

# Annual Report







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A MESSAGE FROM THE

# **Board of Directors Chair**



**Lance Williams** 

We're pleased to share with you our annual report and reflect on the past year's achievements. Despite the unprecedented challenges we faced due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the need to align our organization to a changing world, Wavefront Centre was able to continue providing essential programs and services to our community, thanks to our dedicated staff, volunteers, and partners. This is a testament to our resilience, adaptability, and unwavering commitment to our mission.

None of this would be possible without the support of our community partners, donors, and volunteers. We are grateful for your continued support and trust in our organization.

Looking ahead, we are excited to build on our progress and continue our efforts to improve the lives of people who are Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing. We are committed to being a leader in our field and providing innovative and impactful services for years to come.

Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to our mission.

Sincerely,

Lance Williams Chair, Board of Directors A MESSAGE FROM

## **Our Chief Executive Officer**



### **CHRISTOPHER T. SUTTON**

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with pride and gratitude for our teamwork. Wavefront Centre for Communication Accessibility has always been committed to providing access to services for people who are Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing, and the accomplishments highlighted in this report are a reflection of this commitment.

Throughout the past year, we've continued to push for accessibility in all areas of life. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, we've found new ways to connect with people and provide resources to support those in need. We've seen a growing demand for our services, and we're proud to have stepped up and met that need.

Over the past year, we also saw significant progress in our ongoing efforts toward creating a more accessible and inclusive society. Our community has been unyielding in its desire to break down communication barriers and ensure everyone has equal opportunity to participate in society. And with each new success, we come closer to that goal, continuing to innovate and create solutions that help make the world a more accessible place.

As we look toward the future, we will continue to work tirelessly toward building a more inclusive society where everyone has equal access to the tools and resources they need to thrive. We are excited to see what the future holds for the Wavefront Centre community.

Thank you for your continued support.

With my best wishes,

Christopher T. Sutton Chief Executive Officer

## OUR IMPACT IN



### 25,239 CLIENTS SERVED



- 912 HEARING CLINIC NEW CLIENTS
- ASL INTERPRETING HOURS
- BETTER AT HOME
  VOLUNTEER
  KMS DRIVEN
- 93 EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS & WORKSHOPS
- WEBSITE &
  ONLINE STORE VISITS



### **Fundraising**





For more than 67 years, Wavefront Centre has provided programs and services to Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing individuals, their families, and the community.

We are honoured to continue to work toward our mission of helping to make Canada free of barriers to communication inclusion and accessibility.

Wavefront Centre is extremely appreciative of its dedicated donors whose ongoing support allows us to continue making an impact by delivering innovative programs and services to people who are Deaf, DeafBlind, Hard of Hearing and Hearing.

Our sincerest thanks to you.

### 2022 Supporters\*

Catharina Acerra Scott Anthony Nina Antoniuk Ryan Aung Valdine Baker Chervl Balanko

**Bradford and Chris Bentley** 

Mary Beck Axel Biehl Ken Birdsall Andrew Black **Anthony Bragg** Crystal Bramwell George Bryce Violet Butler Canada Summer Jobs

John Cashore Cecilia Chan Dichard Chase Yu Shan Chen An-Ting Chia City of Vancouver Ray Chouinard Gary Chow

Peter Chu

Nancy Chung Community Gaming Grant, BC

Community Volunteer Income Tax Program,

Government of Canada

Gillian Cramer **Daniel Crawford** Jackie Dagg Murray Dauk **Jeff Davis** Kenneth Dean Robert DeWreede Disability BC **Destiny Doherty** Disability Alliance BC Marjorie Drevlo Susanne Ebeling Harvey Field **Elaine Forsey** Barbara Forsyth

Annette Gardiner Grant Gilmour **Beverley Goodwin** Michelle Grant Cameron Grav Sandra Greenwood John Hampson-Thorpe

Gael Hannan Freda Hart **Tracy Hettle** Tom Higgs Lucille Hoover Darcy Hurst lean Hurst John and Gillian Innes Allan loncon

Wilda Johnston **David and Carol Johnston** 

Darshan Kaur Janet Kav Rhonda Keown Paul Kjekstad Wendy Knight Ernest Kurbis Catherine Lafferty Albert Lee Johnathan Levitt Yi Nuo Liang Nicholas Lilev

Yu Liu Douglas MacLeod Laura Maione Susan Masters Kevin McCort Patricia McCuaig Mary McIlwaine Sandra McKellar Beverley McKenna Mariza Mendoza

