



#10, 12122 - 68 Street NW  
 Jerry Forbes Centre  
 Edmonton, Alberta  
 T5B 1R1

**Phone** (780) 428-6622

**Fax** (780) 428-6622

**Email** [info@chha-ed.com](mailto:info@chha-ed.com)

For more information, please visit:  
[www.chha-ed.com](http://www.chha-ed.com)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*Secretary* Doug Kingdon

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*by Lee Ramsdell, President*

**Happy Holidays** to everyone. Unfortunately, this Christmas celebrations will be vastly different than any other one that we have had in our lives, however there is a dim light at the end of a very long tunnel. Next year we will all be able to celebrate Christmas with family and friends gathered together and I for one am looking forward to that!

This year we had a wonderful Zoom Potluck dinner together and Susanne Martin gave us a remarkably interesting and informative presentation on anxiety and depression which we hope to post on our web site soon so please stay tuned for that notice.

While our staff is still very busy working from home, our office at the Jerry Forbes Centre is closed as directed by our Provincial Government and hopefully the current restrictions will be effective, and our office will be open in the second week of January. Should you have questions you can either contact the office or myself by e- mail or leave a phone message.

Communication for us is always a challenge! With having to wear masks, being able to understand the spoken word is even more difficult. One of the reasons for this is that the mask limits the flow of air and effects the quality of the spoken word. The other major factor in reducing speech intelligibility is that with the normal mask, we are not able to speech read. However, we do have a solution for that!

*Continued on next page*

We have masks for sale that have a clear window so that the mouth is now visible, so it is possible to lip read and to date, we have sold over 1000 masks. This is a great fund raiser but even more important it allows the hard of hearing to understand the spoken word better.

It is great that we have sold so many masks to the public and received a lot of positive feedback. It is interesting to note though that to date, ONLY 3 of our members have purchased these masks so if you wish to do so please contact us. This is your **opportunity** to educate the public as well as help in our fundraising efforts.

Respectfully,

Lee

Email [leeram@shaw.ca](mailto:leeram@shaw.ca)

Phone number 780 863 4316

## OFFICE NEWS

*By Cindy Gordon, Program Director*

Winter is here and Christmas is near.

While COVID-19 has changed the way CHHA-Ed does business and the way we live our lives.... we must be forever grateful for what we have in life.

I treasure my family beyond words and all my CHHA friends and members across Canada and for those that make every effort to continue to reach out and take our programs and attend meetings.

We MUST stay connected. We cannot let Covid-19 overtake us.

CHHA-Ed is looking at new ways to raise funds this year. Hopefully, you have all received our fundraising letter and you are able to help us out. We want to continue to be here for you when you need us.

Have you bought your lip-reading mask yet?? This is your opportunity to educate the public... Let them see your lips and your **smile**!! Put it on your Christmas list or give it to someone you love!

Start the new year off right...Check out the newsletter for class information, I am sure there is something for you or volunteering for our casino. Be part of the solution in 2021!!

AS always.... This is your organization, and we would like you to feel a part of it!! Feel free to contact me anytime with ideas or suggestions



Yours to Better Hearing! Merry Christmas to all!!!

Cindy Gordon

## Dear Members and Friends of CHHA-Edmonton

Today, CHHA-Edmonton is launching a special fundraising drive – the CHHA-Ed Giving Challenge – to help us continue to support people with hearing loss and to ensure a strong future for our organization.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic hit, we have done everything we could to keep our community together. With the loss of our 2 largest fundraising ventures this year, The Golf Tournament and the Casino we have been struggling. We have adapted our programs online, promoted our Lip Reading Masks to the community selling **1000** so far and kept our doors open to help people with hearing loss navigate new challenges. (Check out our website for more info!!)

I am so proud of our work, and the commitment of our Board of Directors. We held a strategic planning session this October and have worked side by side with staff to continue our mission through difficult times.

