

Western Institute for
THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

The **Wave**
FALL 2018 NEWSLETTER

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Charitable Registration Number: 108200098RR0001

President's Musings

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If you have any feedback, questions, or ideas, please contact Barbara M. Brown at:

President
c/o WIDHH
2125 West 7th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6K 1X9
president@widhh.com

The WAVE Contributors

Creative & Content Editor:
Ruth Gessner

Contributors:
Barbara M. Brown, Grace Shyng,
Rita Albano and Vanessa Tobar

Official Cover Photographer:
Michael Levy
www.flatearthphoto.com
www.facebook.com/WestCoastWonders

September 27th dawned crisp and clear and the start of a new chapter in our life here at WIDHH. The Conwest Group of Companies and WIDHH co-hosted a public relations event to celebrate the donation of \$1 million in funding from the British Columbia government to WIDHH to build a state-of-the-art centre of excellence.



Our new centre will serve Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals, their families and the community by delivering innovative programs, products and solutions to achieve full communication accessibility.

The board of directors and senior executives have worked for the past five years to bring about the construction of a new head office, our centre of excellence. Specific goals for the new centre include:

- Planned expansion and Innovation in the delivery of new and established programs and services
- Recognition of our research division with its own designed space
- Accommodation for both our partnership societies, the Greater Vancouver Association of the Deaf and the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association, Vancouver Branch and BC Chapter

Our new centre is located at the corner of Quebec Street and 4th Avenue. We are still on track to move in by the fall of 2019. The new centre will utilize design guidelines for accessibility and accommodation as defined by the Rick Hansen Foundation and the DeafSpace Guidelines developed by Gallaudet University. Do drive by and have a look at what your future holds!

Barbara M. Brown, WIDHH President

Interim Executive Director Updates

Happy Fall everyone! So much has happened in the last several months. This month's newsletter brings you interesting updates in all of our departments as well as an update on our new building, in particular, our \$1 million funding from the BC government for our new Centre of Excellence.

We are so grateful for this generous support for the Ministry of Health. Over the next several months, WIDHH is exploring ways to better share and receive information from our community. We are working to provide more information via e-mail news blasts, regular vlogs and public meetings, while continuing on with our newsletter, mail outs and social media. Please stay tuned as we continue to develop and update our communication plan.

If you ever have any questions about WIDHH, our programs or our new Centre of Excellence, or have any interesting ideas you'd like to share, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at grace.shyng@widhh.com or visit our "contact us" page on our website.

On behalf of our WIDHH Staff and Board, thank you for all your continued support!

A New Look for the Showroom

The WIDHH Communication Devices Showroom first opened its' doors on November 9th, 1987. The showroom has not changed much over the years, until May of this year when we closed the showroom for renovations.



In June the showroom reopened with a revitalized look and a new self-directed approach. New informational and instructional displays were developed for a hands-on experience.

Along with an updated in-store experience, we will soon launch a refreshed online store. The updated online store features new products, straightforward navigation and a needs assessment that will help find the right product for you! We are also working on adding instructional videos for each of the products we carry.

The showroom is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm. Drop by to view, test and purchase products. If you require assistance in selecting a product, you can schedule a one-on-one consultation with our Communication Devices Consultant, Sharon Miller on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Contact us today to learn more about communication devices!

Phone: 604-736-7391 or TTY: 604-736-2527 or Email: devices@widhh.com

WIDHH's New Building Info Session

The Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WIDHH) has waited a long time for a new place to call home.

For almost five decades, WIDHH's Head Office has operated out of a renovated convent building on West 7th Avenue in Vancouver. This aging building is deteriorating and we are no longer able to accommodate the safety, accessibility, clinical or technological needs of our rapidly increasing client base.

WIDHH is now on the verge of realizing its dream for an expanded, accessible, innovative and centrally located space. Our vision of a state-of-the-art facility with expanded space will be able to serve Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals, their families and the community for years to come.

We know many of you are interested in learning more about our new facility and we would like to invite you to an Information Session in the morning on Saturday, November 24th at the Metrotown Hilton.



