

2024 Report of the CHHA BC Program Coordinator

Mission

The mission of the CHHA BC Project Plan is to create a supportive and empowering environment for hard-of-hearing youth and children. Through a series of engaging activities and events, the program aims to promote hearing awareness, enhance social interactions, friendships, and overall well-being while fostering personal and career growth. By providing opportunities for connection, resilience-building, and skill development, the project endeavors to empower hard-of-hearing individuals to navigate both their personal and professional lives with confidence and success.

The objectives

- Enhance Social Interaction and Friendship
- Provide opportunities for hard-of-hearing youth to interact with peers in a comfortable and inclusive environment.
- Boost Self-Confidence
- Offer activities where hard-of-hearing youth can express themselves and showcase their abilities.
- Raise awareness and understanding of hearing loss among participants and their families.
- Provide resources and information about hearing health and coping strategies.
- Provide opportunities for families to connect and share experiences.
- Offer workshops or discussions on topics relevant to the experiences and challenges of hard-of-hearing youth.

CHHA BC Chapter's Escape Room Fiesta: A Night of Adventure and Inclusion

On Saturday, August 26th, CHHA BC Chapter YPSP, embarked on a thrilling adventure - an Escape Room Fiesta designed exclusively for our hard-of-hearing young adults. The feedback from our participants has warmed our hearts. Their positivity and gratitude for the CHHA BC Chapter's dedication to organizing such inclusive events highlight the importance of fostering a sense of belonging and significance within our community.



Canadian Hard of Hearing Association
British Columbia Chapter

ESCAPE ROOM fiesta

Date: 26th August 2023
Time: 12.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.
Location: New Westminster (location will be informed after confirmation of registration)
How to reserve your spot up: RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/CHHABCEscapeRoom> ➔



Participation at SayWhat Club Convention 2023

The SayWhats Club Convention held in July 2023 in Vancouver was a joyful and exciting gathering of the SayWhatClub community, a non-profit organization supporting people with hearing loss. The convention, which has been an annual tradition since 1996, was made even more special with the sponsorship of the CHHA BC Chapter. The event included a welcome party, workshops, and a closing banquet, where attendees celebrated their time together. Keynote speakers included Ruth Warick and Gael Hannan from the CHHA BC Chapter, who shared valuable insights on hearing loss advocacy and communication strategies. Shehana Mirza, the project coordinator of the CHHA BC Chapter, presented the chapter's role and services. Other presentations covered topics such as communication tools, the impact of hearing loss on diverse families, and technology for communication with hearing loss. Overall, the convention was a celebration of community, knowledge, and empowerment, and the organizers thanked all members, volunteers, and sponsors for their contributions to its success.





Family Weekend Camp September 2023

Canadian Hard of Hearing Association
British Columbia Chapter



2023 Family Weekend Camp

When? September 15th to 17th

Where? Timberline Ranch, Maple Ridge

Who? Hard of Hearing children ages 5+, their siblings and parents, young adults 18+ to 35

Cost: \$30 per child, \$100 per adult

Purpose
To promote social interactions and friendships of Hard of Hearing children, their families, and Hard of Hearing Young Adults

Activities
Archery, the team building course, hiking trails, Frisbee golf, a petting zoo, orienteering, outdoor basketball/volleyball courts, and the campfire pits.

Sign up here  tinyurl.com/2023FWC 







The camp took place from September 15th to September 17th at Timberline Ranch, Maple Ridge. It was aimed to promote social interactions and friendships of hard-of-hearing children their families and hard-of-hearing young adults. With a total of 34 participants, including 8 families with kids, young adults, and 3 volunteers, this camp was designed not only for kids with hearing loss but also for their families and young adults with hearing loss to come together, spend quality time, and create new friendships and connections that will last a lifetime.

Testimonials from families who took part in the camp.

"We are truly privileged and delighted to be part of this camp. My daughter is five years old, and the little one is just one. One of the most amazing things happened at the playground when there were three other girls playing. They spontaneously shared their hearing levels by showing their hearing aids. It was incredible to witness how this made the concept of the hard-of-hearing society feel natural to them. We are looking forward to coming again, as it's wonderful to relax with other parents and see all the kids playing together. Thank you so much for this opportunity."

"We appreciate this program and thank you for the coordination. Our son also enjoys the program, and he has made many friends and had a lot of fun exploring nature here and observing the animals. We hope that this can happen not just once a year but at least twice a year in many more beautiful places."

"Hello, this is our second time joining the camp, and we have truly enjoyed this program because it has allowed us to meet new families and friends. Thank you so much for making this possible."

