

SONIC

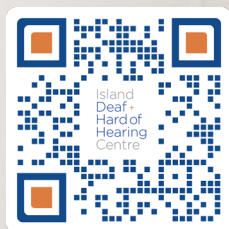
MAGAZINE

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**Tech, Telephones,
What Will Work?**



idhhc.ca
250-592-8144

Letter From the Executive Director

WELCOME TO THE WINTER/SPRING 2025 EDITION OF SONIC MAGAZINE

As we leap into a new year we thank you for taking the time to check out our latest Sonic magazine, filled with updates, interesting features, industry insights, and a schedule of events and activities.

IDHHC has supported Deaf, DeafBlind, hard of hearing, and hearing communities across Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands and now all across BC, for almost 35 years. Our ambition with this publication is to inform as well as provide a deeper understanding of our work and the impact we aim to have on the lives of those we serve, and we invite you to join us and be part of the efforts to build inclusive communities.

To stay up to date please visit our website (idhhc.ca) to see all of the latest news and events as they unfold and be sure to sign up for our monthly updates to stay connected and discover ways to get involved.

Your feedback and engagement are not only welcome but important to us, so if you have any questions, thoughts, or ideas to share, please feel free to reach out to us at idhhc@idhhc.ca or 250.592.8144.



Wishing you a great reading experience!

Denise Robertson
Executive Director

Island Deaf + Hard of Hearing Centre

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IDHHC ACKNOWLEDGES:

Our offices are situated on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish, Nuuchahmuls, and Kwakwaka'wakw peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

We are grateful for their stewardship and preservation of the land where we live, work, and provide service to a diverse client base.

Just One Gift

CAN A SINGLE GIFT REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Not long ago I was speaking with a donor about “matching gift donations”. They asked, “Can one gift really make a difference? Do matching gifts really work?” Questions worth asking for sure.

On December 2nd 2024 – GivingTuesday – IDHHC launched our **2024 Matching Gift Campaign**. With a matching gift from an anonymous donor of up to **\$15,000** we set our sights on the lofty goal of raising **\$30,000 in 30 days!** We did our best to email (during a postal strike of all things!!) as many friends and supporters as we could reach, talking about our goals and asking for support.

We were ambitious – our previous December giving at IDHHC looked like this:

2020: 28 donors gave \$7,329 **2021: 51 donors gave \$12,530**

2022: 28 donors gave \$13,120 **2023: 21 donors gave \$10,230**

We were determined and believed that, when given the opportunity and knowing their gift would be matched, others would be inspired to give. And results and feedback reflect that generosity:

75 very generous donors gave \$25,365.00 + matching gift of \$15,000.00 = \$40,365.00

Can one gift really make a difference?? Can one act of generosity inspire others to unite to make a difference to improve the quality of life for others in their community?? To our anonymous matching donor, who with their amazing leadership and generosity help us raise over **\$40,000 – YES!** One gift can REALLY make a difference! We hope you continue to lead and inspire with your generous spirit.

Thank you to everyone who donated and continue to support our work. We don't do this alone and only with you will we continue to make a difference in our community.



Denise Robertson
Executive Director

Be the first to know!



Sign up for **monthly IDHHC updates** including new workshops, events and ASL classes. **Visit: idhhc.ca**



Our Team is Growing

INTRODUCING JAMESON MARTENS

Jameson Martens came to IDHHC in the fall 2024 bringing his extensive customer service experiences in legal, insurance and automotive industries.

He has a degree in Business Administration and within his roles he always found himself putting people first, clients and coworkers alike.

Jameson is excited to continue that trend as he works behind the scenes including supporting our operation, IT and our front office.

At home Jameson loves almost everything nerdy, and he is currently trying to write a fantasy novel but keeps getting distracted by his favourite TV shows. He enjoys complicated board games, learning about history, and exploring Vancouver Island.

Welcome to IDHHC Jameson!

