



Western Institute for
THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

The **Wave**
SUMMER 2018 NEWSLETTER



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Charitable Registration Number: 108200098RR0001

President's Musings

Our Board of Directors

President: Barbara M. Brown
Vice President: Nora McKellin
Treasurer: Dr. Eugene Lechelt
Secretary: Dr. Graham Bryce
Director: Chris Tam
Director: Dr. Dean C. Powers
Director: Joy Gong
Director: Muriel Kauffmann
Appointed Director: Kim Wood



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

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"I cannot do everything, but still I can do something"
– Helen Keller

I used Helen Keller's quote in our Winter 2017 newsletter, and I had to use it once again. You see, at WIDHH, we are undergoing some wonderful changes.

In fact, change has become a constant.

Client visits are up, and in response we have added another Audiologist to help with the workload that Grace Shyng left behind on her promotion to Interim Executive Director. Both Medical and Community Interpreting hours continue to grow and we have added a clerical position to help with the administrative workload.

This fall we will begin on a change that is so significant, we will be reaching out to you, our Members, for help. Many folks have complained about our name. Why are we called an "institute", is the most frequent question. And so we will begin a process to re-name our Society. We plan on seeking ideas from our Members, the Staff, the Board, our consultants and perhaps the general public, if time allows. The way we proceed will be broad and inclusive. And the outcome will help define our future.

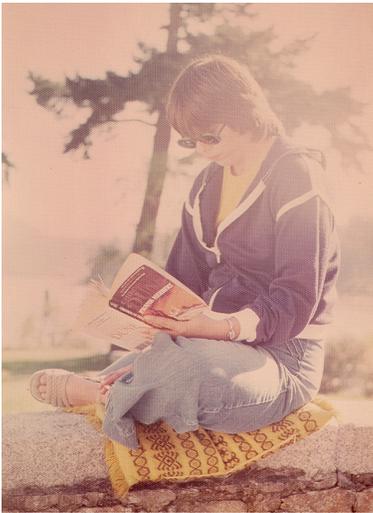
In this edition of *The WAVE*, Grace has written a warm and loving tribute to our immediate, past Executive Director, Susan Masters. We all miss her. And we are completely aware that the upcoming changes are possible because of Susan's long and dedicated service to WIDHH.

Dear Susan, we wish you a long and happy retirement.

Best wishes to you all!

Barbara M. Brown, WIDHH President

A Dedicated Woman Retires



After 41 years of dedicated service to WIDHH, Susan Masters, our longest serving Executive Director of over 12 years, began her retirement on July 8, 2018.

Susan began her work at WIDHH in 1977 as a Staff Interpreter and later became the Head of Interpreting in 1981. After serving as Acting Executive Director, for extended periods on three different occasions, Susan was selected by the Board of Directors to become our official Executive Director in 2005.

Susan's loyalty and unrelenting belief in WIDHH has been the steady compass that has kept WIDHH on track.

Susan has played a central role in the growth of the programs and services at WIDHH and has overseen many changes. In the last few years, she has been the unwavering and devoted voice in our search to find a new home for WIDHH.

On behalf of our WIDHH Board and Staff, I want to thank Susan for her many years of loyal service for WIDHH. We wish Susan all the best in her retirement. It is well deserved!

WIDHH will start the detailed process of searching for a new Executive Director later this year. We expect the process will take some time. We don't want to rush as we want to plan our process carefully so we can find the best person to lead WIDHH into the future.



Become a WIDHH Member Today!

The Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WIDHH) has a diverse community of members who actively support WIDHH's vision and mission. Becoming a Member means you are part of a community dedicated to creating a society without communication barriers.

**BECOME A
MEMBER**
JOIN TODAY!

The support of our Members allows WIDHH to continue delivering supportive programs and services that focus on the strengths and talents of Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals.

Show your support - Become a Member today!

An Update on WIDHH's New Building



Since our last update in the spring newsletter, a lot has happened at WIDHH's new location.

The concrete is now at level 3 and the progress to complete the building is still on schedule. We plan to be fully moved in to our new home sometime in the fall of 2019.

We will continue to provide you all with regular updates about our new building. WIDHH plans to host community information meetings to provide you all with updates about the building progress, give you a chance to review the plans to date and to discuss what's new with WIDHH. Notices for these meetings will be sent out in September. If you would like to be on our mailing list, please contact us at info@widhh.com. Stay tuned!

