



family network for deaf children

and our deaf program

deaf youth today

Winter Edition – January 2007

Newsletter

FNDC's primary goal is to gather and share information with deaf and hard of hearing youth, their families, as well as the professional and social communities that support them.



our lives bending our necks into the backseat of the car trying to communicate. There is nothing worse than a long drive on a winding highway to Whistler with your neck turned. Makes you want to lose your lunch, and spend many hours in the chiropractor's office!

Then, the DVD player entered our family. Finally, our deaf child was included in the activity for the long drive. Much to our surprise, dvd's now all have subtitles (what a bonus!). My family isn't a bunch of numb brains watching dvd's non stop (well, actually, sometimes they do), but watching a 90 movie during a 4 hour trip to Kelowna, can be nice way to pass the time for those in the backseat to laugh and share something together.

The other bonus to the dvd player: driving hearing kids on field trips! When a deaf child is mainstreamed with hearing students – the inevitable happens: the classroom field trip or drive to the sporting event. Moms of deaf kids know that this can be one of the most heartwrenching experiences. You live in a world believing that your deaf child is included. BUT, the minute four hearing kids climb into your van – that dream begins to change instantly. Picture this: teenage girls: 1 deaf, 4 hearing. They know some signs, they fingerspell. You begin to drive. Soon you hear the laughter, the gossip and the teenage girls are non-stop chatter. Your deaf child stares out the window. You can feel the lump way down in your throat. Well- enter the dvd player yet again: you pop on a movie or a 30 minute episode of Friends and they laugh together and share something in common! Your deaf child doesn't stare out the window. You drive along drinking your coffee feeling for 30 short minutes that life is "ok"

Have I solved the issue of real inclusion? ABSOLUTELY NOT. Have I made a situation a little bit more inclusive? I like to think so. So many more situations ahead!

Headlines

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2007

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas holiday and a good start to 2007. Considering the month of December is generally focused on shopping and purchasing - I thought I would write about one of the purchases that our family made that has been a great investment: the dvd player in our van!

Whether it's a built in model or a portable dvd player – this little machine has been a lifesaver countless times over in our family.

I recently was listening to a radio talk show that criticized families for allowing their kids to drive passively and watch dvd's. I almost phoned in to give my 'two cents' worth - but I didn't.

In a family with all hearing family members – a family drive in the dark can be a pleasant experience sharing stories, jokes and possibly even singing. For a deaf family member, this can be one of the most isolating times to spend with your family – particularly on a long drive.

My life in the van (before the DVD player) was painful – literally painful. Ask any mother of a deaf child – whether they have neck problems? Almost all of us do. WHY? We spend

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FNDC and DYT Update



Videophones

We have only a few videophones left. Please log on to www.fndc.ca to apply for a free videophone.

Re: Tech Support

As you are aware, the videophone technology side is a bit complicated, and many families have experienced technical difficulties. For this reason, we have extended our technology support until March 15th, 2007. Please email: vp@fndc.ca for support. After this date, technology support will not be available.

EMAIL, EMAIL, EMAIL

Some of you have requested to be placed on our email list, and/or receive our newsletter and updates via email. We have many emails that have "bounced" back as people forget to send us their NEW email addresses. Also, you need to add us to your safe senders list.

Please add: fndcnewsletter@shaw.ca and fndc@shaw.ca to your safe senders list.

As well, when sending FNDC or DYT an email, can you make sure you put something in the subject line that identifies you or the topic. For example: Buddy Program, assistance with interpreting, Summer Programs for deaf youth, etc.

On average, we receive approximately 300 spam messages per day, and its easy for important emails to be LOST!

Next FNDC Newsletter

Our next newsletter deadline will be March 6th. We welcome articles, flyers etc. The revision and mailing process takes approximately 2 to 3 weeks. You may expect your Newsletter before the end of March.

Deaf Youth Today Buddy Program

Deaf Youth Today's Buddy Program is up and running. David McGregor has taken a leave of absence due to illness in his family. Our thoughts are with David and his family.

In the interim, we Forrest Smith will be keeping the Buddy Program running smoothly. All requests for Buddies can be sent to: buddies@fndc.ca

If you are a deaf youth and are interested in training to become a Buddy, we look forward to hearing from you.



B.C. Association of Social Workers Calls on Government to Respect Court Ruling on Youth with Disabilities

(FNDC Newsletter Editor's Note: This is important information for parents of Deaf Plus children transitioning to adulthood)

BC Association of Social Workers – For Immediate Release December 21, 2006

The provincial government must create a new eligibility process for youth with lifelong disabilities, following BC Court of Appeal's denial of government appeal of *Fahlman v CLBC*, says BC Association of Social Workers

The BC Association of Social Workers applauds the Court of Appeal's decision to dismiss the provincial government's legal appeal of Judge Chamberlist's ruling, *Fahlman v. CLBC*. The government's appeal represented a legal fight to deny services to people with a lifelong neurological disability. The appeal flew in the face of the evidence that had been presented to Judge Chamberlist, and contradicted the substantial expertise of professional social workers and others in the community living field.

The dismissal of the government's appeal is a major victory for every youth like Neil Fahlman, who qualified for supportive programs and services from Community Living BC, but upon turning 19 faced the immediate end of that support. It is also a victory for mothers like Fiona Gow and the parents she represented in her fight to have services in place for her son. The Appeal Court decision means that cutting off services to youth at age 19, who have a lifelong disability but whose IQ exceeds 70, is now legally invalid and must stop, says Linda Korbin, Executive Director of BCASW. BCASW child and family welfare spokesperson Paul Jenkinson says it is now time for government to take the misdirected energy it invested in a court appeal and put that expertise to work developing criteria for service, a bridge that will allow youth with lifelong neurological disorders to move confidently out of adolescence knowing that an adequate level of service and supports will be in place throughout their adult lives.