“The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team.” ~Phil Jackson



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

TUF-TURF LEADS THE WAY, WINNING WORKBC'S DEI AWARD



When it comes to leadership in diversity, equity and inclusion, Tuf-Turf in Victoria is setting the bar high—and

winning recognition for it! Thanks to the vision of owner Lee Smith and the collaborative efforts of HR Manager John Espley, Tuf-Turf has embraced an innovative approach to hiring, creating opportunities for Deaf and hard-of-hearing workers through Island Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centre (IDHHC). "I hope more employers look to this under-utilized segment of the labour force", said John Espley.

In 2023 Tuf-Turf reached

out to IDHHC hoping to find someone to handle weekly office cleaning. Together they found a young Deaf job seeker who was not only up for the task but excited to jump into their first job. Supported by a Deaf job coach the individual joined Tuf-Turf, earning a living wage and become a valued member of the team.

With the success of this hire, Lee and John didn't stop there. Next, they needed staff to handle

weighing and packaging fertilizer and grass seed. Working with IDHHC they found a candidate whose sharp attention to visual details—an asset tied to their being hard of hearing—made them perfect for the role.

The most recent addition to the team is Jackie who has become the company's Comptroller, thanks to re-training funded through WorkBC. With a talent for interpreting data, Jackie is thriving in her role and contributing

significantly to the company's success.

Under Lee Smith's thoughtful leadership, Tuf-Turf has hired three team members through IDHHC.

These hires demonstrate not only the untapped potential in the Deaf and hard of hearing community but also the powerful outcomes of inclusive hiring practices. "We are thrilled to have 3 key team members that not only do a fantastic job

but positively enhance the working culture of our small company," said Lee Smith.

We're proud to celebrate Tuf-Turf's achievements and their commitment to making the workplace accessible for all.

Congratulations to Lee and the whole team at Tuf-Turf for being trailblazers in diversity, equity and inclusion!



For over 30 years

Island Deaf + Hard of Hearing Centre has been Vancouver Island's trusted source for hearing health

- + Experience a full-service hearing clinic with registered Audiologists.
- + Access in house support services and workshops.
- + Choose from a range of hearing aids, assistive tech, and devices.
- + Support a local non-profit.

Working Retirement?

COST OF LIVING MAKES WORKING IN “RETIREMENT YEARS” NECESSARY FOR MANY VANCOUVER ISLANDERS

Mission Possible, a Downtown Eastside Vancouver non-profit is an employment readiness program helping people navigate their journey to a life-giving livelihood. According to Matt Smedley, Mission Possible’s executive director, applications to their employment readiness program have **doubled since last year**, and the number of **seniors applying for help is up 55½ per cent**.



At IDHHC our employment teams have noted a rising number of people working or seeking work well into their 70’s and beyond – in-line with the fact that the **cost of living has risen by 21% in the past 7 years**. With inflation and housing costs only cooling mildly in recent months, we expect this trend to continue. Our experienced team can offer relevant advice and service to you no matter what your age. Interested in learning how to combat ageism in your job search or how to bridge the generational cultural gaps?

Chat with us about group workshops and one on one sessions we can provide to help you learn skills to keep earning beyond 65.

idhhc@idhhc.ca or **250.592.8144**



The Latest Trends

JOB SEEKERS ADDRESS THE NEW AI EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reshaping employment, creating demand for skills in AI at all levels of employment. As more companies start using AI, job seekers can prepare by focusing on skills that complement automation, such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity. Brushing up on soft skills and learning the basics of AI – even through online courses – can give candidates an edge.

By staying adaptable and continuously learning new skills, job seekers can thrive in this ever-changing job market, aligning their skills with the exciting opportunities AI brings while preparing for an AI-inclusive future. To find out more about AI and job search/employment, connect with anyone in our employment team, or try a free course about AI on sites such as Coursera.org and Udemy.com.



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IDHHC helped increase my quality of life?

A Testimony from Toni Graeme

"I am so grateful to IDHHC for both the hearing aids and continuing to service them.