Sandra Lim

Gail Milner Patricia Moschenross Michael Nagel Jan New

**New Horizons for Seniors Program** 

Hang Nguyen Linda Obiri-Darko Brian Oikawa

Ontario College of Art & Design

University Open Door Group Pamella Ottem Rita Parakh Margaret Paris

**Penny Pasnak** Shirley Pearson Ron Peterson Rond Phil Ellon Dankin John Pierce Robert Ponto Anna Pritchard Wanita Rangihuna Beryl Rathbone Wayne Roberts Joan Robison Paul Roth Veronika Sans Mary Schmok Sandra Sellner Nassa Selwyn Paul Shatto Ian Shaw Ken Smith **Richard Smith** Flaine Spiles

**Bruce and Patricia Stephen Diane Stewart Beverley Stewart** Jay Storey Christopher Sutton Kathleen Swain Fila Tanner **Anona Thorne** Mark Tindle

**Bonita Squires** 

Milton and Jackie Toft Grace Tsang Gerrit Van Staalduinen Rosemary Wallis Raymond Wargo

Ruth Warick George and Ghulam Wasty Sandra Webster

LaPaine Wiehe **Shirley Wong** Raymond Wong Suzanne Woollev The Azrieli Foundation United Way BC Vancouver Foundation Yincong Yang Dennis Yen



# Accessible Communication Services

Accessible Communication Services supports the communication needs of our communities and clients in many different ways including the provision of American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreting, Captioning, ASL Translation, Plain Language and Audio Description services.

169

18,679

INTERPRETING HOURS

We established a Bridge Program for new graduates of the Douglas College Interpreter Education Program to provide them with mentoring and on the job experience. In addition, we provide placements for students enrolled in this program.



422

CAPTIONING APPOINTMENTS

We offered virtual and in-person drop-in interpreting services for Deaf clients. We also arranged for interpreting services for our annual Tax Event whereby accountants volunteer to complete tax returns for Deaf clients.

During the year, we laid the foundation for pilot and research projects for the provision of virtual interpreting service delivery.



# Audiology & Communication Device Program

2022 continued to be a challenging year due to the impact of COVID-19 variants. Our clinics remained open, providing clients with efficient and safe services. We were excited to finalize plans and details for the extensive construction of an additional clinic in Kitsilano, providing a space for our clients and staff that is contemporary and accessible.



10,653

TOTAL APPOINTME<u>NTS</u>



6,560

SERVED





We continued to grow our Lend an Ear program and also saw the return of audiology students from UBC for internships.

We introduced a new client management system and two or our locations became paperless.

Our dedicated clinicians continued to learn from our clients in terms of how to best serve them. We are inspired every day by our clients; encouraging feedback and success stories.



"There is more to Wavefront Centre than just audiology – as important as audiology is. It is so much more. It has a range of services and programs that respond to community needs and is much needed. I feel that, as a social agency, there is less pressure on me as a client and more product options than would otherwise be the case. I find that the staff understand what it means to have a hearing loss."

MIRON GAZDA, CLIENT OF WAVEFRONT CENTRE



# Community Outreach Services



Our Better at Home Program continued to thrive, matching volunteers to Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing seniors. We provided social companionship and assistance with everyday needs whether grocery shopping, obtaining medications or going to the bank.

17,676

TOTAL ACCESSIBLE COMMUNICATIONS APPOINTMENTS

We continued to offer workshops on devices and apps to increase client digitization skills. Workshops were offered in person as we began to see an easing up of pandemic restrictions.

For the first time, we offered dedicated digitization workshops for DeafBlind clients. We continued to offer intervenor services for them as well as arranged for social outings.

4746

Our employment services included individual counselling, placement and supports, workplace assessments and interventions. We also provided workshops for newcomers to assist them with employment tools such as payroll deductions, benefits, and the employment culture.

BETTER AT HOME PROGRAM VOLUNTEER KMS DRIVEN

We hosted an annual event to recognize our volunteers during National Volunteer Week. Our community work also involved serving Ukrainian refugees, providing representations about the needs of Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing persons and partnering in projects with other organizations, such as the OCAD University, to eliminate communication barriers.



