

Annual Report 2020-2021 of the CHHA Vancouver Branch

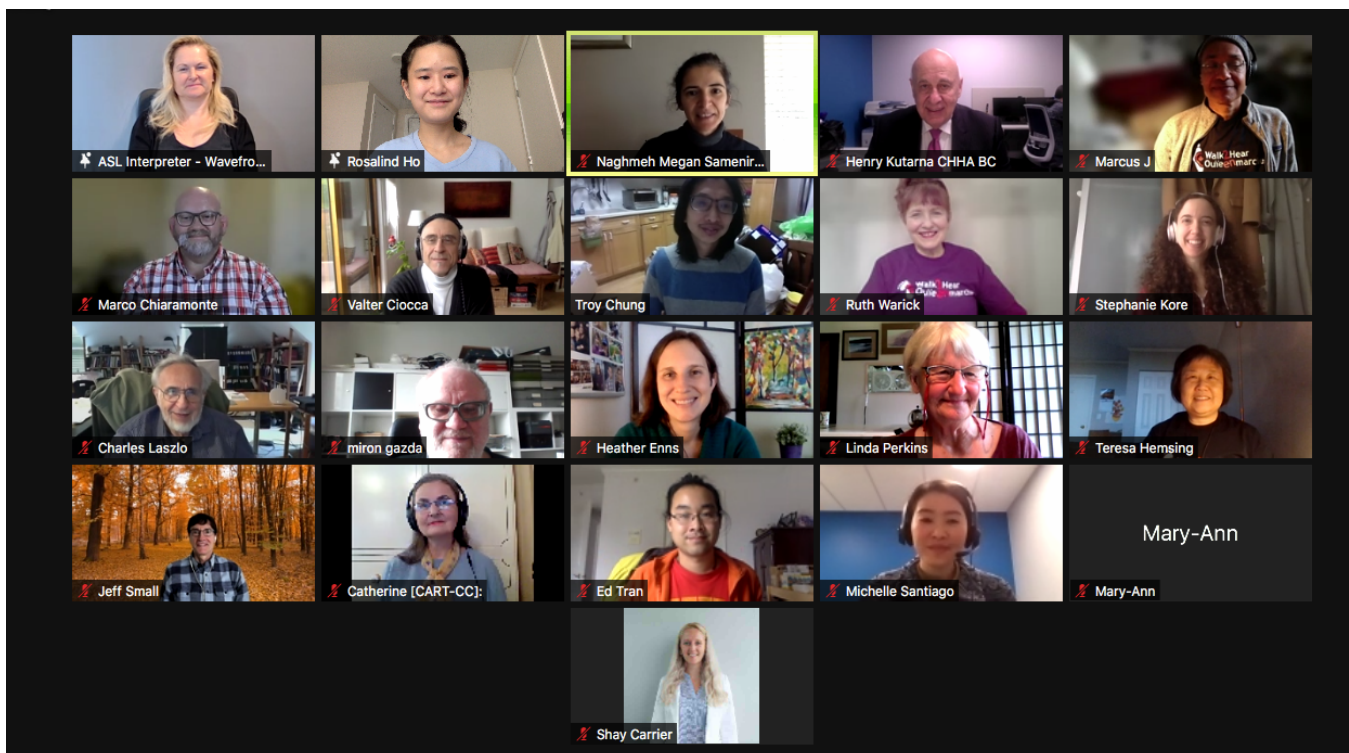
CHHA Vancouver is a self-help, consumer group which provides advocacy, support and educational activities for successful living with a hearing loss. While the COVID pandemic has impacted our in-person activities, we remain actively engaged in hearing loss issues at national and local levels and continue to reach out to our membership.

Walk2Hear

For the second year in a row, CHHA Vancouver had an entirely virtual Walk2Hear campaign due to the ongoing COVID pandemic. This is the 11th annual Walk2Hear, and the fifth year that we have used the CanadaHelps fundraising platform. The fundraising campaign closed on November 30, 2021 with \$1,820.00 raised.