I am 87 and have been hard of hearing for a few years and felt so left out socially as I could barely hear people. I had to watch TV with only captions. Although I explained my problem to others they rarely remembered more than a couple of minutes. Not hearing them of course meant it was impossible to have a conversation as I could not reply to what I had not heard.

My life became a lonely one. It was impossible for me to afford hearing aids from commercial sources. Then I found IDHHC! So welcoming and helpful.

I now enjoy the sounds on my TV and being an involved member of my writer's group, and I can have conversations with anyone! Bless their hearts."

Tech Talk

WHEN ARE EXTRA HEARING ACCESSORIES USEFUL?

There are many situations in life that present unique challenges when dealing with hearing loss, even when utilizing properly fitted hearing aids or a cochlear implant. Examples include hearing a presenter at a lecture, hearing your conversational partner in a noisy restaurant, trying to watch television without disturbing others, or trying to hear clearly in a phone conversation. Here, we will describe some accessories that work with hearing aids to provide added benefit in these types of situations. It is key to work with your hearing health care provider to identify specific challenges and determine what accessories might help.

TV STREAMERS

Boosting the volume on the TV does not always improve clarity when trying to follow the dialogue in your favourite programs, and too much volume can be disturbing to others. Hearing aid manufacturers offer TV streaming devices, which connect to the audio output of your TV and stream sound to your hearing aids. Use of a TV streamer allows you to hear programs more clearly through a separate stream to your hearing aids, while others in the room can set the volume of the TV where they like it.

REMOTE MICROPHONES

Hearing from a distance or in noise can be very difficult with hearing loss. Hearing aids have technology that attempts to manage background noise, but this technology is sometimes not enough for clear understanding in noisy environments. A remote microphone is an option that can help improve access to your communication partner's speech. The device picks up your partner's voice and streams it directly to your hearing aids, improving what is called signal-to-noise ratio, or how loud the signal you want to hear (your partner's voice) is compared to what you don't want to hear (the surrounding noise). This is helpful in many situations. For example, if you are in a noisy restaurant trying to hear a partner across the table, your partner can clip the mic on their clothing or wear it on a lanyard around their neck. Or if you are attending a lecture, it could be placed on the lectern close to the presenter. Hearing from a distance or in noise can be very difficult with hearing loss. Hearing aids have technology that attempts to manage background noise, but this technology is sometimes not enough for clear understanding in noisy environments. A remote microphone is an option that can help improve access to your communication partner's speech. The device picks up your partner's voice and streams it directly to your hearing aids, improving what is called signal-to-noise ratio, or how loud the signal you want to hear (your partner's voice) is compared to what you don't want to hear (the surrounding noise). This is helpful in many situations. For example, if you are in a noisy restaurant trying to hear a partner across the table, your partner can clip the

mic on their clothing or wear it on a lanyard around their neck. Or if you are attending a lecture, it could be placed on the lectern close to the presenter.

REMOTE CONTROLS

Remote controls are handheld devices that are usually small enough to fit in your pocket or purse. They are designed to adjust hearing aid volume and to switch between hearing aid programs. For many hearing aid users, a remote control is unnecessary, as there may be volume and program buttons on their hearing aids, or their hearing aids may be paired to a smartphone app that allows for adjustments. But for people with dexterity issues or those who prefer not to use a smartphone, a remote control can be a great option.

Ask your hearing health professional about pairing your hearing aids to your smartphone, to support phone calls and streaming media, apps that provide captions for phone calls, and t-coil and other systems available in some public venues that can provide better access to speech. To better communication!



Patrick McCann
Audiologist



Edward Storzer
Audiologist

What to Watch 2025



CREED III
Available to rent or buy on Amazon Prime Video.

Adonis (Michael B. Jordan) has been thriving in both his career and family life, but when a childhood friend and former boxing prodigy resurfaces, the face-off is more than just a fight. Adonis must put his future on the line to battle Damian (Jonathan Majors) --a fighter who has nothing to lose.

