The Canadian Hard of Hearing Association – NL (CHHA-NL)

a non-profit, charitable organization committed to:

- advocacy
- awareness
- prevention
- programs and services that promote a better quality of life for hard of hearing and late-deafened people of all ages and their families in Newfoundland and Labrador.
Unfair Hearing Test - CD

- Listen to the list of 10 words on the audio tape.
- Write down or try to remember the words you can identify.

1st reading – simulates slight high-frequency hearing loss and is spoken softly

1) Fill  
2) Catch  
3) Thumb  
4) Heap  
5) Wise  
6) Wedge  
7) Fish  
8) Shows  
9) Bed  
10) Juice

These are just 10 words. Can you imagine the challenge of understanding a whole conversation? .....with background noise?
A Challenge!

PERFECT HEARING LOOKS LIKE THIS.

IMPAIRED HEARING LOOKS LIKE THIS.
Hearing Loss can be quite serious

Untreated hearing loss has serious emotional and social consequences especially for older persons.

Seniors with untreated hearing loss are more likely to report depression, anxiety, and paranoia & are less likely to participate in organized social activities.

Seniors who decide to wear hearing aids or use assistive listening devices report significant improvement in many areas of their lives, ranging from their relationships at home and sense of independence to their social and sex life.
CHHA-NL
Programs & Services

Help Is Out There!
CHHA-NL Programs and Services

- Membership
- Newsletters (4)
- Assistive Technology Loans Program
- Resource Library
- Website (www.chha-nl.nl.ca)
- Advisory & Consultation Services (“Client Services”)
- Advocacy & Accessibility
Programs

- Education
  - School Presentations
  - Public Presentations/Workshops
  - Speechreading & Coping Skills Courses
  - Support Groups (Parents of hard of hearing children, Youth, Meniere’s/Tinnitus, Cochlear Implant)

- Community Outreach

- Seniors Program
  - (Hearing Helpers Project)

- Special Projects (Adopt-a-Classroom, Infant Screening)
There are three components to communication. Characteristics of each can make or break its success.

**Speaker:**
- Not speaking clearly
- Speaking too quickly
- Speaking too softly
- Other (accents, facial hair)
- Mode of communication (phone, amplification devices, etc.)

**Environment:**
- Background noise
- Lighting conditions
- Seating arrangement
- Acoustics
- Distractions

**Listener:**
- Type of hearing loss
- Ability to pay attention
- Emotional status (tiredness, etc.)
- Disturbing thoughts or feelings
- Listening devices
Tips for Speakers

- get the person’s attention first
- make sure your face can be seen clearly
- speak clearly!
- rephrase when you are not understood *(remember vowels are easier for someone with hearing loss to understand, while we identify words by consonants. Rephrasing may help.)*
- make sure your face can be clearly seen (lighting)
- reduce or eliminate background noise
- talk directly to the person who is hard of hearing
- DON’T SHOUT!
- Use assistive listening devices when possible
Reasons Given for Low Usage of Hearing Aids By Hard of Hearing Seniors:

- Cost - cannot afford them (PHAP: Provincial Hearing Aid Program)
- Unaware they have hearing loss
- Denial that they have hearing loss, that it affects their lives, or that it can be treated
- Cosmetic (do not want their hearing loss visible to others, belief they will appear old or weak)
- Shame (fear they will appear as less intelligent)
- Negative prior experience with hearing aids or by friends/family
- Represents change and the need to learn & adapt to something new
Technology for the Hard of Hearing

Sometimes called:

HAT = Hearing Assistive Technology
ALDs = Assistive Listening Devices

Assistive technology or Assistive devices
Assistive Technology

Telephone Devices

- Amplified Phone for the hard of hearing
- Neck loop for amplified cell phone use
- In-line amplifier for corded phones
- TTY for text communication over the phone line
Assistive Technology

Individual Listening Systems

Pocket talker for amplified communication

TV amplifier
Assistive Technology

2 ways to listen

- Hearing aid with a telecoil “T-switch” & a neckloop
- Headset
Group Listening Systems

- Infra red technology
- Radio/FM technology
- Induction Loop
Assistive Technology:

Signaling Devices

1. Audio - Hearing
2. Visual - Sight
3. Tactile – Touch
4. Combination
Any Questions?

Thank you!

The Canadian Hard of Hearing Association

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