



Canadian Hard of Hearing Association
Association des malentendants canadien

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



www.chha.ca



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Gilles LeVasseur

Message from the Board President

Dear Members, Partners, Sponsors, Volunteers, and Friends,

As we reflect on the accomplishments and challenges of the past year, I am proud of the progress made by CHHA National and grateful for the dedication of our members, volunteers, staff, partners, and Board of Directors. Together, we have continued to strengthen our organization, advance our mission, and remain responsive to the evolving needs of people living with hearing loss across Canada.

One of our key priorities in 2025 has been strengthening the financial sustainability of CHHA National. We have actively pursued funding opportunities from a variety of sources, including government programs, corporate partnerships, foundations, community organizations, and individual donors. Diversifying our revenue streams remains essential to ensuring the long-term stability and growth of our organization. We are grateful to all our funding partners whose support enables us to continue delivering programs, services, advocacy initiatives, educational resources, and community outreach activities that benefit our members and the broader hearing health community.

Advocacy continues to be at the heart of our work. Throughout the year, CHHA National has actively promoted policies and initiatives that improve accessibility, support hearing health, and advance the rights and inclusion of people who are deaf, deafened, or hard of hearing. We have continued to engage with federal departments, agencies, and policymakers to ensure that the voices and experiences of our community are reflected in discussions surrounding accessibility legislation, communication access, health services, employment, education, and public participation. These federal partnerships remain vital in advancing meaningful and lasting change.

Accessibility remains a fundamental priority for our organization. Guided by the principles of inclusion and equity, CHHA National continues to work toward a Canada where communication barriers are reduced and individuals with hearing loss can fully participate in all aspects of society. Whether through awareness campaigns, educational programs, advocacy efforts, or collaborative initiatives, we remain committed to promoting environments that are accessible, welcoming, and inclusive for all.

An important component of our success continues to be the strength of our chapter network. Across the country, local chapters and volunteers play a critical role in delivering programs, fostering peer support, raising awareness, and building community connections. During the past year, we have continued to support chapter development through enhanced communication, leadership engagement, resource sharing, and collaboration opportunities. Our chapters are the foundation of CHHA's presence in communities across Canada, and we remain committed to strengthening their capacity and long-term sustainability.

Volunteer engagement remains one of our greatest strengths. The dedication, expertise, and passion of our volunteers enable CHHA National to extend its reach and impact far beyond what would otherwise be possible. From chapter leaders and committee members to advocates, mentors, event organizers, and Board members, volunteers contribute countless hours in support of our mission. Their commitment exemplifies the spirit of service that has defined CHHA throughout its history.



Gilles LeVasseur

Board President Continued

This year also marked an important period of renewal and growth within our governance structure. I am pleased to welcome several new members to the Board of Directors. Each brings valuable expertise, fresh perspectives, and a strong commitment to our mission. Their knowledge and leadership will help guide CHHA National as we continue to evolve and address emerging opportunities and challenges. At the same time, I would like to recognize the contributions of departing Board members whose dedication and service have helped shape the organization's success.

Good governance remains a cornerstone of a strong and effective organization. During the past year, the Board undertook a comprehensive review of our by-laws to ensure that they continue to reflect current best practices in governance, accountability, transparency, and organizational effectiveness. This review provided an opportunity to clarify roles and responsibilities, modernize governance provisions where appropriate, and position the organization for future growth. We appreciate the input received from members and stakeholders throughout this process and remain committed to maintaining governance structures that support the organization's long-term success.

The Board has also continued to focus on the strategic priorities that will guide CHHA National in the years ahead. These priorities include strengthening organizational sustainability, enhancing advocacy and public awareness efforts, expanding member and chapter engagement, fostering strategic partnerships, improving access to information and support services, and advancing hearing health initiatives across Canada. By aligning our efforts with these priorities, we are positioning CHHA National to meet both current and future needs within our community.

Beyond these important organizational initiatives, CHHA National has continued to build meaningful partnerships, support our members, and advocate for the priorities that matter most to our community. The collective efforts of our volunteers, committees, staff, chapters, and Board members have enabled us to make significant progress while maintaining a clear focus on our mission, vision, and values.

