Canadian International Development Agency Makes Attending Possible for 13 Participants

As we unpack gifts from various countries in our office, we wanted to let you in on the success of the sponsorship of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). At least 13 participants were able to attend the 14th World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf in Montreal. We were able to invite participants from Central America, South America, Africa, Eastern Europe and Asia as far as Nepal and as close as Guatemala.

For many of them, it was their country’s first official invitation to the World Congress. For instance, Vietnam selected one of their young stars to attend while Barbados had their first ever attendance despite having no ordinary members (member of WFD). In fact, Honduras was able to submit their application to become a full ordinary member of the WFD with their presenting of the application to the General Secretary Ms. Carol-lee Aquiline at the Latin/Central and South America Regional Secretariat forum.

Now, the Canadian Association of the Deaf has a goal of hosting the Pan-American Conference of the Deaf here in Canada by the year 2005 hopefully with the continued sponsorship of the CIDA. We look forward to seeing these smiling faces here in Canada once again!

Facts and Figures of the WFD

Our goal was 2,500 participants from 100 countries. Guess what? We achieved both goals! Although the reports have not yet been finalized, as of August 1st we had counted nearly 2,300 paid registrants along with more than 250 interpreters, volunteers, LOC members, and guests, for a total of more than 2,550 people. They came from exactly 101 countries! Find out more by reading “From the Inside!” Story by Jim Roots, CAD’s Executive Director.
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World Congress of the Deaf 2003 - From the Inside!
by Jim Roots

Whew! Wasn’t that a blast!

Everyone has been telling me what a great success the World Congress of the Deaf 2003 was.

I’m afraid I’ll have to take their word for it. As Treasurer of the WCD 2003 CMS, I was kept so busy “behind the scenes” that I never got to see a single presentation, plenary, or forum. I never got to the Deaf Pub or to the Deaf Theatre performances.

When the LOC meeting ended an hour later, I had to spend about four hours each day counting yesterday’s revenues, preparing computerized vouchers, and updating the two sets of accounts (a computer one for revenues and expenditures, and a handwritten one for cash flow).

“Having attended the previous Congress in Australia 1999 as a delegate, I can tell you the experience is completely different when you’re a part of the team putting on the show”.

At noon, the Palais would deliver an absolutely delicious hot luncheon. The food was truly amazing, and I made sure never to miss the lunch – because it was usually the only full meal I would get in the whole day!

In the afternoon I would check out the CAD’s exhibit booth, where CAD staff and directors were doing a great job selling WCD souvenirs as well as CAD publications.

Then I would have to attend several ad hoc meetings, do some banking, and deal with the money problems of many individuals (I paid out per diems to more than 100 people!) Our relentlessly energetic President, Chris...
Kenopic, also usually lined up at least one meeting or conference call in the late afternoon that involved me. Each evening, I would pick up the day’s revenues after 6 p.m. from the registration desks, then haul my bulging suitcase back to the hotel. If I was lucky, I might find some friends to go out to dinner with, but at least twice I ended up eating Doritos and a chocolate bar in my hotel room while dealing with emails.

Then I would have to spend an hour practicing my own presentation on the political socialization of Deaf children. I was scheduled to be almost the last presenter on the last day of the Congress, which meant I had to practice every night for a week!

Easily the toughest day of the two weeks was the first day of the WFD General Assembly, before the Congress had actually started. As soon as I arrived in my corner of the LOC’s work-room, a pile of invoices was handed to me with the dire warning that practically everything, from food service to room rentals, would be cancelled if we didn’t pay immediately.

What made that beginning so difficult was that the invoices totaled more than twice the amount of money we had in the bank to pay them with!

To be honest, I did not handle the pressure well that day. I became quite upset at the demands being made of me, and the fact that things like the gala would be cancelled if I didn’t somehow magically make several hundreds of thousands of dollars appear instantly.