It's a very exciting time for us at WIDHH and we are happy you are on this journey with us!



Tai Chi for Balance Class at WIDHH

With its integrative approach that strengthens the body while focusing the mind, tai chi addresses a range of health issues—including bone strength, joint stability, cardiovascular health, immunity and emotional well-being.

Weekly Tai Chi for Balance classes are offered at WIDHH on Mondays from 10am to 11am for \$10/class.

For more details contact Muriel Kauffmann by phone at 604-731-2770 or by e-mail at mkauff@shaw.ca.

Meet Our Newest Board Members

At the WIDHH Annual General Meeting on Thursday, May 10, 2018 our newest Directors Chris Tam, Dr. Dean C. Powers and Muriel Kauffmann were elected to the Board. Barbara M. Brown, Dr. Eugene Lechelt, Dr. Graham Bryce and Joy Gong were re-elected to serve on the Board, along with appointed director Kimberly Wood, and Nora McKellin who is continuing her first term.



Chris Tam

I appreciate the opportunity to serve the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community through the Board of Directors of WIDHH. A Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA, CA) by training, I look forward to working with the Board and management team to advance WIDHH's service commitment to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community at large, with a focus on maintaining and strengthening WIDHH's financial health.



Dr. Dean C. Powers

I am the father of a deaf blind daughter. She is an amazing 41-year-old individual who is profoundly deaf and significantly visually impaired. Yet given her limited residual abilities, she lives a full life with support and with love. I am very interested in supporting WIDHH through my volunteer activity as a board member so that I can further assist others like my daughter who need that extra support and the resources in order to live a quality life.



Muriel Kauffmann

It would be a pleasure and an honor to serve on the WIDHH Board again. I am familiar with the services offered by the organization and believe in what we do. If I can contribute in any way, it would please me because I understand how vital our services are to so many.



Barbara M. Brown



Nora McKellin



Dr. Eugene Lechelt



Dr. Graham Bryce



Kimberly Wood



Joy Gong

Thank you so much for serving the Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. We truly appreciate all of your leadership and hard work. Your commitment to making WIDHH the best it can be is admirable and we look forward to another exciting year with each of you on the Board!

Thank You for Your Support!

WIDHH would like to extend a big “THANK YOU!” to our donors and runners for participating in the Scotiabank Charity Challenge. Thank you for helping us raise over \$5,300!



It was a warm day in Vancouver with over 6,500 participants gathered for the Scotiabank Half-Marathon and 5K on Sunday, June 24th. Team WIDHH was in great spirits and performed incredibly at the race.

The downhill course wove its way along the water, from UBC to Stanley Park. Live bands and entertainment were posted along every kilometer of the route and kept us motivated through every stride.

Thank you once again for taking part to help make a difference in the lives of BC’s Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community!



NEW Executive Director Blog

We are pleased to bring you the very first blog article from WIDHH Interim Executive Director Grace Shyng. In this month’s feature Grace is challenging you on the way you think about communication, hearing and hearing loss. Because Communication Matters.

“The Importance of Communication” can be found here:
www.widhh.com/information-library/executive-director-blog

2017 Award of Merit Recipients

This year, WIDHH presented the 2017 Award of Merit at our Annual General meeting, to amazing leaders and pioneers, in our community. The award recognizes outstanding individuals, organizations, or groups that have made a difference in the lives of Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals in BC.

We congratulate these three exceptional individuals for their hard work and dedication in helping to create a society without communication barriers.



Marla B. Gilsig is a family law and accessibility lawyer who has lived with a hearing loss since she was 2 years old. Over her career as a lawyer, she has tirelessly advocated for issues surrounding accessibility, especially for Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals. She has also been involved with many committees promoting the rights of those with hearing loss and has worked to highlight the needs of Deaf and Hard of Hearing lawyers to have better access within the judicial system.

Landon Krentz is the only Deaf arts administrator in the entire West Coast of Canada and pioneers inclusive artistic practices. He partners with theatre companies by offering shadow interpreted shows, ASL performances and stage designs that are more accessible to the Deaf Community. Most recently, Landon established an Artistic Sign Language agency that looks at employing Deaf theatre Interpreters, ASL consultants and theatre interpreters. All to further even more inclusive theatre performances.