As we move forward, we remain committed to strengthening our organization, expanding our impact, and ensuring that CHHA National continues to serve as a trusted and respected leader in accessibility, hearing health advocacy, and community engagement. We will continue to seek new opportunities for collaboration, innovation, and growth while remaining grounded in the principles that have guided us throughout our history.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend my sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed their time, expertise, and support over the past year. Your commitment is the foundation of our success, and together we will continue to build a stronger, more accessible, and more inclusive future for Canadians living with hearing loss.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Gilles LeVasseur". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Gilles LeVasseur

President, CHHA National Board of Directors

2025 Board of Directors

Gilles LeVasseur

President

Gina Kennedy

Director

Jeffrey Stewart

Treasurer

Patricia Blute

Director

Sarah Funkenhauser

Director

David Leyton-Brown

Governance

Mae Johnson

Director

Trevor Kezwer

Young Adult Representative



Message from The National Executive Director

I cannot believe how quickly the past year has gone since my appointment as CHHA's National Executive Director on May 1, 2025. This year, we began laying the foundation for a bold new chapter of the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA).

We successfully reaffirmed our commitment to national representation by leading targeted national campaigns such as: Creation of an EDI (Equity, Diversity, Inclusion) Policy, Canada's First Adult Cochlear Implant Report Card, CHHA National Volunteer Program document, Risk Management Tracking Document, Fundraising Plan, and Communications Plan.

We engaged with several new community partners and developed a Corporate Supporter Initiative. Revenue development opportunities were expanded through collaborations with COSTCO Canada, Arbor Memorial, Hushh-ups, Rocco Manfredi & The Manfredi Group, Cochlear Canada and Dignity Memorial who supported our mission within the first month of implementation.

CHHA continues to focus on brand awareness attending several large scale events to raise awareness of our organization and its programs including: 55+Lifestyle Show, AHIP Symposium, CCIG Conference (Calgary), Adapt Expo, Kanata Seniors Marketplace, Council on Aging-Ottawa. A Community Liaison PT position was created to further engage with potential members and organizations, primarily at Retirement homes, Ottawa Fire, Public Health, Community Events, and more.

Thanks to Francophone Funding received from the Province of Ontario, we translated several key documents into French that are available on our website to support our Francophone members nationwide.

The New Horizons for Seniors Project is progressing well with the nine Ottawa-based partner organizations. All deliverables are being completed on schedule.

"Hear More, Live More", Canada's First Adult Cochlear Implant Report Card (2026), an initiative developed by our Spend to Save Committee was launched on May 22, 2026 and has gained International recognition. We will continue development of this project in 2026/2027. Special thanks to Bowen Tang and his Committee of Professionals, Dennis Chan – Pathway Strategies, Dr. Vincent Lin, Dr. Paul Mick, Jeff and Debbie Gifford, Marilyn Kingdon, Chair and Anne Marie Langlois and April Corner for their hard work completing the CI Report Card.

An Operational Plan (aligned with our Strategic Plan) was developed with our team, and I am pleased to announce that all relevant tasks were completed. Kudos to our operations team!

CHHA hosted our National Virtual Conference in October, 2025. Thank you to our speakers, sponsors, and our conference committee for making this event a huge success.



Ann McSweeney

National Executive Director Continued

Throughout the past year, our Association remained focused on what matters most: prioritizing our member experience, raising public awareness, deepening our advocacy efforts, strengthening our visibility with the public and decision-makers alike, and championing communication with our networks.

For the past five years CHHA has been operating primarily as a home-based organization. Directed by our board a couple years ago, we were tasked with sub-leasing the office space at 75 Albert. We are pleased to report that the space has been sub-leased for an 18-month period with an option to lease to the end of our 10-year lease agreement in 2029. This will lead to a large cost-saving for CHHA National. The new tenant will move to the space effective July 1, 2026.

Looking ahead, we are embracing a vision that is both bold and ambitious. We invested in opportunities cultivating meaningful partnerships that support health, education and well-being of people with hearing loss in the communities we serve. None of this would be possible without the expertise and dedication of our members, networks, partners, volunteers, and our dedicated staff team. We also wish to thank our Board of Directors for their governance leadership in sharing our vision for the future of CHHA.

To all who contributed to CHHA's progress in 2025 - thank you! Your commitment is what moves us forward.

We invite all members, supporters, networks, and partners to stay involved. Bring your voice to the table and help shape the future of CHHA. Together, we are laying the foundation for a stronger, more connected CHHA - one that is ready to reimagine what's possible for the members we serve.

Thank you to everyone who remained committed and generous with your time, ideas and voices during this past year. Your input has been instrumental in shaping CHHA's direction and your dedication to our shared mission continues to inspire us all.