Come out and learn more about our Centre of Excellence!

To attend, you must RSVP before November 18th, 2018:

Phone: 604-736-7391 or TTY: 604-736-2527

Email: info@widhh.com

Please let us know if you require specific communication accommodations such as Deaf-Blind Interpreting, ASL Interpreters and Captioning will be provided along with light refreshments.

Ministry of Health Supports New Building

The Ministry of Health has provided \$1 million in funding to the Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WIDHH) to support our new building. WIDHH has begun construction on the Centre of Excellence for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing with local developer the Conwest Group of Companies.



*From Left to Right: Acting Mayor Raymond Louie, Attorney General David Eby, Interim Executive Director Grace Shyng, Conwest Chief Operating Officer Ben Taddei.
Photo Courtesy of: Lachlan and Emily Photography*

“The new centre of excellence will greatly enhance the Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing’s ability to increase and expand programs to better support its clients and families,” said David Eby, Vancouver-Point Grey MLA, on behalf of Adrian Dix, Minister of Health. “From youth to seniors, this new centre will improve people’s quality of life and help people with hearing and communication challenges live life to the fullest.”

The new centre, which will be located at 2005 Quebec Street, is being built with consultation from the Rick Hansen Foundation and will be a model of excellence for accessibility.

The centre will provide hands-on experience with the latest hearing aids and assistive listening devices, with one-on-one peer support and aural rehabilitation classes for the deaf and hard of hearing, along with employment counselling and interpretive services. A refurbished hearing aid program will also be available for those who cannot afford new hearing aids. The centre of excellence will also accommodate expansion of WIDHH’s clinical research program within the field of hearing health, telecommunications and accessibility, as well as the expansion of seniors’ outreach programs for the deaf and deafblind who rely solely on sign language to communicate.

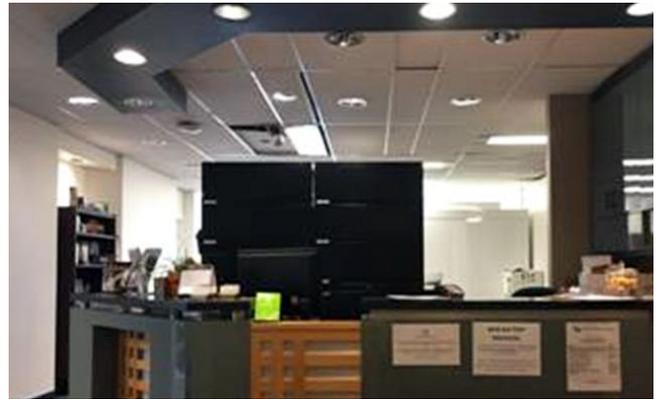
The \$1 million in provincial funding will support the WIDHH’s fundraising campaign that WIDHH will be aiming to launch to the public in early 2019 to fund the new centre. Construction is expected to be completed by fall 2019.

Ben Taddei, Chief Operating Officer, Conwest – “This social-purpose project is a great example of how the private sector can facilitate the relocation and retention of community-based services in the city. When groups like WIDHH, Conwest, the city and the Province can work together towards a common vision, each bringing their respective strengths to the relationship, things get done. Everybody comes out ahead, especially the community.”

Tri-Cities Office Has Moved - Across the Hall

We are excited to announce that our Tri-Cities Audiology Office in Port Coquitlam has moved into a brand new space!

This new, more spacious office has an additional hearing test booth and an extra hearing aid fitting room. This means reduced wait times for appointments, for both new and returning clients. It is also an opportunity to expand our services in the Fraser Valley region.



In addition, our employment counselling department will also have an increased presence in order to serve more clients in Port Coquitlam. Our employment counsellor, Marco Chiaramonte, already serves clients in this office once a week, and we are excited about the opportunity to serve more of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community in the area.



The new office is in suite #210 in the same building at 2755 Lougheed Highway, just down the hall.

If you would like to book an appointment in our new Tri-Cities Office please contact us today!