Ruth Warick, Marilyn Dahl, and Rosalind Ho were the top individual fundraisers. Top fundraising teams were UBC SASS, Wavefront Centre for Communication Accessibility, and Townspeople of HOHsville.

The fundraising campaign culminated in a virtual gathering of 24 participants on Sunday, October 17 over Zoom. After a vigorous warm-up video led by Naghmeh Samenirad and her niece Roxana, with lively narration by Rosalind Ho, participants walked around their own neighbourhoods.





*Charles Laszlo
Gift Card Winner*



*Linda Perkins
Gift Card Winner*



*Troy Chung
Trivia Game Winner*

During the closing ceremony, participants played a 4 Pictures 1 Word trivia game, where participants looked at collages of 4 photos and had to guess what 1 word theme tied the photos together. The winner was Troy Chung, who won a Tim Hortons gift card. A majority of participants noted on the post-event feedback survey that they enjoyed the trivia game, and would like to have trivia or other types of games at future CHHA Vancouver online gatherings.

We also had a live drawing of names for Amazon gift cards, and the lucky winners were Dr. Charles Laszlo and Linda Perkins.

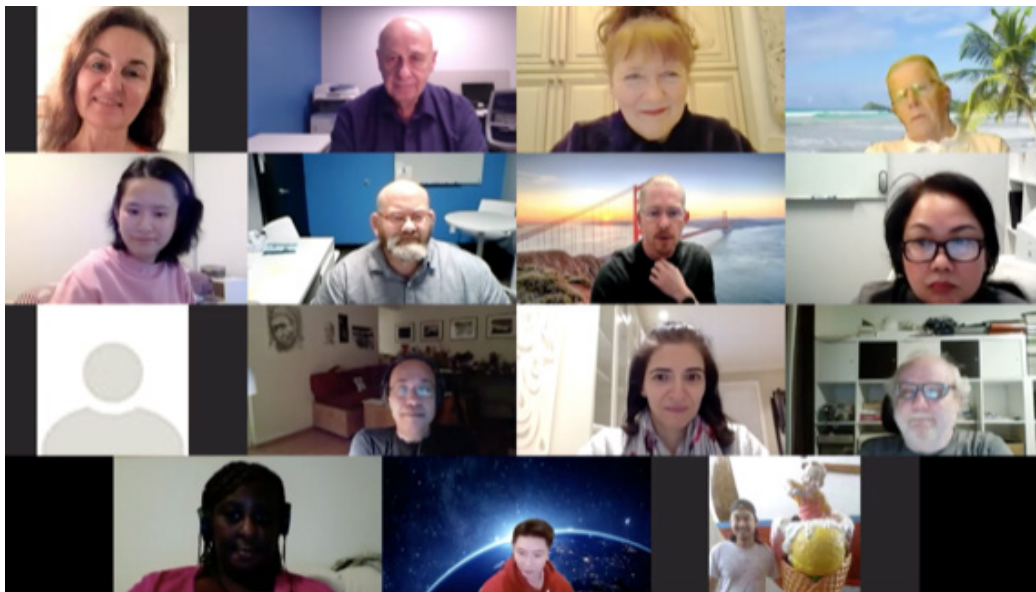
The Virtual Walk2Hear event was made accessible with CART and ASL interpreting.

Educational Programs

CHHA Vancouver and CHHA-BC are jointly hosting a series of monthly webinars, held online via Zoom. All webinars are made accessible with CART and ASL interpreting (upon request).

Wavefront Centre Employment Services workshop

On January 19, 2021, CHHA Vancouver and CHHA-BC hosted a joint virtual workshop about Employment Counselling Services offered by Wavefront Centre. The speakers Joy Borgonia and Rytch





Joy Borgonia



Rytch Newmiller

Newmiller work as Employment Placement Specialists at Wavefront. Marco Chiaramonte, who is a Community Outreach Services Manager at Wavefront as well as the CHHA Vancouver Vice-President, also joined in to answer questions from the audience.

