



Canadian
Association of the Deaf



Association
des Sourds du Canada



Association of
Visual Language Interpreters
of Canada

News Release

For Immediate Release
September 22, 2014

International Week of the Deaf – Strengthening Human Diversity: September 22 – 28, 2014

The Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf (CCSD), the Canadian Association of the Deaf/Association des Sourds du Canada (CAD-ASC) and the Association of Visual Language Interpreters of Canada (AVLIC) are jointly pleased to endorse activities promoting the **International Week of the Deaf, September 22 – 28, 2014**; in particular, activities planned across Canada that showcase the solidarity among Deaf people and their allies and draws attention of the general public to the achievements of Deaf people and the concerns of the Deaf community.

The World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) [<http://www.wfdeaf.org>], the organization that launched the first International Day of the Deaf in 1958, has identified the theme: **“Strengthening Human Diversity”**. This theme draws upon the basic principles of human rights and respect for all people and diversity with respect to language, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, physical abilities, religious beliefs, political beliefs or other ideologies. This theme is about recognizing differences as possibilities and assets instead of disabilities that should be changed. It is also about recognizing that each Deaf individual is unique, with strengths that can make a positive effect on society.

Events across the country will promote Deaf culture and will encourage both Deaf people and their supporters to promote the rights of Deaf people in Canada and throughout the world. Events will range from updates on the creation of Video Relay Services (VRS) in Canada, to education issues faced by Deaf students, to accessibility in the political arena, to employment issues for Deaf people, to interpreting issues, to legal tools for advocacy, to literacy, to arts and to social and recreation activities.

Overall the theme Strengthening Human Diversity will guide a greater understanding of the Deaf community, celebrating Deaf culture and heritage, respecting the right to use sign language and to have access to professionally trained sign language interpreters and to promoting access to education, employment and health services. Further to this theme, the CAD-ASC has published six (6) points to address issues in Canada advocating for federal and provincial governments, businesses and the public to recognize the diverse needs of Deaf people. To learn more about these important six points, visit: http://www.cad.ca/news_events_en.php?newsID=190

Below is a list of various activities undertaken in each province in support of the 2014 International Week of the Deaf:

- British Columbia: <http://deafbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/idsl.jpg>
- Alberta: <http://www.cad.ca/uploads/File/Alberta%20IWD%202014.pdf>
- Manitoba: <http://www.deafmanitoba.org/2014/08/international-week-of-deaf-iwd-for.html>
- Ontario (in Greater Toronto Area): <http://deaftoronto.ca/TAD-News/international-week-of-the-deaf-september-21-27-2014.html>
- Québec: <http://www.francosourd.com/events/journee-mondiale-des-sourds-a-victoriaville>
- Newfoundland and Labrador: <http://www.cad.ca/uploads/File/IWD-NLAD%20Community%20Events%20September%202014.pdf>

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About the Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf:

The Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf (CCSD) represents over 450,000 Canadians and serves many more with its programs, cultural activities and Deaf heritage resources. Incorporated in 1973 as a non-profit charitable organization funded through private donations, the CCSD preserves, encourages and advances the cultural interests of Canada's Deaf population. Key areas of concentration are performing arts, language, literature, history, visual arts and heritage resources. CCSD encourages new and developing forms of creativity, research, participation and interests in all areas. It also promotes better understanding between Deaf and hearing adults and children as well as promoting literacy for Deaf children. For more information, visit www.deafculturecentre.ca

About the Canadian Association of the Deaf/Association des Sourds du Canada:

The Canadian Association of the Deaf/Association des Sourds du Canada (CAD-ASC) is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1940 that provides consultation and information on Deaf interests, conducts research and collects data regarding Deaf issues in Canada. It protects and promotes the rights, needs, and concerns of Deaf people in Canada who use our official signed languages (American Sign Language (ASL) and Langue des Signes Québécoise (LSQ)). For more information, visit www.cad.ca

About AVLIC:

The Association of Visual Language Interpreters of Canada (AVLIC) is a non-profit, professional association for interpreters whose working languages include a sign language. AVLIC was incorporated in 1979 and has eight Affiliate Chapters across the Canada. AVLIC is the only certifying body for ASL-English interpreters in Canada through the means of our Canadian Evaluation System. Among a variety of services, we offer a Dispute Resolution Process to maintain quality and accountability to the field of interpreting. For more information, visit www.avlic.ca