The first phase of our three-year Breaking Barriers: Empowering Primary Care Providers project was completed. The project is a collaboration with the University of British Columbia, funded by the Vancouver Foundation and Michael Smith Health Research BC and co-led by Dr. Brenda Poon and Dr. Lorienne, Jenstad

As a central part of our community-based approach, we formed a multidisciplinary community advisory group that provides advice and input at each phase of the Breaking Barriers research. We conducted a scoping literature review and administered a survey, where we heard back from 370 primary care providers across British Columbia about their knowledge and attitudes on hearing health, practices, and barriers and facilitators to making referrals. We established new research relationships with regional health authorities, United Way of the Lower Mainland, and BC Divisions of Family Practice and widely shared information about the study in the BC Medical Journal. We also presented our preliminary findings at the UBC School of Audiology and Speech Sciences Colloquium Series and the Wavefront Centre World Hearing Day webinar.

We pursued new research grant opportunities including collaborations with the Council of Canadians with Disabilities and the Institute for Research and Development on Inclusion and Society, focused on advancing knowledge on barriers to accessibility and developing recommendations to inform accessibility standards across Canada.



## Community Engagement

In 2022, we continued working with partners and government officials to promote accessibility in all aspects of life and in the development of standards and regulations for federal and provincial accessibility legislation.

We continued to expand our profile as the go-to experts on communication accessibility issues with government and other organizations throughout Canada and abroad. As well, our staff sit on numerous committees to ensure our communities are represented, including:

- Accessibility Standards Canada
- Accessibility Standards Technical Committees, Government of British Columbia
- Canadian Standards Association
- Elections Canada
- Government of Canada
- Hearing Health Care Alliance of Canada
- McMasters University
- Neil Squire Society
- Ontario College of Art & Design University
- Pan-Canadian Disability Alliance
- Rick Hansen Foundation



SOCIAL MEDIA

3,492



Our website | 37.317 New Visitors

6,194 ReturningVisitors



E-NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS

4,365



"Wavefront Centre Intervenor broke down a lot of barriers for me. With her, I could go out of my home to explore the big, wide world.

The intervenor described the world to me, and I could see a clearer picture around me.

Many things were difficult for me to see, and the intervenor described to me in a way that I could fully 'see'. "

Wavefront Centre DeafBlind Services Client

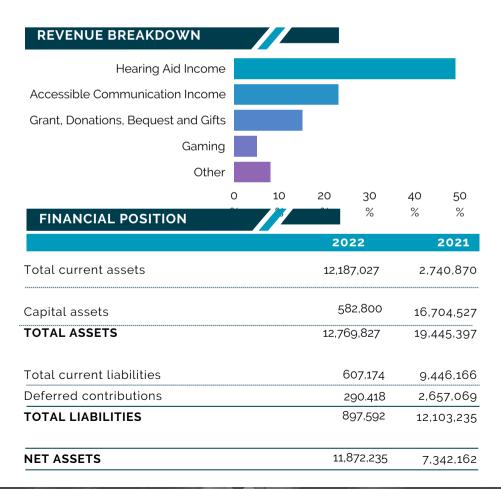


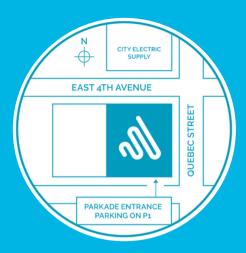
# FINANCIAL STATEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022

### STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

	2022	2021
Net Revenues		
<u></u>	3,669,460	4,159,404
Expenses	5,648,875	4,373,887
Revenue under expenses before	(1,979,415)	(214,483)
Amortization	(335,513)	(585,136)
Gain on sale of Property	6,845,001	
REVENUE OVER(UNDER) EXPENSES	4,530,073	(799,619)





### **MOUNT PLEASANT**

2005 Quebec Street, Vancouver, BC V5T 2Z6

Phone 604-736-7391 TTY 604-736-2527 info@wavefrontcentre.ca

### **KITSILANO**

#580-2184 West Broadway Vancouver, BC, V6K 2E1

Phone 778-329-0870 TTY 778-329-0874 audiologykits@wavefrontcentre.ca





#### **TRI-CITIES**

#210-2755 Lougheed Hwy Port Coquitlam, BC, V3B 5Y9

Phone 604-942-7397 TTY 604-942-7380 audiologytri@wavefrontcentre.ca



Wavefront Centre for Communication Accessibility is a BC-based, charitable not-for-profit organization operating as a social enterprise. Wavefront Centre delivers a full range of innovative programs and services including Accessible Communications, Audiology and Communication Devices, Community Outreach and Community Research that assist people who are Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing in achieving full communication accessibility.



wavefrontcentre.ca