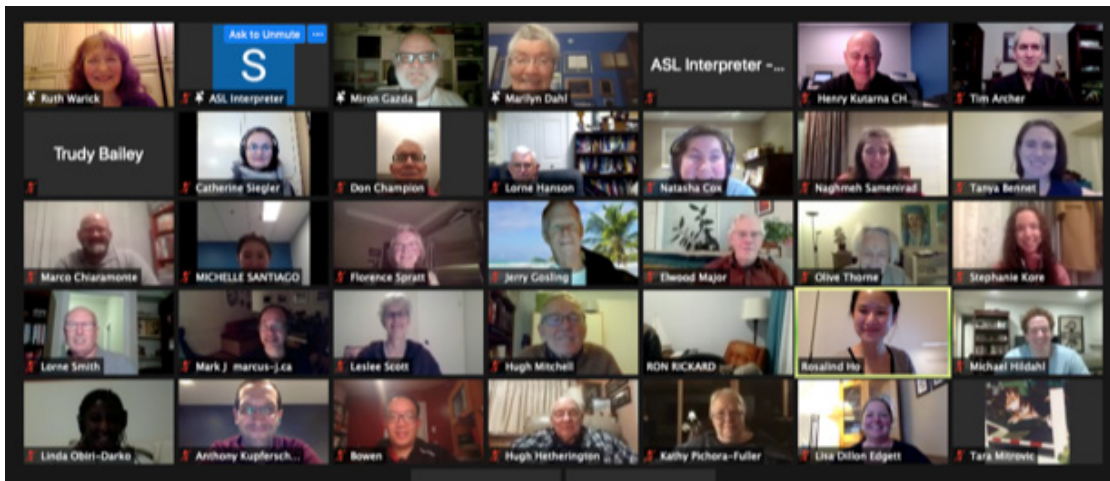
The speakers talked about the history of the Wavefront Centre and what services they provide. They explored in depth about how Wavefront Centre is contracted to WorkBC to provide: Employment Counselling Services to people looking for work throughout BC; Assistive Technology Services, to reduce or remove the impact of disability-related employment barriers; and Apprentice Services to support apprentices to get the training they need to become journeypersons. Wavefront can also perform workplace assessments and workplace interventions to help with accessibility technology or career training.

The presentation was followed by a very lively Q&A session.

Addressing COVID-19 Communication Challenges: Tools and Technologies

COVID has dramatically altered how we communicate, whether online or in person. On February 11, 2021, almost a year into the pandemic, we hosted a webinar to explore how technology can help Deaf and hard of hearing people to communicate during these challenging times.

Advanced Listening’s Tim Archer reviewed and explained various assistive listening technologies and discussed which of these technologies is most appropriate during these unprecedented times.





Tim Archer



Bowen Tang



Ruth Warick

Bowen Tang, Director of the CHHA-BC Youth Peer Support Program, went over how to turn on automatic captioning on various meeting platforms, and reviewed the pros and cons of various automatic captioning apps.

Ruth Warick, President of CHHA-BC, moderated the session and commented on findings from an international survey of the experiences of hard of hearing persons during the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHO's World Report on Hearing: Implications for Future Policy

Our March 6, 2021 webinar was timed to closely coincide with World Hearing Day on March 3rd.

Dr. Carolina Hommes, from the WHO's Regional Office for the Americas, summarized key aspects of the World Report on Hearing produced by the World Health Organization (WHO). This seminal report in response to the World Health Assembly Resolution 70.13 is an important advocacy tool for advancing ear and hearing care.



Dr. Carolina Hommes



Dr. Kathy Pichora-Fuller



Dr. Kelly Tremblay

Dr. Kathy Pichora-Fuller and Dr. Kelly Tremblay discussed priorities for future policies in Canada and BC arising from the Report as well as WHO's new guidelines for integrated care of older people (ICOPE). The issue of hearing screening for older people and subsequent treatment was highlighted as a breakthrough initiative that could de-stigmatize hearing loss and ensure more people receive hearing care at earlier stages, thus enhancing their quality of life and discouraging decline. The results from a recent survey on this topic was also shared.



