

**Ministry of Education**

Special Education Policy  
and Programs Branch  
18<sup>th</sup> Floor, Mowat Block  
900 Bay Street  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Direction des politiques et des  
programmes de l'éducation  
de l'enfance en difficulté  
18<sup>e</sup> étage, edifice Mowat, 900, rue Bay  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



**MEMORANDUM TO:** Directors of Education  
Supervisory Officers  
Secretary-Treasurers of School Authorities  
Director of Provincial and Demonstration Schools  
Supervisory Officer of Centre Jules-Léger

**FROM:** Barry Finlay  
Director  
Special Education Policy and Programs Branch

**DATE:** February 25, 2009

**RE:** The Canadian Hearing Society and  
VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children

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The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you that the Ministry of Education has provided funding to the Canadian Hearing Society (CHS) and VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children to assist the Ministry with its goal of providing barrier-free education to all students attending Ontario's publicly funded schools; and in particular students who are Deaf and hard of hearing. Following are details of the projects.

**The Canadian Hearing Society**

The project is intended to assist school boards in identifying access and accommodation needs of Deaf and hard of hearing students, produce gap analysis and make appropriate recommendations to the Ministry to ensure that students are provided with the tools they need to succeed in classroom. CHS will also deliver professional development opportunities for educators and administrative professionals to enable them to better communicate with students who are Deaf or hard of hearing. This will also include the identification of resources and information pertaining to anti-ableism and anti-audism education and strategies. A final report will be provided to the Ministry and will include research findings and recommendations that will assist in improving the provision of barrier-free education available to all students attending publicly funded schools. The project commenced in October 2008 and will conclude in March 2010.

**VOICE For Hearing Impaired Children**

The objective of the VOICE Ontario School Board Training and Mentorship Program is to increase the capacity of qualified professionals and broaden the understanding of decision-makers in Ontario school boards to meet the needs of oral Deaf and hard of hearing students.

The mentorship program will provide professional learning opportunities for teachers, administrators and support staff to ensure that students with hearing loss who have learned to communicate through spoken language will have access to appropriate expertise that will help to ensure that their ongoing language, literacy and learning needs are met. The mentorship program will also increase school board capacity to offer the option of auditory-verbal intervention to Deaf and hard of hearing students within their Board. The project commenced in October 2008 and will be completed in January 2012.

The project managers of these two organizations may be in touch with you in the near future to introduce their projects. You may also contact them directly at:

The Canadian Hearing Society  
Gary Malkowski  
Special Advisor to the President, Public Affairs  
TTY: 416-928-2527  
[gmalkowski@chs.ca](mailto:gmalkowski@chs.ca)

and

VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children  
Norah-Lynn McIntyre, Executive Director  
(416) 487-7719  
[nlm McIntyre@voicefordeafkids.com](mailto:nlm McIntyre@voicefordeafkids.com)

We have a unique opportunity to partner with these organizations to meet the needs of students who are Deaf and hard of hearing. I encourage you to take full advantage of this opportunity while it is available. The Regional Office Special Education Leads are also aware of these initiatives and would be happy to provide you with further information if desired.

I thank you in advance for your support of these projects. Your cooperation will ensure that the Ministry continues to provide barrier-free education to all students attending Ontario's publicly funded schools and its commitment to high quality professional learning for teachers, administrators and support staff.

Sincerely,

***Original signed by***

Barry Finlay

cc: Gary Malkowski – The Canadian Hearing Society  
Norah-Lynn McIntyre – VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children  
Kit Rankin, Director, Field Services Branch