I have to thank one person for “getting in my face” and telling me he didn’t appreciate the angry attitude I was showing. He made me stop and realize that a Treasurer has to show confidence and optimism even if he really doesn’t know how the heck the bills are going to get paid. After his blunt message to me, I changed my attitude so that people remarked that I was clearly enjoying myself. And I was! I never got to thank that fellow, so now I say: Thank you, A.W.! (You know who you are!)

Well, all good things come to an end. This was a terrific experience, even if it did make my beard go grey and my weight go up 10 pounds! Would I do it again? You bet! Like all of the people involved in producing the Congress, I made a lot of mistakes, but the important thing is to learn from your mistakes and then apply your new knowledge to a new challenge. Don’t waste what you have learned from your experience!

So, anybody need an experienced Treasurer for their next international event? I’m available!
Speaking in Silence:
An Opportunity Indeed

The following article was written by Shanna Hendriks, a public relations student who spent the summer of 2003 in the CAD Ottawa office.

As I sit here thinking about what to write for the newsletter, I try to think of one experience, handed to me by the Canadian Association of the Deaf, which would be of interest to you, the reader. The truth is, everyday presents a multitude of thought provoking exchanges to ponder upon.

Like most students looking for a summer job, I began my holidays sending out resume after resume, application after application. For every 20 resumes I sent out, I received one response. It was my desperation for a summer job that landed me an interview at the Canadian Association of the Deaf (CAD). Interviews, they say, are good experience, and as I sat in my interview with the staff at CAD, I couldn’t help but think of how true that is.

I have a personal interest in the Deaf community. My grandfather has been Deaf most of his life, and my aunt is hard of hearing. Unfortunately neither of them sign. As a teenager, I took some courses in sign language because I thought it was ‘neat’. I never imagined those lessons would come in handy ten years later!

Four out of the five CAD staff are deaf. Fortunately, their ability to lip read is as good as my hearing. I have been trying hard to learn as many new signs as possible. Any fear that I have of their patience running out as I stumble through every number to get to ten, has been waved away.

As interested as my co-workers are at helping me to improve my signing, there is no shortage on providing a laugh or two, usually at my expense. One day I signed through a whole conversation as we spoke about flags, and it was only at the end of the exchange that I was warmly told that I had been the only one signing about fish! I won’t even get started about the time I was feeling really proud of myself, signing about marriage, when by the end of it all, I was informed I had been talking about the likelihood of one day, pursuing hamburgers! Needless to say the Canadian Dictionary of ASL is firmly planted on my desk.

I recently worked in the CAD booth at the 14th World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf. My co-worker reminded me that my being at the Congress was the same as a Deaf person living in a hearing world. In both situations, however, the Deaf person must exercise patience, as I fumbled through finger spelling, or reverted to writing everything out on paper. On the other hand, I was able to communicate easily with the hotel clerks, the subway attendant, and the cafeteria staff. How well my job has taught me not to take advantage of these things!

I become mesmerized, watching a conversation unfold in front of me as two people talk with their hands. Facial expressions can articulate more than the hearing world appreciates, while eye contact, often underrated between those who can hear, is mandatory in the Deaf community.

I return in a few short weeks to full-time school, but I have gained more life experience, and done more personal reflection than any college course could teach me.
The 3rd WFD Youth Camp: A Success Story!
by Evelyne Gounetendi

The 3rd WFD Youth Camp, which was held at the Hotel Far Hills, in Val-Morin, Quebec in the middle of the Laurentides Region, welcomed more than 97 participants from around the World. They were from Argentina, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, USA and Venezuela. The Canadian Association of the Deaf sponsored some of the campers from developing countries to attend the Camp.

Leader’s Training
8 Deaf Canadians were chosen to be leaders during the camp. Their names are the following:
- Aaron Walsh
- Michelle Bourgeois
- Megan Youngs
- Patricia Viens
- Jody Cripps
- JoAnn Bryan
- Christine Roschaert
- Joel LeMay

The leaders were each responsible for a group of 11-12 participants at the Camp.

The training, which started July 7th for 3 days, focused on learning International Signs, getting to know the WFDYS Board (who were present during the training), they also learned more about WFD and WFDYS organizations, first aid, their roles and responsibilities as leaders; they had to create games for the campers and prepare for the welcome of campers.

