

PRESS RELEASE

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NLASLPA and CHHA-NL To Hold Talking and Listening Celebration (TLC) Day

St. John's, NL (May 29, 2008) – To cap off May is Better Hearing and Speech Month, the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (NLASLPA) and the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association – Newfoundland and Labrador (CHHA-NL) will hold a public education event at the Johnson Geo Centre on Saturday May 31 from 1 to 4 pm. Admission to the education event area is free (regular admission fees apply for the Geo Centre itself).

Billed as a *Talking and Listening Celebration (TLC) Day*, it will be an opportunity for the public to learn about the prevention, early detection, and treatment of hearing loss and speech-language disorders. The organizers also hope to increase the general public's sensitivity to the challenges faced by individuals who experience hearing loss or speech-language disorders.

“At least one in ten Canadians – that's 50 000 or more Newfoundlanders and Labradorians – live with hearing loss or speech-language disorders that significantly affect their health, relationships education, and work,” commented Andrea Bourque, Speech-Language Pathologist. “The *Talking and Listening Celebration Day* is an opportunity for everyone to learn how to provide some *tender loving care* for their – and their loved ones' – hearing and speech-language health.”

“The *Talking and Listening Celebration Day* has something for everyone: parents who are looking for information on children's hearing, speech, and language development; adults concerned about their own hearing, voice quality, or stuttering; adult children concerned about their aging parents' hearing, speech, or swallowing; and high school or university students interested in a career in speech-language pathology or audiology,” added Ms. Bourque.

A great deal of information will be available on a variety of topics including:

- Noise awareness and hearing protection
- Hearing assistive technology for those with hearing loss
- Warning signs of hearing, speech, or language difficulties for all ages
- Ways to promote language and reading skills of children
- The professions of audiology and speech-language pathology
- Tips for communicating with someone who has a communication disorder

There will be lots of fun activities as well – balloons and colouring sheets for the children, refreshments, and a funny movie about hearing. There will also be draws for some great prizes, including children's books and a set of high quality headphones.

NLASLPA is a non-profit association that supports the professional needs and development of over 100 Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) and Audiologists (AUDs) in Newfoundland and Labrador. This support helps SLPs and AUDs provide the people of Newfoundland and Labrador with the highest quality of speech, language, swallowing, and hearing services possible. Visit our website at www.nlaslpa.ca.

CHHA-NL is a non-profit, charitable, voluntary organization administered by a Board of Directors. As an association, it is dedicated to improving the quality of life of hard of hearing people of all ages through its programs and services, to promote understanding of the prevalence,

causes, and prevention of hearing loss, and to advocate for accessibility for hard of hearing people in public places.

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