



CAEDHH Newsletter

Canadian Association of Educators of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Message from the CAEDHH National Director

Joanna Cannon, *University of British Columbia*

We are excited about our CAEDHH National renewal movement with a new board and regional directors! Thank you for your patience as we embark on a new year that I hope will refresh and revitalize us to celebrate **CAEDHH National's 50th Anniversary** this fall! Our records indicate the organization started as **ACEHI in 1973** and we look forward to using this wonderful celebration to jump start new and returning members in a variety of ways.

The **CAEDHH Executive** has been meeting regularly and is looking into **strategic planning** to assist in the renewal of the organization.

Our **website** is undergoing some updates, so we appreciate your patience while it is under construction and hope the updates will be beneficial to anyone who visits the site. We hope to continue to increase resources and connections across the country.

Regional Director Bios are available on our website and they have sent in regional reports below to give us a summary of what is going on across the country in Deaf Education. We have had one Regional Director meeting this fall and they have worked on gathering data for this newsletter.

We worked with **CAEDHH-BC** to offer their October Annual conference in a hybrid format so **CAEDHH** members could join from across the country. In meeting with the **CAEDHH-BC Executive** we have agreed to co-sponsor the **2023 CAEDHH-BC conference** in a hybrid format. The theme of the conference next year is **Advocacy**, at the student level but also for **TODHHs** at the district, provincial, and national levels.

We are **continuing to build our listserv** to spread information about **CAEDHH National** and update email addresses, but have put **membership on hold** until we get all our updates completed. Stay tuned for more member info. Please let us know anyone to add to the listserv, and we have a mechanism for signing up for the listserv on the updated website (in the footer) as well.

Thank you for your time and for being involved with **CAEDHH National**! We look forward to a wonderful year ahead.

Please complete a quick survey to let us know what you are looking for from the renewed organization and how we can be helpful moving forward.


 [Click here to take the survey](#)



Table of Contents

Regional summaries of the current settings and supports for learners who are d/Dhh.

BC/Yukon	2
Alberta	3
Saskatchewan	3
Manitoba	5
Ontario	6
Atlantic Canada	7
Other regions	9

BC/Yukon Updates

Mary-Ann Livesey, TDHH Vancouver School Board

Regional/Provincial supports

The following programs provide educational consultation, programming and support for learners who are d/Deaf and hard of hearing and their teachers.

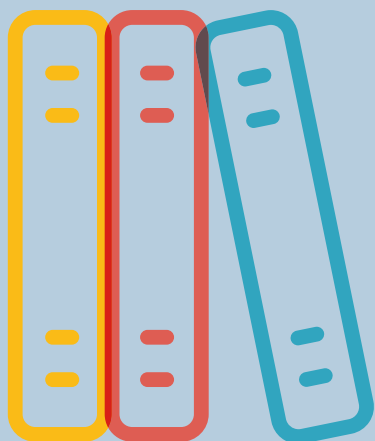
- POPDHH - Provincial Outreach Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- POPDB - Provincial Outreach Program For Students With Deafblindness
- PRP-AO - Auditory Outreach Provincial Resource Program
- Set-BC - Special Education Technology BC

School settings

- BC Family Hearing Resource Society, Family-centered Early Intervention
- Children's Hearing and Speech Centre of BC (Vancouver), Grades K to 2
- Provincial Resource Program BC School for the Deaf (Burnaby), Grades K to 12
- Provincial Oral Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students (Burnaby), Grades 8 to 12; no students enrolled in 2022-23
- District cohort classes located in the Surrey School District
 - *Bear Creek Elementary*
 - *Beaver Creek Elementary*
 - *Mary Jane Shannon Elementary*
 - *Queen Elizabeth Secondary*

Funding model

BC utilizes a category/designation-based system to identify learners' needs and allocate funding and personnel to support those needs. Students with complex and/or multiple needs (e.g., d/Deaf or hard of hearing with autism spectrum disorder) may qualify for second designation in some districts/regions but not in others.





Alberta Updates

Lynn McQuarrie, *University of Alberta*

Regional/Provincial supports

- *Alberta Education* (Ministry)
- *Alberta Education's Low Incidence Team*: hosts monthly Professional Learning Communities (PLC) webinars
- *School and Community Support Branch*



School settings

d/Dhh services are provided through:

- Mainstream schools
- Community Programs - *Connect Society Early Childhood Services Programs* (Edmonton & Calgary)
- *Alberta School for the Deaf* (Edmonton)
- Specialized programs within schools - *DHH System Class*
 - *Jennie Elliott School* (Calgary), Grades 1 to 6
 - *Queen Elizabeth High School* (Calgary), Grades 7 to 12

Funding model

School authorities receive a specialized learning support grant to provide “a continuum of supports and services to meet the learning needs of children and students within an inclusive learning environment” (*Alberta Education Funding Manual for School Authorities for the 2022/23 School Year*, p. 40). Individual school authorities have the autonomy to use the grant as they see fit to meet the needs of students.