We weathered the initial storm. **But now we need your help.**

This Giving Challenge calls on everyone in our community to make a gift to CHHA-Ed, and to dig a little deeper to give what you can to help reach our goal. The funds we raise will help **sustain, evolve, and grow our community** – and our organization – so we can meet the changing demands of today's world and the needs of 100,000 Edmontonians with hearing loss.

We are asking you, as a friend and a member of CHHA-Ed's community, to join the Challenge. Here's how you can help get this fundraising drive off to a great start:

1. Donate online or send your gift today. [www.chha-ed.com](http://www.chha-ed.com)
2. Spread the word about the CHHA-Ed's Giving Challenge to your friends and colleagues.

Please feel free to contact me or our fund development committee director, Doug Kingdon, at [dwkingdon@gmail.com](mailto:dwkingdon@gmail.com) with your questions or if you need help making a gift. All donations are tax deductible.

Together, we can build a strong future for ourselves and our community.

Let's do this together!

Lee Ramsdell-President  
The Canadian Hard of Hearing Association-Edmonton Branch  
c/o [info@chha-ed.com](mailto:info@chha-ed.com)  
12122-68 St.

## CHHA-ED HEARING ASSISTANCE FUND

The Hearing Assistance fund endeavors to assist disadvantaged people with hearing loss by making funds available to purchase hearing aids, implants, and devices, or to repair still-viable hearing aids. A strong set of criteria has been established to ensure financial need. Eligible candidates must:

- Require financial assistance
- Be of age 19 or over
- Live in Edmonton/North of Central Alberta



All donations to CHHA-Edmonton for the Hearing Assistance Fund are appreciated!

Please visit the CHHA-Ed Hearing Assistance Fund page for more information, at <https://www.chha-ed.com/assistance/hearing-aid-assistance-fund/>.

Download the application form at <https://www.chha-ed.com/wp-content/uploads/Forms/2020-HAF-BLANK-APPLICATION-FORM.pdf>

## CONVERSATIONAL ASL CLASSES

ALL CLASSES ARE ON-LINE  
USING "ZOOM"

### BEGINNER LEVEL "A"

- Saturday Morning Class
  - January 09 – February 27,  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
- Tuesday Evening Class
  - January 05 – February 23,  
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

### BEGINNER LEVEL "B"

- Wednesday Evening Class
  - January 15 – March 04 ,  
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

\* Class maximum of 8 students

## ARE YOU IN NEED!!

The CHHA Edmonton Office has had many generous donations of Hearing Assisted Devices this past year.

THE OFFICE HAS GENTLY USED:

- HEARING AIDS
- HEARING ASSISTED PHONES
- ALARM CLOCKS
- ALERT MASTERS
- EXPIRED HA BATTERIES



# SPEECHREADING 1 & COPING CLASSES

## WHAT IS SPEECHREADING?

Speechreading is the ability to understand speech by observing visual cues such as the movement of the lips, tongue, jaw, and facial expressions. Speechreading also involves observing other cues such as body language, gestures, and situational clues. It is a skill that can be learned through study and practice. Coping strategies go hand-in-hand with this skill and its success! Students will learn new strategies and information every class!!

**Wednesday Mornings:** Jan. 20, 27, Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24, Mar. 3, 10, 17

**Time:** 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

This is an *in-person* class. Physical spacing will be maintained and visors will be provided

**Deadline for Registration:** January 13, 2021

**Thursday Mornings:** Feb. 11, 18, 25, Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25, Apr. 1, 8

**Time:** 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

This is an *On-Line Zoom* class

**Deadline for Registration:** February 4, 2021

### Location:

Jerry Forbes Centre

12122 – 68 St, Edmonton, AB

**Cost:** \$150.00 per person

Register in person, by mail (cheque or money order only) or Online with PayPal below

Maximum class size is 6 so register soon.

## Transparent masks and face shields can help improve communication.

Transparent masks and face shields allow people with hearing loss to use speech reading to assist with better communication and understanding. They may also help people with communication difficulties participate in conversations and express themselves more easily.