Dr. Ruth Warick has been committed to serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. She has served in the UBC Office of Access and Diversity for more than 25 years and is now its Senior Advisor. Ruth is active in volunteering with a number of advocacy roles around diversity, access and disability. She is a dedicated leader and is widely respected authority on disability services and education, and has worked to bring broader notions of diversity to disability services at the international level.

Support Groups & Services

Head Office (at Arbutus)

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

Willow Office (at Broadway)

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Vancouver, BC V5Z 3N8
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willowinfo@widhh.come-mail

Tri-Cities Office (at Westwood)

#260 - 2755 Lougheed Highway
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to submit an article.*

www.facebook.com/WIDHHBC

www.twitter.com/WIDHH

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. Provides support, education, and socialization in learning to cope with a hearing loss; for youth to seniors, and their family and friends.
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.gvad.com

Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA) - BC Chapter

A consumer-based, non-profit working with Hard of Hearing consumers to decrease isolation and remove barriers by providing supportive environments, education, resources, referrals, and advocacy.
info@chha-bc.org www.chha-bc.org

Family Network for Deaf Children (FNDC)

A parent run non-profit supporting families with Deaf and Hard of Hearing children that use Sign Language or are interested in learning sign language.
fndc@fndc.ca www.fndc.ca

BC Balance and Dizziness Disorders Society (BADD)

BADD provides information, support, and advocacy for persons with balance, dizziness, and all vestibular disorders.
info@balanceanddizziness.org www.balanceanddizziness.org

WIDHH is supported by Public Donations, Grants, or provides services under Contract from the following: Provincial Health Services Authority, Province of British Columbia, Vancouver Foundation, Ministry of Children & Family Development, United Way of the Lower Mainland, and the City of Vancouver.



We proudly acknowledge financial assistance from the Province of British Columbia.



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Become a Member Today!

Since 1956, the Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WIDHH) has been passionately committed to addressing concerns about accessibility and quality of life for Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals in BC. WIDHH was created by community members to address their needs. Become a Member today and help us grow! Benefits of membership include our quarterly newsletter, member prices for workshops, voting privileges at our annual meetings, and more.

YES! I WANT TO BECOME A WIDHH MEMBER.

\$100 Lifetime Membership \$15 Annual Membership*

Individual Name:

Address: City: Postal Code:

Phone/TTY: E-mail:

I prefer: A printed newsletter mailed to my address above An e-newsletter sent to my email inbox above

Payment Method

My cheque is enclosed (payable to "WIDHH") Visa MasterCard

Credit Card #: Expiry Date: CVD:

Name on Card (if different than above):

Signature: Date:

Membership Eligibility

In accordance with the requirements of the Bylaws and the Society Act a person may be eligible to be accepted as a Member if they are:

- 1. nineteen (19) years of age or older Yes No
2. is ordinarily a resident in British Columbia; and Yes No
3. is interested in advancing the purposes and supporting the activities of the Society. Yes No

* Annual Members can join anytime and will expire 30 days after the next Annual General Meeting.



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Make a Difference in Your Community!

Since 1956, the Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WIDHH) has been passionately committed to addressing concerns about accessibility and quality of life for Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals in BC.

Make a one-time donation or a monthly donation to support vital programs in our community. Your gift will allow Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals to access WIDHH's services in Audiology, Counselling, Interpreting, and Communication Devices.

YES! I WANT TO SUPPORT WIDHH!

- Donation options: \$50 per month (ongoing), \$20 per month (ongoing), \$10 per month (ongoing), Other: \$_____ per month for _____ months, One-Time Donation of: \$100, \$50, \$20, Other \$_____

All donations over \$20 will automatically receive a charitable tax receipt.

Individual Donor Name: _____

Corporate Donor Organization Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone/TTY: _____ E-mail: _____

I prefer: [] A printed newsletter mailed to my address above [] An e-newsletter sent to my email inbox above

Payment Method

[] My cheque is enclosed (payable to "WIDHH")

[] Credit Card: [] Visa [] MasterCard

Credit Card #: _____ Expiry Date: ____ / ____ CVD: _____

Name on Card (if different than above): _____

What day of the month should we process your donation? _____

By signing below, I am giving my consent for WIDHH to make pre-authorized withdrawals (if I am a monthly donor) from my account or credit card. I may revoke my authorization at any time, subject to providing notice of 30 days.

Signature: _____

Date: _____