Saskatchewan Updates

Michelle Grodecki, *TDHH*



Regional/Provincial supports

- No regional or provincial supports
- *Saskatchewan Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services* offers supports to school divisions by way of Signed Support Professionals when possible



School settings [**Saskatchewan Updates**]

There are currently 27 school divisions across the province. There is no provincial expectation or standard of services for DHH students. There are known designated DHH services in the two major cities whereas for smaller centers the services are unknown/unreported at this time.

Regina

- Regina Public Schools
 - DHH preschool (*Children Connecting & Communicating in the Community* - Pilot project)
 - Elementary DHH Program (resource room)
 - High school DHH program (bi-bi congregated & resource room)
- Regina Catholic Schools - no known designated DHH programming

Saskatoon

- Saskatoon Community - DHH preschool operated by *Saskatchewan Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services (Children Connecting & Communicating in the Community* - Pilot project)
- Saskatoon Public - no information could be obtained at this time
- Saskatoon Catholic
 - Elementary DHH program (bi-bi congregated & resource room)
 - High school - once students graduate from Grade 8, they transition to their local high school and are supported by an interpreter/EA and a Learning Assistance Teacher (LAT).

Funding model

Supports for Learning Model (needs based)

- The supports for learning subcomponent of instruction allocates funding to boards of education for the **salary costs** (i.e., coordinators, consultants, teachers, professionals, and paraprofessionals who provide services and related programming to ensure that all students have equal access to, and benefit from, the provincial education program in an inclusive educational setting) and **non- salary costs** (e.g., assistive technology) related to supports required for learning.
- School divisions are responsible to ensure their SFL funding is disbursed based on student needs related to supports required for learning, as such, funding is not allocated on a per-student basis.



Other News

On November 15, 2022, *The Accessible Saskatchewan Act* was introduced in the Legislative Assembly. If passed, the new legislation will remove and prevent accessibility barriers for persons with disabilities.



Manitoba Updates

Charlotte Enns, *University of Manitoba*

Regional Supports



Services, supports, and programming for DHH students in Manitoba are centrally organized through the provincial *Department of Education and Early Childhood Learning*. The *Deaf and Hard of Hearing Unit* includes the *Manitoba School for the Deaf (MSD)* and the *Consultant Outreach Team (COT)*. The Coordinator for DHH Services is currently Cindy Niel. The COT provides specialized support for DHH students attending public schools, which, depending on the needs of the student, can include information about hearing loss; speech, language, auditory, cognitive and academic skills development; acoustics, amplification / technology support; computerized note-taking; teaching and literacy strategies; student socioemotional well-being; American Sign Language / Deaf Culture; and ASL-English interpreting skills.



Find more information at the *Provincial DHH Unit* website:
<https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/specedu/dhh/index.html>

Tara Love, CAEDHH-MB President

School settings

The Manitoba School for the Deaf is pleased to announce Sarah Rabu as the new Principal. Sarah started her career in education as an EA and began teaching in 2001. In 2012 she became the Lead ASL Specialist. In 2016 Sarah completed her Master's Degree and has been the resource lead at the school since 2018. Sarah has been on the leadership team for the past 8 years and knows the policies and procedures of MSD very well.

MSD continues to partner with Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Center (MFNERC) to bring DHH Indigenous students from remote northern communities to MSD in order to support relationships, Deaf identity, and development of ASL throughout the province while supporting staff and students.



Other News

Attempts were made to reorganize CAEDHH-MB with minimal interest. CAEDHH-MB is considering a dispersal of funds through scholarships and bursaries and to amalgamate with CAEDHH National.



Ontario Updates

Caterina (Cathy) Ruggirello, TDHH

Regional Supports

Educational programming for students who are DHH in Ontario are the responsibility of individual public, Catholic and private school boards making supports and services (specialized programs, interpreters, Itinerant TDHH) in the mainstream schools differ across the province (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/ministry-education>).

The ministry provides funding to school boards for students with special education needs through the *Special Education Grant (SEG)*, one of the *Grants for Student Needs (GSN)* special purpose grants. The *SEG* supports the incremental costs of the additional programs, services, and equipment required to meet the educational needs of these students and to support positive outcomes for them. School boards have the authority to use their total *GSN* funding allocation to meet their responsibility to provide programs and/or services for students who have special education needs (<https://www.ontario.ca/document/special-education-ontario-policy-and-resource-guide-kindergarten-grade-12/education>).

Through the *Peel District School Board (PDSB)*, school boards have access to a provincial speech and language pathologist for consultation. The *PDSB* has a resource services outreach programs department that houses the *Homevisiting Program and Educational Consultative Services* (<https://pdsbnet.ca/en/programs-and-services/resource-services-and-outreach-programs/resource-services-for-deaf-hard-of-hearing/>). The TDHH in the *Homevisiting Program* support parents of newly identified children with hearing difference from birth to school age.