BC Adult CI Program Update – 2021

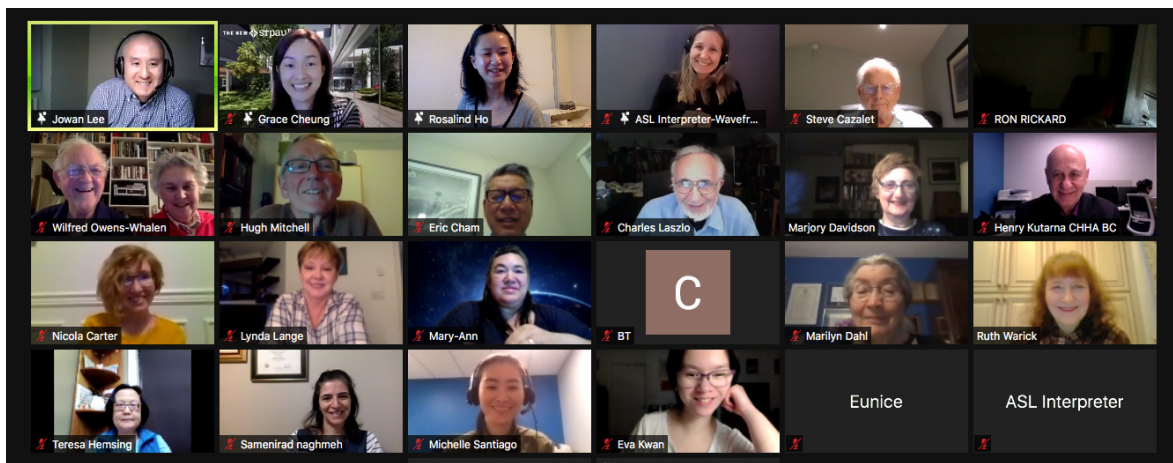
On April 20, 2021, Grace Cheung and Jowan Lee, from the St. Paul’s Hospital Cochlear Implant Program, shared the latest updates about the BC Adult CI Program, current updates in cochlear implant candidacy criteria, current wait times for service and advances in CI technology. Following their presentation, the speakers also fielded many questions from the audience.



Jowan Lee



Grace Cheung



Assistive Hearing Tech: Tips, Apps and More

Assistive technology remains a hot topic, almost two years into the COVID pandemic. This webinar, held on November 16, 2021, was our most popular workshop ever with 80 participants registered!

Richard Einhorn is a composer, music producer/engineer, and a hearing technology consultant. He graduated *summa cum laude* in music from Columbia University. After experiencing sudden sensorineural hearing loss in June 2010, Richard began fashioning unique solutions using professional and consumer technology to help him and others with hearing loss hear better.



Richard Einhorn

Richard was an extremely dynamic speaker, with a wealth of information to share, backed up with an eye-catching PowerPoint presentation. He talked about how to handle challenging situations like using the phone, attending video calls/webinars, watching TV, going to restaurants, and listening to music by making good use of smartphone apps, exploring program and device settings, and assistive devices.



Mental Health and Interpersonal Relationship Skills

On February 22, 2022, Felicia D'Amato, a registered social worker at the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind Well-Being Program presented on how to set emotional boundaries and practice self-care in the age of COVID.



To hear for life, listen with care!

To celebrate World Hearing Day 2022, CHHA Vancouver partnered with Wavefront Centre for Communication Accessibility and CHHA-BC to host a webinar on March 3, 2022. International and local speakers shared knowledge and experience about safe listening standards, practices, and specific strategies to protect one's hearing.

WEBINAR

WORLD HEARING DAY 2022
To hear for life, listen with care!