Sincerely,

Ann M. McSweeney
National Executive Director



Mission, Vision, and Values

Our Mission

is to create accessible, connected, and equitable communities for Canadians with hearing loss

Our Vision

is a barrier-free society where Canadians with hearing loss are empowered, inspired, and enjoy a full quality of life

Our Values



Inclusion



Collaboration



Trust

Land Acknowledgement

The Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA) acknowledges that our office, located in Ottawa, is on the unceded, territory of the Algonquin Anishinabe Nation.

CHHA honours all First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples and their valuable past and present contributions to this land

Programs & Initiatives

Webinars

2 English, 2 French virtual webinars were conducted focusing on educating our members nationally

Scholarship Program

National Initiative

86 Applications

6 donors

7 scholarship winners selected

Get in the Hearing Loop

GITHL is a national movement to promote communication access and support a barrier-free Canada, one loop at a time. We hope to change public spaces - and lives! - by sharing information about hearing loops

Peer-to-Peer Mentoring Program

Our Mentorship Program connects individuals with hearing loss with experienced mentors.

Through one-on-one support and group drop-in sessions, you'll gain insight on personal development, career advice, and navigating daily life with hearing loss

Spend to Save Canada

A focus on improving access to adult cochlear implants across Canada.

Check out our 1st Canadian Adult CI Report Card

<https://chha.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Hear-More-Live-More-Spend-To-Save.pdf>

Taxation & Disability Program

In partnership with CVITP Ottawa this new pilot CHHA Program is designed to prepare free income tax and disability forms for low-income residents with hearing loss

E-Store

A Social Enterprise by the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association providing accessible communication & hearing solution products, services and resources

Francophone Initiative

Funded by the Government of Ontario, this initiative provides several translated French resources for our francophone members located on our CHHA website. Two French webinars were also hosted by CHHA National as part of this initiative.

Know Your Hearing Number

Developed by Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in the USA, CHHA has partnered with Johns Hopkins to promote the use of this "free" App in Canada. Be aware of your hearing number to hear better



Scholarship Program

Thank you to all who took the time to apply, our Scholarship Committee as well as our donors who make our Scholarship Program possible

Name of Scholarship	Recipient
Frank Algar Memorial Scholarship	Rivellie Tchuisseu, QC
Dr. Charles A. Laszlo Scholarship	Maria Suzan Raj, AB
Carrell Hearn Memorial Scholarship	Ian Ellis-Phillips, BC
Susan Brown Memorial Scholarship	Rohan Hutka, NS
Helen Allen Stacey Memorial Scholarship	Corbin McBride, ON
Young Adults Network (YAN)	Sofia Olaizola, ON
Young Adults Network (YAN)	Muhammad Azher, ON

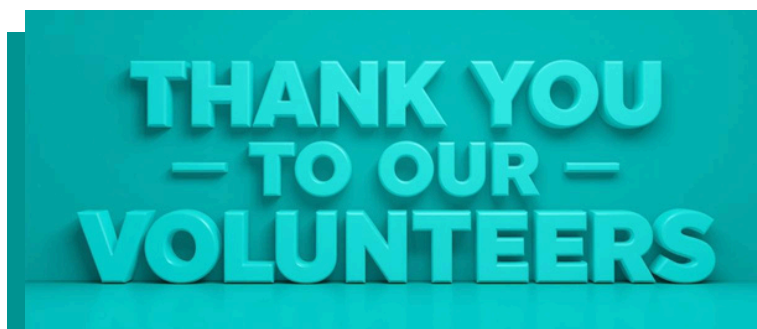
Congratulations to our Scholarship Recipients!

Canadian Hard of Hearing Association Foundation



The CHHA Foundation is a registered organization, established in 2001 to support the activities and programs of the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA), Canada's only national non-profit consumer organization run by and for people with hearing loss.

We are grateful for the financial assistance CHHA receives through our Foundation to support the programs and projects to assist Canadians with hearing loss.



Thank you to all of our volunteers across Canada who support the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association. Your time, energy, and dedication are what make our mission possible. Because of you, more people are finding support, connection, and a stronger voice within the hearing loss community.

We are so grateful for everything you do!



Corporate Supporters

Corporate Supporter Initiative

This initiative is meant to attract businesses (primarily national in scope) to support CHHA by offering incentives to our membership, volunteers to support our branches and chapters, promote hearing health within their companies and to educate their employees on hearing health nationally



Kelly
Funeral Homes
by Arbor Memorial



ROCCO MANFREDI
SALES REPRESENTATIVE



THE MANFREDI GROUP



CHHA Funders

A special thank you to our funders who support our programs and initiatives.