Provincial Educational Consultants through the *PDSB* support personnel (teachers, administrators, ECEs, EAs) at elementary and secondary schools in supporting students who are DHH from ages 4 to 21 years. Students are referred (<https://pdsbnet.ca/en/programs-and-services/resource-services-and-outreach-programs/resource-services-for-deaf-hard-of-hearing/>) for services and supports which can include: programming, assessing, equipment, ASL assessment and programming, Hearing Awareness Workshops for students and school staff, and facilitate admission to a provincial school for the Deaf. Consultants also support preschools/daycares/childcare centers across the province. Consultants provide on-line learning to university teacher candidates and college ECE/EA students about hearing awareness and the necessary accommodations.



School settings

Under the Ministry of Education, *Provincial and Demonstration Schools Branch (PDSB)*, there are 3 Schools for the Deaf (<https://pdsbnet.ca/en/>):

- *Sir James Whitney School for the Deaf* (Belleville), Grades K to 12
- *Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf* (Milton), Grades K to 12
- *Robarts School for the Deaf* (London), Grades K to 12



Network/Connections with Teachers

The consultants connect with itinerant TDHHs in the province by hosting Professional Development 3-4 times a school year. There is a *Monthly Central Perk* for itinerant TDHH to come together online. Most recently, we have an *Ontario Resource Guide for Specialist Teachers of Students Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (ORG-DHH)*.

Atlantic Region (PEI, NB, NS, NL) Updates

Laura Getson, TDHH (Nova Scotia)

Regional Supports/School Settings

Nova Scotia

TDHHs are hired by *Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority (APSEA)*. APSEA gets funding from the departments of Education for each of the four Atlantic Provinces. Representatives from each province sit on the APSEA board, as well as APSEAs directors and superintendent. APSEA provides different services in each province.

APSEA itinerant teachers have a Masters in Deaf Education. Many earned their masters through *Mount Saint Vincent University* in Halifax, NS, and a few through the *University of British Columbia*. Teachers work with children from birth through age 21 or high school graduation, whichever comes first. For pre-school aged children, teachers focus on family education with weekly visits to the home or childcare setting. For school-aged children, teachers work in the school setting, often with pull-out sessions, but also offering in-class support and consultation to school staff. Students receive different levels of support based on need (direct service or consultation). Homeschool and private school families are accepted on a case-by-case basis. Teachers are supervised by a provincial supervisor who has a Masters in Deaf Education and Leadership.



Other staff who support DHH children through APSEA in conjunction with teachers include:

- **ASL Specialists** – supports ASL development in families and children; assess ASL development and helps plan goals
- **Deaf Mentors** – work directly with families and students who want to develop ASL and Deaf Culture
- **Early Learning Specialist** – supports the team working with young preschool-aged children in conjunction with other organisations like *Hearing & Speech Nova Scotia* (audiologists and SLPs), *NS Early Childhood Development Intervention Services*, etc
- **Counsellor** – student and family counsellor, provides counselling and transition support to children, families, and school guidance counsellors through the DHH lens. Has a Masters degree in both Deaf Education and Counselling
- **Clinical Audiologist** – consultation, technical support, etc
- **Technology Specialist** – maintains assistive listening equipment provided to students through APSEA
- **Speech-Language Pathologist** – consultation for school teams and teachers, especially for AAC needs



New Brunswick

Teachers are hired by APSEA and details are the same for English-speaking families as NS. French-language services are available through the provincial francophone school districts. These teachers do not necessarily have a Masters degree in Deaf Education. No other information about French services in NB could be obtained at this time.

Prince Edward Island (PEI)

Through the provincial *Department of Education*, services are provided by the *Hearing Education Auditory Resources (HEAR)* program. In the past, PEI teachers would occasionally attend professional development with APSEA, and students would occasionally come to the APSEA Centre in Halifax for short-term intensive programming, but this stopped in 2020. It is unclear whether PEI staff have specific education in d/Deaf education. When I called the office, I was told they were not teachers, but support workers. I'm waiting to hear back from this group.

Newfoundland & Labrador

No information or contacts could be found to provide updates for Newfoundland & Labrador. In the past, Newfoundland teachers would occasionally attend professional development with APSEA, and students would occasionally come to the APSEA Centre in Halifax for short-term intensive programming, but this stopped in 2020.



Funding model

In NS and NB, there is no public coverage for hearing aids and families must purchase out-of-pocket. APSEA has status as a non-profit hearing aid dispensary, and can order hearing devices at a discount for families when prescribed by a community audiologist through *Hearing & Speech Nova Scotia* (part of the health care system). In NS and NB, cochlear implants are covered through the provincial health system when patients meet criteria of the cochlear implant program; families do not pay for CIs but may need to pay for upgrades to processors (case-by-case). Assistive listening technology like remote mic systems are loaned to students by APSEA for use in school.

Northwest Territories

Position unfilled - please contact us if you are interested in serving as a regional director or know someone who is interested.

Nunavut

Position unfilled - please contact us if you are interested in serving as a regional director or know someone who is interested.