BCASW recommends that:

1. government forego any further appeals and publicly acknowledge that the IQ 70 criteria will no longer be used as an eligibility requirement for services provided by Community Living BC.
2. government act in a timely fashion to produce a new process which ensures that young citizens with lifelong

cognitive-developmental disabilities are not denied service in the future.

3. the eligibility process be constructed in such a way that persons with FASD, various forms of autism and those with other pervasive developmental disorders are provided appropriate levels of lifelong support.
4. government seek a redistribution of federal and provincial budgets, recognizing that an increase in support services does not have to produce a huge increase in overall spending. It is likely that the new focus of supporting this group of adults will be equal to or reduce overall budgets, if there is a redistribution of designated funds (ie reducing money spent in the criminal justice system while increasing other budgets for supported housing or supports to independent living).
5. government, and specifically CLBC, make public and easily accessible information about their new eligibility process.

BCASW and social workers practicing at CLBC are carefully watching how this government will respond to the court's denial of their appeal. BCASW encourages the government to move rapidly so that persons with these cognitive disabilities are able to more successfully engage in life.

Contact Information

Paul Jenkinson, MSW

Chair, BCASW Child Welfare and Family Committee
pjenkinson@shaw.ca / 1 604 852 0759

Linda Korbin, MSW RSW

Executive Director
BC Association of Social Workers
402 - 1755 West Broadway
Vancouver BC V6J 4S5
tel 604 730 9111 / 1 800 665 4747
fax 604 730 9112
lkorbin@bcasw.org / www.bcasw.org



Douglas College Student Interpreters

Going to an event?

Looking for a student volunteer interpreter?

Students in the Department of Sign Language Interpretation at Douglas College offer volunteer interpreting services for events where professional interpreters are not provided. All requests are reviewed by department faculty.

Please make your request at least two weeks in advance of the event and include all the following information:

- Date?
- Where?
- What time? (start and finish time)
- What is the event?
- How can we contact you? We need your e-mail address or phone number.
(If you do not provide this information we cannot provide student interpreters.)

The best way to make a request for a student interpreter is by e-mail to: intr@douglas.bc.ca

Availability

Students are available to provide volunteer interpreting services only if they are not in classes and will attend all events in a team of two. A student will reply to your message within two-three days so you know we have received your request.

Students are generally not available from Christmas to the end of February each year because second-year students are out of town on practicum and first-year students do not start volunteering until the end of February.

All requests for volunteers will be checked by department faculty. Students provide free interpreting service to help them learn how to interpret and work with Deaf people in the community. Your requests to have students interpret for you helps prepare them to be skilled professional interpreters.

Students cannot provide interpreting service at any assignment which has funding available to pay professional interpreters. We also cannot provide service for the following settings:

- Legal
- Medical
- Mental Health (counsellors)
- Police interviews
- ICBC interviews
- School-related activities

If you are not sure if your request is appropriate for students, please send it to us and we will let you know if it's possible for students to attend. Examples of the kind of events where students provide interpreting include:

- Family reunions
- Variety of Sporting events or lessons
- Co-op housing meetings
- Bible study groups
- Cub Scouts, etc.
- Deaf children's activities
- Children's activities that Deaf parents wish to attend

Kids Sign Language Workshops!

What?

Workshops for hearing children, **ages 8-12**, to learn basic American Sign Language (ASL). Kids will learn how to fingerspell and the signs for animals, colours, numbers and small sentences.

When?

Workshop 1: **Mondays** Jan. 8 - Feb. 5, 2007
Workshop 2: **Mondays** Feb. 12 - Mar. 12, 2007

Time?

3:30pm - 4:30pm

Where?

Provincial Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing
4334 Victory Street, Burnaby

Cost?

Only **\$25.00** per workshop!!! (5 classes)



To enroll your child please contact Deaf Children's Society of B.C.
at **604-525-6056 (voice)**
Or email Bev Charlton: bcharlton@deafchildren.bc.ca

Remember TO MARK THIS DATE:

March 21, 2007

PBS documentary explores 200 years of deaf life in America

(received via e-mail)

"Through Deaf Eyes," a two-hour PBS documentary exploring nearly 200 years of Deaf life in America, will air early next year. The film was inspired by the exhibition, "History Through Deaf Eyes," curated by Jack R. Gannon of Gallaudet University.

The documentary will air nationally on PBS on Wednesday, March 21 at 9 p.m – Eastern Time (check local listings).

The film presents the shared experiences of American history - family life, education, work, and community connections - from the perspective of deaf citizens. Interviews include community leaders, historians, and deaf Americans with diverse views on language use, technology and identity.

Bringing a Deaf cinematic lens to the film are six artistic works by Deaf media artists and filmmakers: Wayne Betts, Renee Visco, Tracey Salaway, Kimby Caplan, Arthur Luhn, and Adrean Mangiardi.

Poignant, sometimes humorous, these films draw on the media artists' own lives and are woven throughout the documentary. But the core of the film remains the larger story of Deaf life in America – a story of conflicts,

prejudice and affirmation that reaches the heart of what it means to be human.