Every night during the camp, they met nightly (often late at night!) to review the day and to prepare for the next day’s activities. Each has to take turn for night watch where they had barely an hour sleep!

The Canadian Association is proud of the amazing job that the leaders have done to make the camp a success!

Opening Ceremony
The Opening Ceremony was a fantastic event where we had the opportunity to learn about Deaf cultures around the World. The leaders opened the ceremony with a sketch that portrayed the diversity of our Canadian Culture from British Columbia to Newfoundland. Everyone in the room enjoyed that play. Afterwards, each country were required to stand up and introduce themselves and their country’s flag. It has been a great history lesson about the significance of the flags and theirs symbols.

Closing Ceremony
The closing ceremony was a bittersweet event, when we knew it was our last night together before the end of the camp. Each country had the opportunity to wear their national costume and the chance to explain the origins of their costumes. Participants had the chance to express their appreciation of the camp to the audience and also they presented gifts to the Canadian Organizing Committee and the WFDYS.

Overall, the camp has been considered a great success by the participants and we were proud to have such various representation from around the world,

A special thanks to Nancy Landreville, Patrick Lazure, Julie Laroche, Martin Morel, Joel LeMay, Luisa Attuisano for their time. They have worked endless hours for 2 years to make this Camp a success.

Also, sincere thanks to Stephen Nicholson and WFDYS for supporting us and guiding us.

Enjoying the ride to Quebec City.
We Love Youth Camp!
by Patricia Viens

Just before participants arrived from around the world, we had to go through leadership training and during the training, we slowly began to have an idea of what was coming up ahead. We are grateful to WFDYS committee and the COC committee for organizing the training to help us gear up for the days ahead.

All the leaders agree that our favourite moment during the training was learning International Sign. We were all stumped on learning the new signs so we were anxious to see how well we could communicate by the end of the week! At night after training was over and done with, all the leaders hung out around the table with a few drinks. It was there that Megan Youngs came up with the idea of a game where we had to go around the circle and make a story in IS. If we made a mistake and signed in ASL or LSQ, we had to take a drink. Well, needless to say, from that point on, it was getting much easier to communicate in IS.

“As leaders, we felt absolutely privileged to have met so many wonderful, brilliant participants from over 30 countries!”

When we realized that participants were arriving soon, we felt excited but nervous at the same time as we were trying to plan activities and games that participants would partake in and enjoy! Coming up with drama activities was fun – we just went with the flow, went with ideas leaders came up with and before you know it we had a skit about traveling across Canada and learning about the features of each provinces. The work paid off when we received such a positive response from the audience!

There was free time everyday from 4 to 5 p.m. but we also wanted to balance that with providing the option to see more workshops.

Christa Rosechaert provided an excellent workshop on Usher’s Syndrome and we thank her for giving us quite the “eye-opening” experience. Thanks to Jo-Anne Bryan who facilitated discussions that covered topics such as gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) issues and women’s issues. Participants were able to join in a discussion initiated by Patricia Viens on the issue of cochlear implants and its impact. Vivien Batory provided time and space to discuss S.W.O.T. – techniques that would assist Deaf youth in fighting effectively for their rights in their country. We want to express our thanks to the WFDYS committee and the COC committee for giving us the opportunity to provide these workshops “on the side”.

If it wasn’t for Patrick Lazure and Martin Morel, we would be a lost cause. He was an excellent assistant coordinator and really guided us through the process well. He was always there whenever we needed him. A LSQ user, he definitely had a lot of patience with us who used ASL! He made us laugh through the whole camp experience. So thanks to him for helping us through.

Solidarity – that is exactly the experience we felt at camp in July 2003. As leaders, we felt absolutely privileged to have met so many wonderful, brilliant participants from over 30 countries! Ninety seven participants all gave us so much to think about – their culture, traditions and especially their struggles. The stories the participants shared with us especially made us realize the Deaf communities around the world were not alone in their struggles. Thanks to everyone who shared their cultural games, dances, and stories with us! You made the camp experience complete for us. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

Good luck to future leaders of the WFD Youth Camp 2007 in Spain! We are positive you will have an unforgettable experience.

