



**CANADIAN HARD OF HEARING ASSOCIATION-
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR (CHHA-NL)**

Press Release

**Response to Eastern Health Press Release
Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Program**

October 5, 2006: St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

The Canadian Hard of Hearing Association-Newfoundland and Labrador (CHHA-NL) is very pleased with the announcement on Monday, October 2nd by Eastern Health that they will be launching a Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Program at the Health Sciences Centre in St. John's, NL. This program will account for about 50% of the total newborns in the province.

The CHHA-NL has been a strong advocate of the implementation of such a program province-wide and for the past six years has been making financial contributions of \$10,000 annually to the various birthing hospitals across the province. To date, donations have been made to birthing hospitals in Corner Brook, Stephenville, Grand Falls-Windsor, Gander, Clarenville, and Burin. It is the goal of the association to ensure that all birthing hospitals in NL will have the necessary equipment to conduct Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Programs. The association is extremely pleased to note that the Gander and Burin hospitals have also implemented such programs while the other donation recipients are working toward such implementation.

The association urges the Minister of Health to make it a priority of the Department of Health to ensure that all health regions of the province will also implement such screening programs.

With early identification of hearing loss in newborns, coupled with appropriate hearing interventions, most children will develop language, communication and other developmental skills comparable to their hearing peers. Thus, over time, they can attend mainstream schools, graduate, attend post-secondary or other education institutions, be employable and be fully contributing members of society.

For further information or comment, please contact:

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