Major funding for "Through Deaf Eyes" is provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities, Corporation for Public Broadcasting, PBS, The Annenberg Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. Private individuals have also contributed to the funding of this project. The extensive outreach campaign is funded in part by Sign Language Associates. Outreach partners are the National Association for the Deaf, Gallaudet University, the National Technical Institute for the Deaf at Rochester Institute of Technology, and California State University-Northridge. As part of the outreach campaign, numerous local organizations, some in association with their public television stations, will mount events and discussions exploring the issues raised in the film.

A comprehensive Web site, found at www.pbs.org, accompanies the film. The site includes interviews with the deaf filmmakers whose work is featured in the documentary, while also inviting viewers to submit their own stories, photographs, and films. These will become part of the archival collection of Gallaudet University. A companion book is being published by *Gallaudet University Press*.

Well Being Program Open House & 15 Years Celebration

FRIDAY, January 26, 2007

2:00 PM-6:00 PM
#300-4211 Kingsway
Burnaby, BC
(near Patterson Skytrain)

More information? Contact Lisa Anderson
TTY: 604-456-0901 Voice: 604-456-0900
Toll-free TTY: 1-800-949-1155
Email: lisa.anderson@vch.ca

Leadership Classes in Langley

Youth Leadership 1 (ages 16-18) course offered by Langley Recreation. It offers Certification.

Great training for youth.

see www.city.langley.bc.ca/reconnect
or the City of Langley Winter Recreation Guide.

Remember if you register, you need to contact DYT to arrange for your interpreting! (www.fndc.ca)



Participate In TELECLASSES

A Teleclass is by phone only. (Not by Internet or Video phone)

It is easy to participate in the Teleclasses ! Just pick up your phone and call the number below on the dates and times give in the flyer!

Call Toll Free from anywhere in BC (see flyer for dates and time)

1- 866-596-5277 and give this ID # 6784460

Date	Time – 8:00pm to 9:00pm	Presenter
Jan 30/07	<p>Raising A Responsible Child</p> <p>This workshop discusses what being responsible means and a variety of ways to teach our children to be responsible. We will cover not only being responsible for certain tasks but being responsible for our actions.</p>	Barbara Desmarais
Feb 27/07	<p>Street Proofing Your Child</p> <p>How do we teach our children who is trustworthy and who is not? In this class parents will learn what information their kids need to know so they are prepared if faced with a potentially dangerous situation.</p>	Barbara Desmarais
March 13/07	<p>Your Child's Self Esteem</p> <p>Children who have a high sense of self-worth are better able to make friends, are not afraid to make mistakes, recover quickly from adversity and are more likely to be leaders than followers. This class will give parents strategies that promote self-esteem in both themselves and their children.</p>	Barbara Desmarais

... They weren't kidding after all. How the earth can I capture him?



Family Thanksgiving 2006

(submitted by Kim Sanderson. Kim and her husband Paul live in South Surrey and are the parents of two adult children, Ashley and Cole (Deaf).)



This year a group of families decided to join at a special Thanksgiving Dinner— one where sign language would be the common language at the dinner table. So we booked a hall with a big old fashioned kitchen, sent out emails, collected some money, bought the groceries and had ourselves a wonderful, *inclusive* dinner.

In the end more than 50 people gathered to jointly prepare the feast, complete with turkeys, ham and even fish. A very, very, very long table was set for 55. Many joined in the kitchen to prepare the food and judge the quantities that would be required to feed our large family. A dinner

It is wonderful when your family becomes your friends, and your friends become your family.

prayer was signed by Braydon Walterhouse, the teens sat at one end, the 'elders' sat at the other, and in-between where all the parents. Doug L. (the grand father) took photos of 'his family' throughout the afternoon, the dinner and the walks on the nearby Crescent Beach. As with most large family gathering, the best entertainment was provided by the Forrest and Cathy Smith's wee children, Declan and Gemma.

Rumour has it, this is now an annual event. You just never know the result of a few emails....

WBP's Youth Workshops Survey Deadline extended

Season's Greetings!

Remember, in last issue I was talking about a Youth Workshops survey to find out what you want for workshops? The DVD's are ready! The deadline has been extended to: **January 31, 2007**.

Are you a Youth between 13 and 25? The Well-Being Program needs to find out what YOU want and WHERE you want these learning workshops. Workshops are where you can learn new information and have fun picking up new skills, and practice these new skills. Also, you can enjoy socializing at the workshops with other Deaf and hard of hearing youth.

You can find the paper survey in this newsletter, please feel free to fill it out and return it to the information supplied below.

Do you want to see the survey in sign language? We have DVD's. The DVD's are a great source because they explain each of the different topics in depth so you can choose which topics you are interested in attending.

Contact me if you want to receive a DVD survey to help you fill out the paper surveys. My e-mail address is: lisa.Anderson@vch.ca and my TTY phone number is: 604-456-0901

Parents, Teachers, please support and encourage your children or students to fill the surveys out!

Please mail in the completed survey to:

Lisa Anderson, Workshop Coordinator
Well-Being Program, #300 – 4211 Kingsway, Burnaby, BC

I will be happy to come to your school, or programs to give presentations or to assist in Youth filling these surveys out.