Canada 



2025 Virtual National Conference Highlights

- 8 excellent speakers over the one-day virtual conference
- 19 sponsors supported this event - thank you!
- Our post conference survey feedback was overwhelmingly positive about the conference
- Our next conference will be hybrid allowing in-person and virtual attendance
- The first online Silent Auction was a huge success
- Dustin Gianelli (Guest Speaker) presentation was enjoyed by all participants

Quote: “The presenters were awesome. Great conference overall.
Thanks to the Conference Committee for a job well done.”

Our Partners

We appreciate our partners for sharing our vision and collaborating with us to enhance the quality of life for all Canadians with hearing loss

- 🍁 AG Bell
- 🍁 AHIP - The Association of Hearing Instrument Practitioners of Ontario
- 🍁 Access Your Hearing
- 🍁 Accessible Hearing Solutions
- 🍁 Advanced Listening Systems
- 🍁 Alliance to End Homelessness
- 🍁 Auris Hearing Systems
- 🍁 Better Hearing Solutions
- 🍁 CHHA - National Capital Region - FICS Project
- 🍁 CIICA - Cochlear Implant International Community of Action
- 🍁 CVITP - Community Volunteer Income Tax Program
- 🍁 City of Ottawa - Ottawa Fire Services
- 🍁 Cochlear Canada
- 🍁 COSTCO Canada
- 🍁 Council on Aging - Ottawa
- 🍁 EARN - United Way of Eastern Ontario
- 🍁 Eastern Ottawa Resource Centre
- 🍁 Faranak Foundation
- 🍁 HLAA - Hearing Loss Association of America
- 🍁 Hall Telecommunications
- 🍁 Hearing Assistive Technology Group (HAT)
- 🍁 Hearing Health Alliance of Canada
- 🍁 Hearing Loss Association of America
- 🍁 Immigrant Women Services Ottawa
- 🍁 Inland Audio
- 🍁 iSisters Technology Mentoring Incorporated
- 🍁 Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- 🍁 John Howard Society of Ottawa
- 🍁 Loblaw Companies Limited
- 🍁 MED-EL
- 🍁 McMaster University
- 🍁 Pathway Strategies
- 🍁 RA Centre
- 🍁 Rick Hansen Foundation
- 🍁 Rural Ottawa South Support Services
- 🍁 SAC/OAC - Speech-Language & Audiology Canada
- 🍁 Society of Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Nova Scotia
- 🍁 The Hearing Room/Purple Spruce
- 🍁 Toronto Metropolitan University
- 🍁 Vectors Group
- 🍁 VOICE for Children Who Are Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- 🍁 Volunteer Ottawa
- 🍁 Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health
- 🍁 Western Ottawa Community Resource Centre
- 🍁 Western University - National Center for Audiology (see AML file)

Our Networks

Thank you to our CHHA Networks for carrying out our mission and commitment to Canadians with hearing loss from coast-to coast.

CHHA British Columbia	CHHA Abbotsford	CHHA Comox Valley
CHHA North Shore	CHHA Vancouver	CHHA Calgary
CHHA Edmonton	CHHA Regina	CHHA Manitoba
CHHA Hamilton	CHHA National Capital Region	CHHA Sudbury
CHHA Quebec (Outaouais)	CHHA New Brunswick	CHHA Moncton
CHHA Newfoundland & Labrador	CHHA Exploits Valley	CHHA Gander
CHHA Labrador West	CHHA Prince Edward Island	CHHA Young Adults Network
CHHA Toronto		

Financial Report

CANADIAN HARD OF HEARING ASSOCIATION STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION DECEMBER 31, 2025

5

	2025	2024
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 152,941	\$ 65,544
Accounts receivable (Note 3)	68,395	20,776
Prepaid expenses	6,182	2,265
Current portion of investments (Note 4)	258,288	124,467
	485,806	213,052
CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 5)	2,094	4,653
	\$ 487,900	\$ 217,705
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 6)	\$ 64,640	\$ 36,497
Deferred grants and contributions (Note 7)	328,779	52,035
	393,419	88,532
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	(34,692)	-
Internal restrictions		
Special Initiative Fund	26,550	26,550
Charlotte Lavigne Fund	102,623	102,623
	94,481	129,173
	\$ 487,900	\$ 217,705

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD



, Director



, Director