Art Themed Holiday Party

Holiday cheer was celebrated by a Christmas-themed art party hosted by CHHA-BC on December 16, 2023, at the Hippo Art Studio for HOH kids in Port Coquitlam. This free event offered a creative evening filled with laughter and cheer for hard-of-hearing children from age 4 and older. The little artists and their parents painted their holiday creativity on canvas guided by studio staff. Three dedicated CHHA-BC volunteers were also on hand and contributed to the success of the event. Following the creative session, everyone gathered for dinner at Hippo Studio, after which the little ones had a lovely time playing with their friends. As a token of appreciation, each child received some candies to add an even sweeter touch to the festive vibe.

CANADIAN HARD OF HEARING ASSOCIATION - BC CHAPTER

JOIN US FOR A FUN-FILLED HOLIDAY PAINTING PARTY!



DECEMBER 16 • 5-7PM
HIPPO ART STUDIO
AGES 4 & UP



Panel Discussion

Beyond Silence: A Dialogue on Hard of Hearing Experience



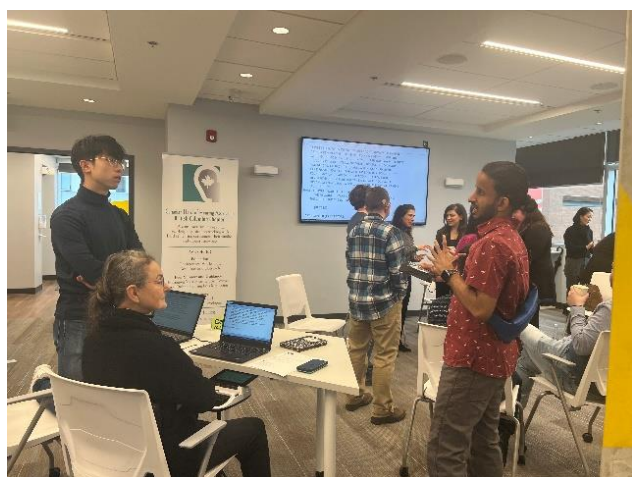
HARD OF HEARING
YOUTH EMPOWERMENT
 BEYOND SILENCE: A DIALOGUE ON HARD OF HEARING EXPERIENCE

			
NAGHMEH SAMENIRAD TEACHER	NEGAR IRAVANI ENTREPRENEUR	NICOLE LEUNG REGISTERED NURSE	TASHA COX RECREATIONAL THERAPIST

FEB 24 • 12PM • FREE REGISTRATION

The panel discussion titled, “Beyond Silence: A Dialogue on Hard of Hearing Experience”, occurred on February 24 at noon at the Wavefront Centre for Communication Accessibility in Vancouver. The event was open to anyone interested in learning about hard-of-hearing experiences. The discussion featured four hard-of-hearing panellists sharing their journey as individuals with hearing loss followed by a Q and A session. What made the event even more special was that the moderator and the three other volunteers also were hard of hearing, providing an inclusive platform. The event was designed to be an exploration of various experiences and achievements of professionals with hearing loss. Participants engaged in a meaningful dialogue with the panellists who emerged as stronger advocates for accessibility

and inclusion. A series of such discussions will be conducted at Universities, Career schools and other non-profits working towards disabilities in the next year's plan.





The New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP): Ageing in Place Through Technology

NHSP was completed on March 31, 2024. The project involved senior volunteers and provided assistive devices to enhance safety and communication for seniors in their homes. Volunteers from various areas of British Columbia participated in the program, receiving devices and setup instructions via mail. The project conducted midpoint and endpoint evaluations to track progress and gather feedback, resulting in the publication of a position paper on access to hearing aids. The project aimed to improve seniors' lives by addressing safety and communication concerns through devices like the HomeAware Fire, CO Signaler etc. Volunteers played a crucial role in assisting in setting up and maintaining these devices, fostering community participation and volunteerism.

IMPAIRMENTS OPEN HOUSE event participation: CHHA BC Advocacy: Promoting Awareness

The CHHA BC Chapter was proud to participate in the IMPAIRMENTS OPEN HOUSE event, organized by the Maple Ridge Lions Club on Saturday, April 13, 2023. The event, held from 1 pm to 4 pm at Ridge Meadows Seniors Activity Centre, provided a valuable platform for promoting hearing health awareness and advocacy efforts. The event served as a fantastic networking opportunity, allowing CHHA BC Chapter members to connect with the public and other organizations. Through engaging conversations and interactions, we were able to raise awareness about hearing impairments and the resources available to support those affected. One of the keyways CHHA BC promoted advocacy was by giving away informative resources to the interested public. These resources provided valuable information about hearing health, communication strategies, and available support services. Events like these foster a sense of community engagement and support. CHHA BC is committed to being a resource hub for the community, providing support, education, and advocacy for individuals with hearing impairments.