Best wishes to you all for the 2007 year, Lisa Anderson



6th Annual Canadian - Chinese Association of the Deaf

Chinese Lunar New Year Dinner Party - The Year of the Pig

Grand Pacific Restaurant

#108 - 1015 Columbia St., New Westminster

Saturday, Feb, 17, 2007 – TIME: 5:00PM ~ 9:00PM | door Prizes, Games, 50/50 Raffles

Adults {10 years and older} \$20 | Seniors {60 years and older} \$15 | Child {3 to 9 years} \$8.00 | Child under 2 years Free

Buy tickets before deadline on Saturday, Feb., 10, 2007

Please contact Chairperson: Deonilde Chan (Vancouver, Richmond) E-mail: deonildechan_1115@hotmail.com
OR Sandra Fennings (Surrey, Langley) E-mail: sfennings@yahoo.ca

Youth Workshop Survey Well-Being Program

Thank you for taking your time to fill this survey out. Your input will help us decide what workshops we should provide to Deaf and Hard of Hearing Youth in British Columbia. Please circle your choices.

1. Would you be interested in attending workshops? Circle one

Yes No Maybe

2. If so, what type of workshops would you like to see? (can circle more than one)

a. Internet safety



b. Sexuality

c. Yoga/Well Being



d. Time management



e. Living in an Apartment – Tenant vs. Landlord Rights

f. Boundaries in the Deaf/HH community



g. Transitions

h. Relationships/Friendships



i. Dinner-Table Syndrome



j. Other _____

3. Why do you think workshops would be important/valuable?

4. Where do you live, where is your hometown? (circle only one)

- | | | | |
|---------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| a. Vancouver | f. Burnaby | k. Prince Rupert | p. Nanaimo |
| b. Coquitlam | g. New Westminster | l. Kelowna | q. Victoria |
| c. Surrey | h. Vanderhoof | m. Vernon | r. Courtenay |
| d. Langley | i. Terrace | n. Kamloops | s. Port Alberni |
| e. Port Moody | j. Prince George | o. Sunshine Coast | t. Other: _____ |

5. Where would you prefer workshops be held? (can circle more than one)

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| a. Vancouver | d. Surrey |
| b. Burnaby | e. Langley |
| c. New Westminster | f. Other _____ |

turn over page...

6. Are you willing/able to commute to workshops? How would you travel? (can circle more than one)



- a. SkyTrain/Bus
- b. Carpool
- c. Drive own vehicle
- d. Walk
- e. Ride bicycle
- f. Taxi
- g. Other: _____

7. Would you prefer a workshop which is: (can circle more than one)

- a. Presented in ASL (Deaf presenter)
- b. Hearing Presenter with Interpreter
- c. Lets you bring information home
- d. Group discussion
- e. Panel-style
- f. Power Point
- g. Role play
- h. Other: _____

8. Are you: Please circle only one.

- a. Hard of Hearing
- b. Deaf Signing
- c. Deaf Oral
- d. Both Oral and Signing

9. How old are you? Please circle only one.

- a. 13 – 15
- b. 16 – 17
- c. 18 – 19
- d. 20 - 21
- e. 22 and up, specify age: _____

10. Are you: (You can circle more than one)

- a. High school student
- b. College student
- c. University student
- d. working part time
- e. working full-time
- f. going to school part time, working part time
- g. I just graduated from high school, I'm not sure what I am doing
- h. Other: _____

11. Would you attend general Deaf community workshops with other Deaf adults?

Yes No

12. If No, why not? (ie. prefer workshops with other youth...)

13. One last question (not on the DVD) How long do you prefer workshops to be? Your time sitting there and learning?

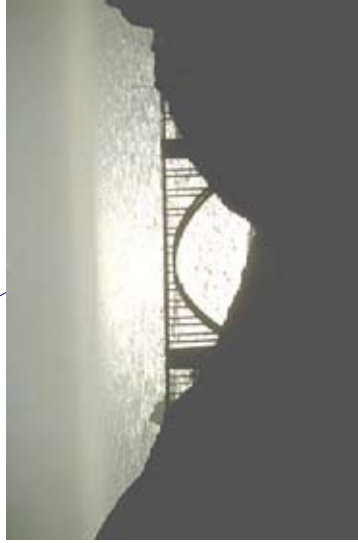
- a. 1 hour
- b. 1.5 hours
- c. 2 hours
- d. 2 half hours
- e. 3 hours

Thank you for your time to fill this out, we look forward to providing workshops and community education that YOU want in 2007.

Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind Well-Being Program

Our Philosophy

Preferred Interpreting Services is a community-minded organization, a collective of professional sign-language interpreters providing the language bridge of interpretation services in a variety of settings.



- PI supports the community. We donate a portion of all revenue to various charity organizations.
- PI supports future interpreters. We have a bursary program to assist students studying to become sign-language interpreters.
- PI believes in the benefit of mentoring. Often we will send a team of interpreters to work together and encourage the ongoing learning in our profession.

PREFERRED
INTERPRETERS
Sign Language
Interpreting Services

Bridging the
gap between
communities
through
language

Preferred Interpreters



CELL/TEXT: 604-351-4333
SUSI@PISIGNS.COM
WWW.PISIGNS.COM



www.pisigns.com

in need.



How to work with an Interpreter

Use the following guidelines upon hiring an interpreter, to maximize the effectiveness of your investment:

1. Meet with the interpreter for a few minutes before the event begins to clarify any language issues that may arise such as; unique vocabulary, technical terms, acronyms and jargon.
2. Think about seating arrangements and lighting, and to provide the interpreter with any written materials if available.
3. Reserve seats for the deaf participants that provide a clear view of both the speaker and interpreter, though they may still choose to sit elsewhere.
4. Provide good lighting so the interpreter can be seen.
5. Talk directly to and look at the deaf person, not the interpreter.
6. Avoid directing comments to the interpreter (i.e. "Tell him..." or "Ask her...").
7. Whatever the interpreter hears will be interpreted. Do not ask the interpreter to censor any portion of the conversation.