ORDER YOURS TODAY!!!

Lip Reading Masks

\$22.00

(+ an additional \$5.00 fee for shipping)



Protective 2-ply 100% polyester printable top layer and 64gm polypropylene filter

- ✓ Accessible - Lens is made with a medical grade level 1 acrylic material for clear viewing.
- ✓ Comfortable - lightweight soft fabric make these masks one of the most comfortable on the market
- ✓ Reusable - a quick hand wash with soap and hot water they can be used over and over
- ✓ Green - We use only water based dyes and reduce the number of disposable masks in our landfills.

Available colours: Blue/ Black and Blue/ Grey/ Canada Emblem/ Tye Dye/ Jean/ Camouflage

To order yours today please email or call: [cindy@chha-ed.com](mailto:cindy@chha-ed.com)

780-428-6624

## **YOUR THIRD EAR-ZOOM PRESENTATIONS**

### **PRESENTATION DESCRIPTION:**

Cindy Gordon has developed a thorough, effective, and efficient way to present key issues to hearing aid wearers, AND their communication Partners in a fun and lively manner.

The program takes participants on a path of understanding their own hearing loss, recognizing unrealistic expectations they may have of hearing aids, accepting their reality of hearing loss, moving forward as hard of hearing individuals, and reconnecting with loved ones with some communication strategies!

### **YOUR PRESENTER:**

**Cindy Gordon** has been a Rehabilitation Practitioner for 35+ years and has worked with a multitude of disabilities. The past thirty years have focused on hearing loss. She is actively involved in the Hard of Hearing Community and is Program Director for The Canadian Hard of Hearing Association-Edmonton Branch.

Cindy has been profoundly hard of hearing since youth.

**SESSIONS WILL BE ON ZOOM AND WILL BE SMALL GROUPS**

**YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER AT LEAST 3 DAYS IN ADVANCE!**

**THERE IS A \$25.00 FEE PER REGISTRATION! (includes your communication partner)**

**DATES: TUESDAYS**

**Jan.19<sup>TH</sup>-9:30-11:00 AM**

**Jan.26<sup>th</sup> -9:30-11:00 A.M**

**Feb.2<sup>nd</sup>-1:00-2:30 P.M.**

**Feb.9<sup>th</sup>-9:30-11:00 A.M.**

**Feb.16<sup>th</sup>- 1:00-2:30 P.M.**

**Register ONLINE through PayPal or e-transfer to [info@chha-ed.com](mailto:info@chha-ed.com)**

**For more info. or to RSVP- [cindy@chha-ed.com](mailto:cindy@chha-ed.com) or call 780-428-6622**

# ZENIPOWER BATTERIES – AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

**A10 A312 A13 A675**

Packages 6 – \$3.00

Boxes of 10 – \$30.00

**A675P**

Cochlear Batteries – Packages of 6 – \$4.00

Cochlear Batteries – Boxes of 10 – \$40.00

Pickup at CHHA Office, Jerry Forbes Centre, 12122 – 68 Street NW, Edmonton

Please phone ahead: 780-428-6622



## ----- BECOME A MEMBER! -----

### CANADIAN HARD OF HEARING ASSOCIATION – EDMONTON BRANCH



For more information,  
contact CHHA-Edmonton:

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*Membership is open to anyone who  
is hard-of-hearing or interested in supporting  
those who are hard-of-hearing!*

To become a member of the  
**Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA)** and  
**Canadian Hard of Hearing Association – Edmonton  
(CHHA-ED)**, visit the CHHA website at [www.chha.ca](http://www.chha.ca),  
or our website at [www.chha-ed.com](http://www.chha-ed.com)

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We appreciate and value the support of volunteers.  
Please contact us if interested in volunteering for:

- **Casinos March 18 & 19, 2021**
- Annual Golf Tournament committee
- Fundraisers
- Serving as a Board Member and/or on a committee