



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Attention: Editor

PROVINCIAL HEARING HELPERS TRAINED FOR PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Eight regions of the province now provided with new resource for hard of hearing seniors

September 12, 2007 - The Canadian Hard of Hearing Association – Newfoundland and Labrador, with partnership funding from the New Horizons for Seniors Program (Government of Canada) is half-way through a pilot project called “Hearing Helpers: Seniors Helping Seniors Toward Healthier Hearing and Social Inclusion”.

Hearing loss in seniors is often difficult to acknowledge and adjustment can be challenging. Socializing when hard of hearing can be difficult and may create tension in relationships. The **Hearing Helpers Project** aims to alleviate some of these difficulties.

The initial phase of the project, begun in February 2007, came to fruition on September 8th, 9th and 10th. Volunteers from throughout Newfoundland and Labrador completed fourteen hours of concentrated training about hearing loss, assistive listening and signaling devices, seniors’ issues and presenting information.

“The Hearing Helper volunteers are “hear” to help”, said Tina Stewart, coordinator for the project. “All 18 volunteers have a wide range of experiences, skills and information which they shared with each other, nine guest speakers, and CHHA-NL staff during their training sessions.”

Hearing Helpers have either personal or related experience with hearing loss and are already involved as volunteers in their communities. To complement the training and to assist with volunteer presentations, resource kits were purchased, compiled and distributed for their use as they conduct home visits, and public and private presentations with:

- hard of hearing seniors, their families and caregivers
- community organizations such as seniors’ clubs, service groups, and church associations
- staff and residents in health care facilities
- educational institutions, healthcare institutions

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Hearing Helpers are prepared to share information and resources in eight regions of the province:

Corner Brook, Pasadena, Bay St. George region
Ferryland, Calvert, Southern Shore region
Fortune, Grand Bank, Burin Peninsula region
Harbour Grace, Conception Bay North
Heart's Delight-Islington, Trinity- Bay de Verde Gander Region
Grand Falls- Windsor, Exploits Valley
Labrador: Happy Valley-Goose Bay, North West River
Mt. Moriah, Corner Brook, Bay of Islands
Reidville, Deer Lake, Northern Peninsula
St. John's, Mt. Pearl, Paradise, Conception Bay South

“The project’s goals will be well met by these volunteers as they raise awareness of available assistive listening and signaling devices (Hearing Assistive Technology) and help to increase social inclusion for hard of hearing seniors”, added Stewart. They will share information about:

- the effects of hearing loss
- the helpful assistive devices available to seniors (Hearing Assistive Technology)
- the support services and resources that can alleviate some of the social isolation which often results from hearing loss
- the products, programs and services available from CHHA-NL

Additional information about the Hearing Helpers Project and CHHA-NL’s full scope of Programs, Services and Support Groups can be found on the Web at www.chha-nl.nl.ca.

To obtain more information about a Hearing Helper in your region or to book a home visit or presentation by a Hearing Helper, please contact Tina Stewart, the Project Coordinator, by phone at 709-753-3260 (Monday to Thursday) and Toll Free: 1-888-753-3224 or by email at hearinghelpers@nfld.net.

Canadian Hard of Hearing Association - Newfoundland and Labrador (CHHA-NL) is a non-profit organization whose mission is “to improve the quality of life of hard of hearing people of all ages in Newfoundland and Labrador; to promote understanding of the prevalence, causes, and prevention of hearing loss; and to advocate for accessibility in public places.”