Why hire a professional interpreter?

Signing adequately is vastly different from professional interpreting. While a person who 'knows sign language' can generally converse with deaf people, qualified interpreters can deliver the translation smoothly, accurately, and impartially, adjusting to specialized terminology. Interpreters will say everything that is signed, and sign everything that is spoken. They will not add to, edit, or censor the conversation.

Why PI?

When you hire a Preferred Interpreter, you are also helping the community. Preferred Interpreters donates a portion of every contract to various charities. When you hire a PI interpreter, not only are you providing access to the deaf individual you are servicing, you are also helping support the local and global communities

How we work

Qualified sign-language interpreters are required almost everywhere. Deaf people have a right to have full and equal access to their surroundings. This can be achieved by hiring a qualified professional sign-language interpreter.

There are many ways to hire a sign-language interpreter, but you can have peace of mind that you will get quality service while supporting the community when you chose an interpreter who is a *Preferred Interpreter*.

PI interpreters are all members of a National Interpreting Association to ensure they are qualified and confident in the interpreting setting. If you have any concerns or questions, they will be addressed by the interpreter coordinator to ensure quality service.



Why Hire a WAVLI Member?

(submitted by Western Association of Visual Language Interpreters)

WAVLI, the Westcoast Association of Visual Language Interpreters, is currently comprised of approximately 145 Active members, each one of them members of **AVLIC**, the Association of Visual Language Interpreters of Canada. **WAVLI** is committed to maintaining the highest professional and ethical standards in the interpreting community.

As professional interpreters, we strongly recommend that you hire individuals who are members of these two professional associations as each **WAVLI** and **AVLIC** interpreter is:

- dedicated to providing the highest quality interpretation services available today
- up to date with respect to new developments in the field of interpretation and
- is professionally obliged to adhere to the association's Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Professional Conduct

Should an interpreter's behaviour seem inappropriate when he/she is interpreting for you, you are encouraged to contact WAVLI with your concerns as grievance and mediation procedures are in place to resolve problems.

How do you know whether or not an interpreter is a WAVLI member?

Every Active member of WAVLI and AVLIC receives a one-year membership card, renewed annually provided the interpreter remains in good standing. For example, an interpreter may have been a member at some point in the past, but is no longer. To ensure the interpreter you are hiring is a member in good standing with their professional associations, you should ask to see their current membership card.

We continue to try our very best to serve the requirements of the BC Deaf and hearing communities. If you are interested in learning more about WAVLI, please visit our website at www.wavli.com.

Feedback for new book?

I'm currently working on a book for parents and caregivers on the topic of using American Sign Language with young children age 0-3 years. If you'd like to share your thoughts and stories on the subject regarding children you've worked with (or your own children!), please do so on this webpage: http://www.weehands.com/share_your_story.htm

Please share this message with other parents, teachers and therapists you know!

Cheers,
Sara Bingham, Founder
WeeHands™
Website: <http://www.weehands.com>

SalsaSign

Georgia Public Broadcasting and AASD/GT Center for Accessible Technology in Sign (CATS) announce the availability of SalsaSign. It is a children's show like Sesame Street with signers added.

To access it go to:
www-static.cc.gatech.edu/program/cats

49th Biennial NAD Conference

Save the Date!



The 49th Biennial Conference of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 7-11, 2008. Pre-conference activities for delegates begin on July 6, 2008.

All conference activities will take place in the New Orleans Marriott at the French Quarter. The theme of the conference is: "Together, We Move Forward".

Information about the conference will be forthcoming. Be sure to check the NAD website often! www.nad.org



Canada's Senate - available in ASL- ONLINE

FNDC editor's note: parents and teachers – please mark this site, as this nine part series is available on the internet and is a really important resource particularly for high school deaf students as they study Canada's parliamentary system.

The Senate of Canada's nine-part educational video is now available in American Sign Language (ASL) and Quebec Sign Language (LSQ). The video provides an overview of the Senate's role and structure and the work of senators in the Senate Chamber, in Committees and around the country. To view the video-clips, visit:

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/information/about/process/Senate/senateFilm/SenFilmToc-e.asp>

International Volunteer Opportunity

I am a volunteer with Ikando (www.ikando.org). We are planning a charitable build of a library for the "Cape Coast School for the Deaf" in Ghana and are currently recruiting international volunteers for the build in July 2007. For detailed information on the project please visit www.volunteerbuild.org

We would love to have deaf volunteers join us during the build in Ghana, as they also show interest in the school's deaf students and are able to communicate with them.

For more Information:
Helen Bertschil - helen@ikando.org

Deaflympics – February 1 to 10th, 2007 in Salt Lake City, Utah



D/deaf Athletes from around the world compete in a variety of winter sports.

For more information: www.2007deaflympics.com



The David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies

Department of Educational Psychology
University of Alberta

Invites You to a Free Public Lecture

A Global Comparison of Deaf Education

Presenters: David Mason, Linda Cundy, and Daphne Eng Foong Mei

David Mason, Ph.D.: Dr. Mason has been teacher at the Alberta School for the Deaf and a Deaf Education Professor at York University in Toronto. He is an avid participant in the Deaf and the general community and is a passionate human rights advocate. Dr. Mason is a voracious reader, an article writer, and an ASL-English video media developer.