There are two Deaf & Hard of hearing characters in this film: Bianca, Adonis' wife played by Tessa Thompson (who is hearing), and Amara, their daughter played by Mila Davis-Kent (who is Deaf). Within their scenes we get to see many examples of what inclusivity and accessibility looks like for Deaf or hard of hearing individuals.



ECHO
Streaming on Disney+

The origin story of Echo revisits Maya Lopez (Alaqua Cox), whose ruthless behavior in New York City catches up with her in her hometown. She must face her past, reconnect with her Native American roots, and embrace the meaning of family and community if she ever hopes to move forward.

Alaqua Cox, who is herself Native American, deaf, and wears a prosthetic leg is a trifecta of representation and there is a fair amount of ASL used throughout the series. Viewers be warned though, with a rating of TV-MA, Echo is not a show for the faint of heart.



ONLY MURDERS IN THE BUILDING
Streaming on Disney+

Three strangers (Steve Martin, Martin Short, and Selena Gomez) share an obsession with true crime and suddenly find themselves wrapped up in a murder investigation. As they record a podcast to document the case, they come to realize a killer might be living amongst them as they race to decipher the mounting clues before it's too late.

In the first season of this series, there is a side character Theo played by James Caverly (who is Deaf), and he gets a whole episode devoted to his perspective where there is only one line of spoken dialogue (episode 7 "The Boy in 6B"); a clever plot point in a well written streaming series.

Telephone Tech

WHAT WILL WORK? WHAT MIGHT NOT?

IDHHC's office has been flooded with inquiries about landline telephones that automatically caption the conversation for the user. Unfortunately, while captioned telephones can be imported into Canada, they do not work with Canadian phone numbers. **Why not?** Well, in order to offer captioned telephone service on a widespread basis, a funding program must be in place to cover the cost of providing the captioning service, and that is not yet available in Canada. **So what products and services do exist in Canada?**

IP RELAY SERVICE

is a free accessibility service to assist Deaf and hard of hearing people in making and receiving phone calls. IP relay users log into a computer or smart phone, call the relay service, type out what they want to communicate, and an IP Relay Service agent will reiterate the written words verbally to a hearing person and vice versa. This service can be set up by contact-

CAPTIONING APPS

on a cell phone or tablet is a great option if your landline telephone has a speaker option. When receiving a call, simply place the telephone on speaker, open the app, and place your cell phone or tablet nearby, allowing the app to automatically transcribe what is being said to you in close-to-real time. Some apps, such as "NAL Scribe", can even be used without Wi-Fi.

ZOOM AND TEAMS

both software options have an auto captioning feature, and although not always extremely accurate and will be slightly delayed, it will provide captioning. However, both parties must be comfortable using Zoom and would require access to a mobile device or a computer with a Wi-Fi connection.

IPHONE LIVE CAPTIONING

is available as a Beta version for iPhones with a minimum of the iOS 16 update. This feature allows for AI generated live captioning of phone calls and facetime. To access this feature in iPhone settings, select Accessibility, Live Captions, and turn on the Live Captions (Beta) Switch.

AMPLIFIED PHONES can be purchased or borrowed for trial through our

tech aid loan library, allowing clients to trial an amplified phone before deciding to place an order. Some phones can be paired directly to hearing aids so that the voice of the speaker is routed directly into hearing aids. Note if you are struggling with speech clarity, an amplified phone may not be helpful here.

TELETYPEWRITERS

are a much older form of communication and rarely used any longer. Each party must have a TTY machine as well as a land line. To make a call, a party dials another TTY number and then types out their message on the phone keyboard that will appear on a screen of their conversational partner's TTY. This is a challenge for someone who struggles with dexterity or spelling.

By Sydney Shaw

Coming This Year

SOME THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

Don't forget to check our website idhhc.ca to see all of the up to date activities as they become available this Spring/Summer!