MARCH 3 | 6:00 - 7:30 PM PST

Hosted by:
Wavefront Centre for Communication Accessibility
Canadian Hard of Hearing Association, British Columbia Chapter and Vancouver Branch

Panelists:

Masahito Kawamori
Hugh McCormack
Amarillis Melendez
Connor Stewart

Register At: www.wavefrontcentre.ca/whd2022

#safelistening

Cochlear implant technologies and models

Speakers representing four different cochlear implant brands (Advanced Bionics, Cochlear, Med-El, and Oticon) shared the latest technologies and services of their organizations. They discussed the latest cochlear implant models on the market and how clients can choose the cochlear implant that best accommodates their needs.



Cochlear
Raegan Bergstrom



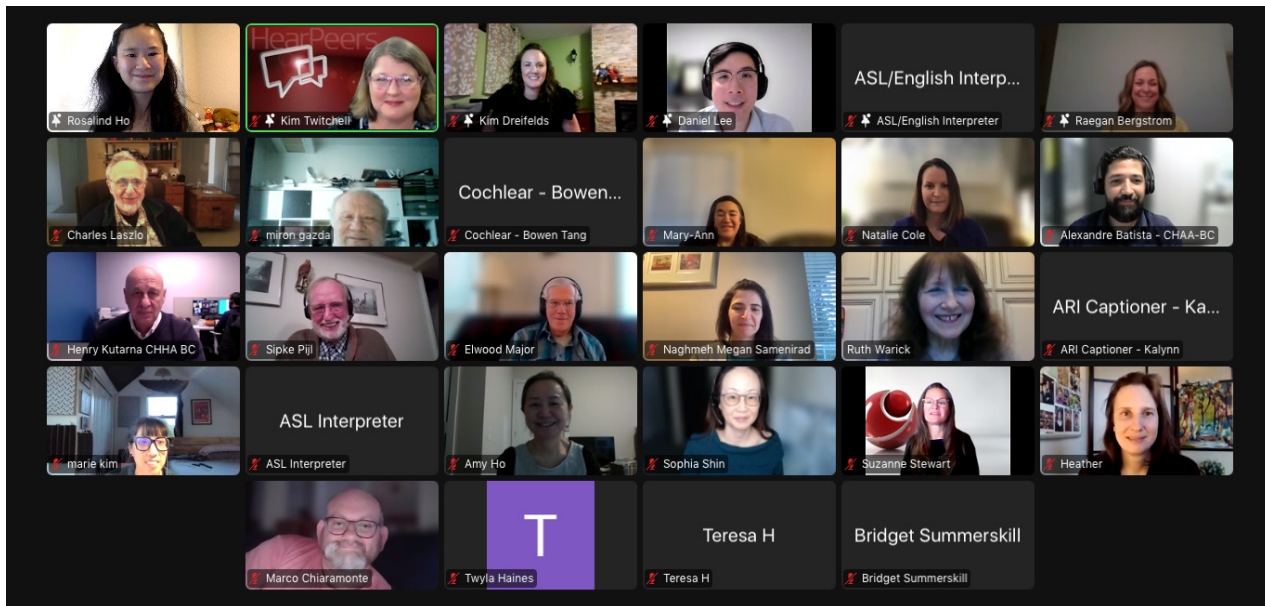
MED-EL
Kim Twitchell



Oticon
Daniel Lee



Advanced Bionics
Kimmi Dreifelds



Governance

Membership has increased from 16 to 35 persons. Members of the CHHA Vancouver Branch Board are:

Rosalind Ho, President
 Marco Chiamonte, Vice-President
 Naghmeh Samenirad, Secretary
 Miron Gazda, Treasurer
 Mary-Ann Livesey, Member-at-Large
 Heather Enns, Member-at-Large

Thanks go to my colleagues on the CHHA Vancouver Board for their commitment and awesome work. A special thanks to Accurate Realtime Inc. for continued excellent captioning for us.

Rosalind Ho, President, CHHA Vancouver Branch
 Report respectfully submitted on May 13, 2022