Linda Cundy, M.A.: Linda Cundy has been a teacher and acting vice-principal at the Alberta School for the Deaf. She is the Education Consultant for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Edmonton Regional Educational Consulting Services with Edmonton Public Schools and also teaches for the Deafness Studies Certificate Program at Lakeland College. Ms. Cundy is well known for her work within the Deaf community and as a passionate human rights advocate for the Deaf.

Daphne Eng Foong Mei: Daphne is a student from Malaysia attending Grant MacEwan College for the diploma program with specialization in Disability Studies. She hopes to eventually transfer to the rehabilitation program. Daphne aspires to become a leader in the Deaf community in Malaysia when she completes her studies in Edmonton.

About the Presentation:

Linda and Dave will discuss their observations of the educational systems for Deaf and hard of hearing in El Salvador and Colombia based on their travel experiences. Daphne will discuss her experiences as a deaf student in Malaysia. The objective of their presentations is to provide an opportunity to gain a deeper insight into the similarities and differences between the education systems. A Question-Answer session will follow the conclusion of the presentations.

When: Thursday February 8, 2007

Time: 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Where: 2-115 Education North, Education Building, University of Alberta

ASL/English interpretation and Real-Time Captioning will be provided. Wheelchair Accessible. Refreshments will be provided after the lecture.

For further information: Contact Dr. Debra Russell at debra.russell@ualberta.ca or (780) 492-1156.



BABY Sign Language DVD's

Selena Lohan & Max Fomitchev (world renown deaf Mime Max-i-mime) of Mimic Baby Sign Language are the creator of the first and only all-Canadian Baby Sign Language DVD "Mimic Me" and she has celebrity babies on her radar. Mimic Baby's *edutainment* DVDs have been selected to contribute to the illustrious BOOM BOOM ROOM which is swag for celebrity babies! Held during the pre-parties at next months Golden Globe Awards (airing Jan.11).

Selling their DVD on line at <http://www.mimicbaby.com> the couple have had orders from as far away as New Jersey, Switzerland, and Australia. "Famous or not, we all have the same things in common", say Lohan, "we know signing with babies helps, and we want the best for our children."

For further info: Selena Lohan 604.687.0425, selena@mimicbaby.com

Are you interested in learning more about Cancer?

Are you interested in being healthy?

Do you want to learn about easy steps to help prevent over 50% of all cancers?

COME to Canadian Cancer Society's Health Promotion workshop!
(it's only one night so you have a choice of which night you want to attend)

It is the place where you can learn about cancer and how you can prevent cancer from affecting you and your loved ones.

The Health Promotion workshop will be in ASL!

When: January 17 & 19, 2006 (Wednesday and Friday) – you can pick
Where: A106, Burnaby South Secondary School, 5455 Rumble Street, Burnaby
Time: 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Who: Cecilia Tung, Deaf Outreach Consultant for the Canadian Cancer Society

Free refreshments!

Please RVSP by email or TTY by Sunday, January 14 to ensure there's enough food for everyone.

Do you have questions?

Email: deafoutreachcancer@yahoo.ca or TTY 604-738-4644

One more workshop will be offered on a Saturday - details to be announced soon

This workshop is provided by Canadian Cancer Society and Greater Vancouver Association of the Deaf



15th World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf

The 15th World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf will be held in Madrid, Spain, July 16-22, 2007.

Every four years Deaf people gather to participate in the World Congresses organized by the WFD. There, they approve the resolutions and recommendations that make up the four-year action guidelines for the Board and General Secretariat. The host country of this great event is responsible for the organization and technical management of the Congress, in close cooperation with the General Secretariat.

Among Congress participants there are official delegates of each member country, professionals, political authorities, representatives of groups that support the Deaf community, participants of the cultural programme and thousands of Deaf people from all over the world.

In July, 2007, Madrid will have the privilege of being the world capital of the Deaf community. Throughout its streets we will be able to see Sign Languages from the whole world, Deaf people from different countries and different races, ideologies or beliefs, but everybody united in a claim: the respect for difference. These people advocate the right to have their own language, culture and a history. The 15th World Congress wants to show the whole world the cultural values of the international Deaf community as well as its struggle for creating a fairer and more equalitarian world.

This Congress wants to show everybody the reality of a Deaf community that does not conform and that strongly believes in achieving a more modern, freer and solidarity society. For more information: www.wfdcongress.org



Deaf Children and Teen Camp

This is a unique opportunity for sharing a week on holiday near Madrid in a natural environment, with friends from all over the world.

Coinciding with 15th World Congress of the WFD (from 16 to 22 July 2007) young people from 6 to 17 years old from all over the world will participate in a gathering comprising sport, cultural and exciting activities and workshops.

This gathering will give Deaf children and youth the opportunity to become acquainted with different cultures and to exchange experiences with peers worldwide. Living together with other children and teenagers, and

being under the leadership of Deaf camp leaders will favour the personal development and social skills of all the participants, in a stimulating and distended atmosphere. The meeting will be divided into two large groups: one ranging from 6 to 12 years old and the other for people from 13 to 17. Activities will be adapted to each group age. The people in charge will be camp leaders with vast experience in camps and activities addressed to children and teenagers.

Those children and youth people participating in the World Deaf Youth and Children Gathering may visit the World Congress and actively participate in this unique event. World Congress Leaders will also visit this Gathering.



