayfair Branch, **Island Deaf and Hard of Hearing Association**, **Amica at Somerset House** – Dallas Rd., **Panorama Recreation Centre**, **Town of Sidney – Council Chamber**, **City of Surrey** – (6) Recreation Centres and **Thrifty's Pharmacy** – James Bay location, as well as numerous theatres, churches, community centres and municipalities.

ADVANCED LISTENING strives to increase education and awareness of assistive listening technologies, with a particular passion for the use of Induction Loops. An Induction Loop or Hearing Loop system is a proven listening technology that transmits sound from a microphone directly to hearing aids with a T-Coil (approximately 75% of hearing aids) and all cochlear implants. ADVANCED LISTENING believes that this simple and inexpensive technology is the key to making Canada truly accessible for the hard of hearing.

The Blue Ear is the International symbol of an Assistive Listening Device. The small "T" displayed at the bottom right hand corner, indicates that a "Hearing Loop" (or Induction Loop) has been installed. Please look for this symbol displayed on the front entrance of accessible locations.



Join us in our efforts to increase the awareness of assistive listening technologies. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter. Share this with your friends and stay in the loop! [advancedlistening.ca](http://advancedlistening.ca)