MAY IS SPEECH AND HEARING MONTH

Be sure to check back in and see what is coming up in May as we celebrate Speech and Hearing Month.

JUNE SUMMER CELEBRATION IS BACK!

Don't miss this one! Join us as we invite the whole community together for an afternoon of food and fun to celebrate the summer! June date to be announce shortly so stay tuned!

Partner Activities

IDHHC is pleased to promote workshops, classes and activities that our partner organizations are hosting.

SILVER THREADS VICTORIA

a charitable, not-for-profit society that enhances social connection and well-being for individuals 55+. This program is hosted at Silver Threads (1911 Quadra Street) and for registration call (250-388-4268) to book* your private one hour time slot with Kelsey.

+ Tech Tips with Kelsey

As a cochlear implant and tech guru, Kelsey can assist with your tech questions. She will explain the complicated tech world in simple language and processes that are easy to follow and understand.

Tuesdays afternoons 12:30 to 2:30 pm

BC FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE IS HOSTING:

Vancouver Island Outreach PEER Pizza Party (Courtenay)

February 3 @ 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm UTC-8 PEER

Courtenay Speech and Hearing Clinic #104 – 501 4th Street, Courtenay BC

Join us for pizza and a casual get-together to connect with other families and kids going into Kindergarten

Winter/Spring Events

Register Today By Phone or Email

For all workshops classes or events you can register by contacting us at either office

Victoria:

250-592-8144
idhhc@idhhc.ca

Nanaimo:

250-753-0999
nanaimo@idhhc.ca

SPEECHREADING

Let's Talk, Speechreading

\$160 [**\$125 for IDHHC members**]

10 Sessions | Struggling to understand people even while wearing your hearing aids? 'Let's Talk' is a small-group speech reading (previously known as lip reading) and communications strategies course that helps people with hearing loss and their families communicate better. 'Let's Talk Some More', is for anyone that would like to continue building their speechreading skills after completing Let's Talk.

IDHHC Victoria

Let's Talk (Level 1)

Thursdays January 30–April 3 9:30–11:30am

Thursdays April 17 – June 19 9:30–11:30am

Let's Talk Some More (Level 2)

Tuesdays April 15–June 17 9:30–11:30 am

IDHHC Nanaimo

Let's Talk (Level 1)

Wednesdays March 12–May 14 10am–noon

HEARING HEALTH

Tech & Tips with Kelsey

Every Monday from 1–4:00pm
at IDHHC Victoria (by appointment)

\$15 (**\$10 for members**)

Do you need help or have questions about any of the following?

Hearing aid Apps, cellphone, iPad or tablet, laptop computers, CI tech support, Bluetooth devices, voice-to-text apps, any other technological device.

As a cochlear implant user and tech guru, Kelsey can assist you with your tech questions. She will explain the complicated tech world in simple language and processes that are easy to follow and understand. **Call our office (250.592.8144) to book* your private one hour time slot with Kelsey.**

Cochlear Implant Support Group

Last Wednesday of every other month, 7–8:00pm, January 29, March 26, May 28

Delivered Online | **FREE**

This is a virtual group for those who have cochlear implants or for anyone considering them. If you are seeking support and expertise from others on their CI journey and interested in learning about the strategies they use in their daily lives, we encourage you to attend.

Hearing Better Together : Hearing Loss Support Group

Last Tuesday of every month, 12:30–1:30pm

In person at IDHHC Victoria **FREE**

a social and support group for hard of hearing individuals who gather to share successes and strategies for communication. Meet once a month in-person. On occasion guest speakers may join and bring new insights and perspectives!

Deaf Community Games Day

Every Tuesday, 2–4:00pm

In person at IDHHC Victoria **\$2 Drop-in Fee**

Join the Deaf community for coffee, snacks and games! Bingo is a favorite activity for this group – ASL only.