BC's worst school just may be its best

(reprinted with permission from BCTF, The Teacher, November/December 2006, and originally appeared in the Globe & Mail.

(FNDC editor's note: While this article isn't specifically related to deaf education, I thought the article was informative, educational and thought provoking.)

by Gary Mason

According to the Fraser Institute's most recent rankings of British Columbia elementary schools, the picture doesn't get much grimmer than Roosevelt Park in Prince Rupert. Out of the 1,009 schools rated, Roosevelt Park and two others tied for last.

What a morale booster for parents, students, and teachers at Roosevelt Park. The lousiest school in the province. Roosevelt Park's overall rating out of 10 was 0.0% for 2004–05. That compares with St. George's, an independent boys school in Vancouver, which scored a perfect 10.

Of course, there are a few things that the rankings don't take into account.

You know, just little things the teachers at schools such as St. George's and others never have to worry about. Like the fact that 71% of the children entering Kindergarten this year at Roosevelt Park were deemed "at risk."

What does that mean? It means they did not possess the basic language skills children should possess by the time they're ready to enter the school system.

Many of the kids entering Kindergarten at Roosevelt Park don't know their colours, for instance, don't know the difference between an apple and a banana.

Many of them have the language skills of a three-year-old. Or less.

The Fraser Institute's rankings are based on results from the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA), a province-wide test in reading, writing, and numeracy. It is administered each spring to children in Grades 4 and 7.

Oh yeah, that's another thing about Roosevelt Park.

Of the 20 pupils who took the FSA test in Grade 4 last year, only 11 had actually been in the school since Kindergarten. There is usually a 50% turnover of pupils from

year to year. So, even though many of the children at Roosevelt taking the assessment test each year have received most of their schooling elsewhere, Roosevelt gets stuck with the results.

Many of Roosevelt's classrooms are filled with children who have "issues," as they say. Many are affected by fetal alcohol syndrome. In some classes there might be eight or nine children with special needs. Many children have witnessed horrible violence at home. Or have had to deal with other traumas.

One girl just finishing Grade 6 at Roosevelt was recently asked by her teacher, as part of a class exercise, what her earliest childhood memory was. She said she remembered one night when she was seven being left at home alone by her mother who went out for a few drinks.

When she didn't return, the little girl decided to pack up her younger sisters – one was three, the other a newborn – because she feared the people from Children and Family Services would come and apprehend them.

It was the middle of the night and the three had to descend a steep staircase from their house. The seven-year-old was trying to manage a buggy and lost control. It went rattling down the stairs with the baby in it, knocking over the three-year-old at the bottom. Thankfully, everyone was okay.

By the time the girl told this story, she'd been in five foster homes. A couple of years ago, 40 of the school's 200 pupils were in government care. That's another thing the Fraser Institute rankings don't tell you.

Roosevelt Park offers suicide programs. Why? Because once a month or so, a child at the school discloses to someone that she or he is thinking of ending it all. Seems the kids at Roosevelt have things on their minds other than the FSA. Who would have thought?

The "lousiest school in the province" has piloted a wonderful new program called Parents as Literacy Sup-



porters, or PALS. It teaches parents how to help their children read and write. You see, many of the parents weren't taught themselves.

There's another program called Parents and Children Education Services, or PACES. It's also a first in British Columbia. It offers parents advice on basic parenting skills such as how to play with your children and how to stimulate their minds. At Roosevelt Park, as much of the work is about helping the parents as the students.

Roosevelt Park has piloted a number of programs. In fact, it's been so successful that educators from far and wide have arrived at the school to see the programs in action.

The Prince Rupert Daily News did an article on the Fraser Institute's latest rankings and how Roosevelt Park

finished dead last. That must have made the kids feel even better about themselves, don't you think?

Steve Riley, the school's principal, just shakes his head. What are you going to do? "We're trying to fix kids here," he said in an interview. "That's a bigger challenge than getting their FSA results up. There are so many factors in the kids' lives here that affect their schooling, it's not even funny."

Factors the Fraser Institute's rankings don't take into account. Which is why the "lousiest school in the province" may just be the best.

Reprinted with permission: *The Globe and Mail*, June 13, 2006, [gmason@globeandmail.com](mailto:g_mason@globeandmail.com) and Teacher news-magazine, Nov/Dec. 2006.

Advancing the Inclusion of People with Disabilities

(received via email from First Call, weekly announcements, January 5, 2007)

To read the full report: <http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/hip/odi/documents/advancingInclusion06/advancinginclusion.pdf>

The Government of Canada's efforts at integrating services for people with disabilities have, for a number of years, been guided by the understanding that disability is not defined merely as being the direct result of a health problem or any physical or mental limitation. Instead, it is seen as the result of complex interactions between a health problem or functional limitation and the social, political, cultural, economic, and physical environment. These, in combination with personal factors such as age, gender, and level of education, can result in a disadvantage – that is, a disability. This link between a functional limitation and the disadvantage is what courts try to determine in investigating disability-based human rights complaints.

This concept of disability is also what guides an increasing number of national surveys that collect information

on people with disabilities in Canada. For example, the 2001 Census, the 2001 Participation and Active Living Survey (PALS), and, since 1999, the Survey of Labour Income Dynamics (SLID) all use the same filter questions based on this concept to identify people who have a disability.

It is also this common understanding that shapes the ongoing collaboration across federal departments and agencies, and between the Government of Canada and other orders of government and national organizations of people with disabilities. Regardless of the means chosen to address disability issues, it is now a generally established principle that functional limitations or health problems alone do not prevent people from participating. Obstacles in the socio-economic and built environment do.