The Way, We Hear It! A Community Engagement Exhibition 2024

The Way We Hear it! A Community Engagement Exhibition, hosted at the Albion Community Centre throughout May 2024 offers a fascinating exploration for all ages. Presented by CHHA BC Chapter the exhibit provides insights into our auditory system, the experience of hearing loss, and the importance of good communication. In an era marked by increased awareness of hearing health and the importance of inclusivity, this exhibition is a timely reminder of the significance of understanding and supporting those with hearing challenges.

The Way We Hear it! A Community Engagement Exhibition at the Albion Community Centre - MAY 1-31 Everyday

The Canadian Hard of Hearing Association - BC Chapter presents

THE WAY WE HEAR IT! A COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EXHIBITION

MAY IS BETTER HEARING AND COMMUNICATION MONTH

This a great time to come and learn about our hearing system, hearing loss, hearing protection, accessibility and so much more. This exhibit is geared for all ages and there is a little something for everyone to explore, all through the lens of BC's own hard of hearing community organization.

Now more than ever we are being called to spread awareness of hearing health and reduce the stigma. With the launch of BC's own Accessibility Act and the recent pandemic creating pronounced communication challenges for those with even a mild degree of hearing loss, our hearing health is truly becoming everyone's affair!

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED :

- What it would look like to walk through your auditory system?
- What it sounds like for someone with hearing loss?
- Have you asked yourself if you are a good communicator?
- Do you know where to find your deaf and hard of hearing community?

Schools can register to come see the exhibit during the school day <https://www.mapleridge.ca/2756>

Activities for all ages!
MAY 1-31 Everyday

Come join us to find the answers!
Albion Community Centre | 24165 104 Ave., Maple Ridge

Logos: CALDOR FOUNDATION, city of Vernon, EMERGENCY SCIENCE CENTRE, Cochlear (Hear now. And. differently.), SCIENCE WORLD, PHONAK, BC Early Hearing Program (A member of BC Children's Hospital and the Provincial Health Services Authority), WORK SAFE BC, Canadian Hard of Hearing Association British Columbia Chapter, 3M, Neil Squire, oticon, Interior Health, VPA, GOVERNMENT CENTRE FOR COMMUNICATION ACCESSIBILITY, Maple Ridge.

Family Weekend Camp 2024, September



Family Weekend Camp is scheduled from September 13th to 15th for a weekend filled with fun, friendships, and fantastic memories at Camp Jubilee. Camp is open for HOH children aged 5 and up, their siblings, parents, guardians, and young adults aged 18 to 35. It's a chance for the whole family to bond and connect with others in the hard-of-hearing community. The purpose of the camp is to promote social interactions and friendships among HOH children, their families, and young adults in a supportive and inclusive environment.

Other events scheduled for this year are,

- a family picnic in July
- a Pumpkin Patch in October
- and a Christmas Party in December.

Project innovations for next year

- Series of panel discussions from universities to partner organizations in various parts of BC.
- Mentorship sessions by HOH professionals for HOH youth

Volunteers

Our team is constituted of a dedicated committee of volunteers, who bring a wealth of experience, passion, and unique stories to our Youth Peer Support Program. Their commitment to making a difference in the lives of young individuals with hearing loss is truly inspiring.

Andrew: A teacher specializing in supporting deaf and hard-of-hearing children, Andrew's journey with CHHA began in his toddler years. His love for the outdoors and creativity through photography and cooking bring a vibrant energy to our team.

Tom: With a background in engineering and currently studying International Business Management, Tom is a cochlear implant advocate with a mission to empower and break down barriers. His experience and passion for accessible technology make him an asset to our community.

Hart: Hart, holding a PhD in Chemistry and an active lifestyle enthusiast, has been a part of CHHA since he was seven. With a history as President of the CHHA Young Adults Network and a mentor to many, Hart's experiences and leadership are invaluable.

Simarjit is currently pursuing a post-baccalaureate diploma in accounting from KPU. She has attained early childhood education assistant certification from Pacific Rim. Alongside her studies, she enjoys working as a volunteer at CHHA-BC where she had the privilege to be a part of different events but has also encouraged her passion for community engagement.

Amaan: With a background in sales and marketing is passionate about engaging in community and social development by being part of YPSP during his free time. His main intention is to be part of a community that is inclusive for individuals with various disabilities.

Acknowledgements

We would like to recognize the CHHA BC Board, volunteers, and financial support whose contributions have made all activities possible.

CHHA BC Board

We gratefully acknowledge the financial contribution and support of the CHHA BC Board.

CHHA BC Staff**Financial Support**

- Federal Government
- BC Gaming Grant
- Caldor Foundation
- CHHA Vancouver Foundation

Respectfully submitted,

Shehana Mirza,
Project Coordinator
May 18th, 2024