Winter/Spring Events

CONVERSATIONAL ASL CLASSES

IDHHC offers individuals the opportunity to learn or develop some basic conversational American Sign Language (ASL). This is a “recreational” program, the purpose to provide students with basic functional signing skills and does not provide certification of any kind. Each course offers 12 hours of in-person instruction. Fees are non-refundable after the course starts. Payment must be provided to secure your spot.

Level 1: An introductory class for anyone that wants to learn the basics of ASL – content includes concepts such as ABC’s, numbers, asking questions and so much more.

Level 2: The next class for anyone that has completed level 1 and is ready to learn and practice some more.

Level 3: A much requested + newly added level will allow you more opportunities to practice your ASL and add some new vocabulary and concepts to your knowledge base.

ASL Refresher Classes: Has it been a few months since you have taken your last ASL class? We are now offering refresher classes for those that would like a quick 2-class review of what was taught in their last ASL level.

Level 1 Refresher (2 sessions) \$40

IDHHC Victoria

Wednesday January 29 & February 5,
6:30–8:00pm

Level 2 Refresher (2 sessions) \$40

IDHHC Victoria

Wednesday April 9 & 16, 6:30–8:00pm

IDHHC Nanaimo

Thursday April 3 & 10, 6:30–8:00pm

Level 1 ASL (8 sessions) \$145

IDHHC Victoria

Monday January 27 – March 24, 6–7:30pm

(no class Feb 17th)

Thursday February 6 – March 27, 6–7:30pm

Saturday March 1 – April 26, 9:30–11am

(no class April 19th)

Monday April 7 – June 9, 6:00 to 7:30 pm

(no class April 21 & May 19)

Level 1 ASL (8 sessions) \$145

IDHHC Nanaimo

Tuesday January 28 – March 18, 5:30–7pm

Tuesday April 1 – May 20, 5:30–7pm

Level 2 ASL (8 sessions) \$145

IDHHC Victoria

Wednesday February 12 – April 2, 6:30–8pm

Thursday April 10 – May 29, 6–7:30pm

IDHHC Nanaimo

Tuesday January 28 – March 18, 7:15–8:45pm

Tuesday April 1 – May 20, 7:15–8:45pm

Level 2 ASL (8 sessions) \$145

Level 1 at IDHHC Victoria

Wednesday April 23 – June 11, 6:30–8pm

Slow Paced ASL (10 sessions) \$160

IDHHC Victoria

**Dates to be determined

Register Today By Phone or Email

For all workshops classes or events you can register by contacting us at either office

Victoria:

250-592-8144
idhhc@idhhc.ca

Nanaimo:

250-753-0999
nanaimo@idhhc.ca

SONIC PERSPECTIVES:

An Audiologist Speaker Series In Three Sessions

All three speakers sessions are delivered online with in-person viewing space at IDHHC offices in Victoria or Nanaimo. Register for only one or for all three in the series!

Register for one or for all three, \$10/session [FREE for IDHHC members]

Join us for one or all of the three presentations as we explore the world of hearing health. IDHHC’s audiology team as well as experts from around the province will help to educate and provide updated information on important subjects.

Captioning provided for all sessions.

Sonic Perspectives – Session Topics

Session 1: All About Earwax with Guest Audiologist Dan Paccioretti

Thursday, February 21st 12:00–1:00pm

Daniel Paccioretti has more than 40 years experience as an audiologist, educator, administrator, and researcher. Cerumen, commonly known as earwax, is a natural substance produced by glands in the ear canal. While it serves a protective function by trapping dust and debris, excessive buildup of cerumen can lead to hearing problems and discomfort.

Session 2: Your questions about Tinnitus – Q&A with Glynnis Tidball

Thursday, April 24th 12:00 to 1:00pm

Glynnis Tidball is a registered clinical audiologist at St. Paul’s Hospital in Vancouver and clinical instructor at the School of Audiology and Speech Sciences in the UBC Faculty of Medicine. Her primary profes-

sional focus for the last two decades has been management of tinnitus and hyperacusis. Join us for this informative session and the opportunity to ask your tinnitus related questions.