Mark your calendar: March 3, 4, 5th, 2007

Theatre Performance of:

The Vagina Monologues – with all Deaf cast



Federal Communications Commission Clarifies Captioning of Emergency Information

(received via email)

(FNDC editor's note: while this is an American notice, many of the TV stations we watch are American. As well, its always good to know what is happening in other countries in regarding to positive changes that lead to accessibility)

NVRC has just learned that the Federal Communications Commission released a Public Notice on December 29, 2006 which represents an important victory in accessibility to closed captioned news in emergencies. It reverses setbacks created by an earlier Public Notice. Most of the language in the December 29 Public Notice is exactly what we and other organizations have fought for.

For the first time, this Public Notice gives examples of steps that can be taken to ensure captioning is obtained quickly:

- (1) Enter into arrangements or contracts with services that are capable of generating closed captions on very short notice to ensure the prompt availability of these services in the event of an emergency;
- (2) Establish internal policies that add the requirement to immediately contact the above closed captioning services to the station's check list of top priorities for exhibiting emergency information;
- (3) Maintain visible postings on television sets in the newsroom to remind employees or other designated staff who are responsible for initiating action for the production of emergency programming to contact the designated closed captioning service immediately at the onset of an emergency and include the telephone number for the captioning service on such postings;
- (4) Maintain a labeled speed-dial button on telephones in the newsroom with a direct connection to the captioning service;
- (5) Distribute an emergency visual presentation policy to all employees on a regular basis;
- (6) Train employees regarding visual presentation policies.

Vancouver Catholic Deaf Association

Interpreted Mass for the Deaf every Sunday at 9:00 a.m.
Saint Francis de Sales Roman Catholic Church
6610 Balmoral Street, Burnaby, B.C. V5E 1J1

Totems 12th Annual Co-ed Open Volleyball Tournament

Annual Co-ed volleyball tournament in the Deaf Community
It'll be held on Feb. 23-24, 2006 (Friday and Saturday) at
Burnaby South School gym.

log on to www.gvad.com for more info

Deaf Website: World Without Hearing

Upon careful consideration of feedback on our new site, we can now confirm that the new name of our web site will be World Without Hearing. To access the updated site, click on the link below.

Carola Finch
World Without Hearing (WWH)
Formerly Deaf International News
<http://ca.geocities.com/dinews@rogers.com/>



FNDC is a non-profit society (S-33351) that was founded in March, 1995 to bring together families of deaf children in British Columbia who share common concerns. Federal Registered Charity Number: 88622 5655 RR0001. DYT is program administered by FNDC.



What is FNDC all about?

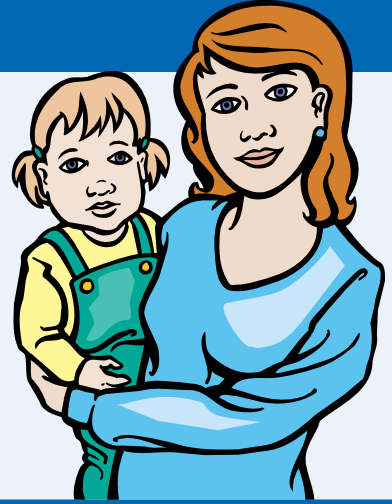
FNDC believes that families are vital in ensuring that deaf children reach their full potential through a supportive home environment.

FNDC believes that families have the right to make informed choices based on the needs of the deaf child and the family.

FNDC believes that deaf children have the right to a quality education in a language that is visually accessible.

FNDC believes that each child is unique and has individual abilities and needs that must be recognized.

FNDC believes that the rich and varied experiences and language of the Deaf community are an important and valuable resource for deaf children and their families.



What is DYT all about?

Deaf Youth today is committed to providing recreational experience and leadership opportunities for signing deaf and hard of hearing youth in British Columbia.



FNDC Board of Directors

Colleen Peterson	President
Janice Feanny	Vice President
Kathy Caldicott	Secretary
Tracy Epp	Treasurer
Blair Flink	Director
Nicki Horton	Director
Teresa Parent	Director
Eileen Marshall	Director
Angie Keats	Director
Anna Lesko	Member at Large
Hester Hussey	Mentor, Advisor

The Board of Directors are parents of deaf children.

FNDC and DYT Staff

Cecelia Klassen	Executive Director (fn dc@fn dc.ca)
Bella Poato	Executive Assistant (fn dc@fn dc.ca)
David McGregor	Buddy Program Co-ord. & Youth Rep. (buddies@fn dc.ca)
Susi Bolender	Contract Interpreting (d yt@fn dc.ca)
Jason Berube	Website Designer/Developer (webmaster@fn dc.ca)

Membership

Membership is open to those who support the goals of our organization. All FNDC members receive:

- * A one year subscription to our newsletter (which is published four times a year)
- * Bulletins and information notices regarding upcoming workshops and courses, videos, children & youth programs.
- * Our membership is open to individuals, schools, and organizations. Parents/guardians of deaf and hard of hearing children are eligible to vote.

Contact us below to be added to our membership list and receive our newsletter.

Family Network for Deaf Children
P.O. Box 50075 South Slope RPO
Burnaby, BC V5J 5G3

604-684-1860 (voice message line)
604-421-5271 (TTY line)
604-538-2866 (fax)
<http://www.fn dc.ca/> (website)
fn dc@fn dc.ca (e-mail)