Phone: 604-942-7397

TTY: 604-942-7380

Email: tricitieinfo@widhh.com

Newsletter Updates in Sign Language

WIDHH Interim Executive Director, Grace Shyng along with WIDHH Head of Interpreting, Tim Mallach are excited to share a captioned ASL summary of The WAVE Fall 2018 Newsletter.

You can watch the video here:

www.youtube.com/user/TheWIDHH

Meet Our New Capital Campaign Manager

We are pleased to introduce our new Capital Campaign Manager Rita Albano. Rita started with WIDHH at the beginning of September and has hit the ground running.



Rita is a highly effective development professional with a 20 year-plus career managing major fundraising campaigns, as well as community and government relations, strategic project management and volunteer and event management, both in Canada and overseas.

Her successful overseas capital fundraising projects include the Portsmouth Cathedral and the Primary Industries Exhibition in Queensland, Australia. She was also the Director of Development for Women in Government, a national, non-profit, non-partisan organization of women state legislators, based in Washington, DC as well as the Election Campaign Manager for the NZ National Party over several terms.

Locally, Rita was Campaign Manager for the Dr. Peter Centre's successful capital campaign to complete the funding required to build the new \$9.2 million centre. She has brought success to many other local fundraising projects, such as Ballet BC (helping save the dance company from extinction), The Vancouver Museum 100th Anniversary, The Arts Club Theatre, Phoenix Montessori School, BC Christian Academy, The Calgary Airport Authority, Hawthorne Seniors Care Community, the World of Children's Choirs and the Canadian Museum of Human Rights. In between these projects, Rita had founded, secured funding and produced a popular music festival in Vancouver for 10 years.

Grace Shyng, Interim Executive Director, said, "It's been an absolute pleasure having Rita join our WIDHH team. Her enthusiasm and passion for fundraising has been inspiring for our WIDHH staff and Board. We look forward to continued success for our Capital Campaign which we plan to launch to the public in early 2019."

If you have any questions about fundraising or our Capital Campaign, please do not hesitate to contact Rita Albano directly:

Phone: 604-736-7391 ext. 228

Email: rita.albano@widhh.com

Support Groups & Services

Head Office (at Arbutus)

2125 West 7th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6K 1X9
604-736-7391phone
604-736-2527tty
604-736-4381fax
info@widhh.come-mail

Willow Office (at Broadway)

#514 - 2525 Willow Street
Vancouver, BC V5Z 3N8
778-329-0870phone
778-329-0874tty
778-329-0875fax
willowinfo@widhh.come-mail

Tri-Cities Office (at Westwood)

#210 - 2755 Lougheed Highway
Port Coquitlam, BC V3B 5Y9
604-942-7397phone
604-942-7380tty
604-942-7395fax
tricitieinfo@widhh.come-mail

*The WAVE is published quarterly,
please contact the Editor,
Ruth Gessner, at
ruth.gessner@widhh.com
to submit an article.*

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www.widhh.com

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Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA) - Vancouver Branch

A consumer-based organization formed by and for hard of hearing Canadians. CHHA's goal is to increase public awareness of hearing loss and to help Canadians with hearing loss fully integrate into Canadian society.

chhavancouver@gmail.com www.chhavancouver.ca

Greater Vancouver Association of the Deaf (GVAD)

A consumer-advocate group on behalf of the Deaf Community.

gvadoffice@gmail.com www.deafbc.ca

Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA) - BC Chapter

A consumers' organization for the hard of hearing, with national, regional and provincial structures dedicated to the assistance of hard of hearing Canadians.

info@chha-bc.org www.chha-bc.org

Family Network for Deaf Children (FNDC)

A parent run, non-profit, charitable organization supporting families with deaf and hard of hearing children & youth that use sign language or are interested in learning Sign Language.

fndc@fndc.ca www.fndc.ca

BC Balance and Dizziness Disorders Society (BADD)

To support, inspire and educate those affected by balance and dizziness disorders.

info@balanceanddizziness.org www.balanceanddizziness.org



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