Session 3: Communication Strategies with a Hearing Loss

Thursday, June 5th 12:00 to 1:00pm

Being able to connect and interact with people is dependent on our ability to communicate. Those with hearing loss struggle with verbal communication and it can be frustrating and isolating. This session will focus on improving communication for people with hearing loss by learning some new communication strategies.

Check out our [idhhc.ca](https://www.idhhc.ca) website, sign up for our newsletters and updates, and watch for more Spring and Summer activities!



DON'T MISS OUR PERSONALIZED EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOPS.

Here are just a few of the Employment workshops that IDHHC Employment team will deliver between January and June 2025.

- **AI for Job Search for Deaf & Hard of Hearing**
- **Job Search Tips for Mature Workers with a Hearing or Language Difference**
- **Dealing with Difficult People in the Workplace**
- **Accessing the Hidden Job Market for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Job Seekers**
- **Disclosing a Diverse Ability**
- **Mock Interviews**
- **Basic Computer Skills for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Workers**

Be sure to check out our website (www.idhhc.ca) regularly to see the schedule of programs, and to stay up to date on all of the latest workshops and events coming your way!

To sign up for a workshop, make inquiries, or find out how we can support your employment goals, please contact any of our Employment Team members:

Kim Dillon kim@idhhc.ca **Janet McDonald** janetm@idhhc.ca **Jon LePas** jon@idhhc.ca



Shortage of Specialists TRAINED BC PROFESSIONALS WORKING WITH DEAF, DEAFBLIND AND HARD OF HEARING INDIVIDUALS

The Family Network of Deaf Children (FNDC) based in Vancouver is currently conducting a province-wide survey to address the significant shortage of trained professionals in the province serving Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing (DDBHH) individuals. The shortage of Interpreters, Intervenors, Teachers of the Deaf/DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing, Early Childhood Educators and Speech Language Pathologists specific to DDBHH, EA's, ASL instructors and ASL Specialists present significant barriers to accessing education and daily services for DDHHH of all ages.

Together the lack of available professionals and the lack of comprehensive data present challenges for organizations striving to reduce these gaps. By undertaking this initiative, FNDC aims to produce a comprehensive and detailed report outlining the current shortages of qualified professionals, highlight the barriers and address these shortages create for DDBHH British Columbians, ultimately paving the way for improved access and inclusion.

The project team, recruited by FNDC, includes both Deaf and hearing professionals, a sign language interpreter, a UBC graduate student, a Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, an Accessibility Research/Policy Consultant, and an ASL specialist. IDHHC will post the report once it becomes available so please feel free to reach out to us at any time with your inquiries.



Kristi Falconer
IDHHC Communication
Services Manager

Kind Words From Happy Clients!

Laird Taylor ★★★★★

“It is refreshing and edifying to have found competent, caring people whose mission is to help others rather than to maximize profits”

Donna Gnam-Taal ★★★★★

“I was so impressed with the quality of service I received when I got my hearing aids. Testing, fitting & follow up; each of these steps was attended to with care. I particularly appreciated the fact that there was no sales pressure. Edward found the most effective hearing aids within my budget. He was so patient in explaining the use & care of them. Ocean was always warm & welcoming at reception & was always able to either answer my question or find someone who could reply in a timely manner. What a great (dog friendly) atmosphere. Big thank you to Edward, Ocean & the IDHHC Team.”

**Have you benefitted
from IDHHC's team?**

**Consider Leaving your
★★★★★ Google review
and help others find
IDHHC's great services**

When Community Builds Community.

Thank You to these Community Leaders for their Support



**VICTORIA
FOUNDATION**
CONNECTING PEOPLE WHO CARE



**Provincial Employees
Community Services Fund**



**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia.

To find out how you or your organization can support the important work of IDHHC, call 250.592.8144 or email us at idhhc@idhhc.ca or you can Donate online at idhhc.ca

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8:30AM - 4:30PM

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