Sincerest thanks and all the best from WFD Camp Leaders: Aaron Walsh, Jody Cripps, Patricia Viens, Jo-Anne Bryan, Christine Roschaert, Joel LeMay, Megan Youngs and Michelle Bourgeois.
The Amazing Race Team.

Camp Leader Patricia Viens with her team.

Campers enjoying their free time swimming in the lake.

One of the various games offered during the camp.

JoAnne Bryan and Aaron Walsh, camp leaders, are preparing for the Camp Opening.

Opening Ceremony: participants from Malaysia.
Some participants near the lake.

From left to right: Filip Verhelst, Belgium; Malin Sodenberg, Sweden; Ulla Sivunen, Finland; Sean Herlihy, Ireland; Erja Kauranen, Finland and Brent Philips, Australia.

Mette Sommer, Denmark and Miyuki Nakagawa, Japan.

Participants gathering before the workshop.

Some participants in Quebec City.

From left to right: Filip Verhelst, Belgium; Malin Sodenberg, Sweden; Ulla Sivunen, Finland; Sean Herlihy, Ireland; Erja Kauranen, Finland and Brent Philips, Australia.

Festival of Arts: Campers are painting a banner reflecting the camp theme.
Thank You to All Who Supported the 2003 WFD Youth Camp

The Canadian Association of the Deaf along with the Canadian Organizing Committee of the WFD Youth Camp 2003 would like to express thanks to the following donors for contributing toward the success of the 3rd WFD Youth Camp:

- Alberta Association of the Deaf
- Alberta Cultural Society of the Deaf
- Association des Sourds de la Mauricie Inc.
- Association of Visual Interpreters of New Brunswick
- Caisse Populaire Trillium
- Calgary Association of the Deaf
- Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf
- Canadian Deaf Sports Association
- Canadian Hard of Hearing Association
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- Kingston Regional Association of the Deaf
- Manitoba Deaf Association
- Mayfest Ottawa
- Newfoundland & Labrador Association of the Deaf
- Ontario Cultural Society of the Deaf
- Ottawa Catholic Deaf Church
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- Provincial Chapters of the Association of Visual Language Interpreters of Canada
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- Winnipeg Church of the Deaf
- Youth Canada Tournament of the Deaf – Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf

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- Dr. Anne Toth

In-Kind Donations
- Canadian International Development Agency
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Deaf Awareness Week

Deaf Awareness Week is celebrated every year during the fourth week of September. It is called “The International Week of the Deaf” by the World Federation of the Deaf. The week culminates in the International Day if the Deaf on the last Sunday.

The first World Congress took place in September 1951 and the choice of September to celebrate the International Week and Day of the Deaf is a commemoration of this historical event.

In the past in Canada we used to have Deaf Awareness Month in May but we realized that it became a confusion with Hearing Awareness Month or Hearing & Speech Month with started first in the past. The Canadians prefer to follow the International Week of the Deaf.

The purpose of International Week of the Deaf is to draw the attention of politicians, authorities and the general public to the achievements of Deaf people and the concerns of the Deaf Community. During the week, Deaf organizations around the world are encouraged to carry our information campaigns about their latest achievements and to publicize their demands and requests. The week also increases solidarity among Deaf people and their supporters.

Current Issues

Since its creation in 1940, the Canadian Association of the Deaf has been fighting for equal rights for Deaf people. Here are just a few of the issues that are currently at the forefront.

Employment Issue: The unemployment rate for Deaf people is unacceptably high. There are few Deaf Canadians employed in the professions and in “high level” positions. In 1998 a CAD survey showed that 20.6% of Deaf Canadians are unemployed, 41.9% are under-employed and 37.5% are unemployed. By comparison, 60.9% of all Canadians are employed, and only 8.1% are unemployed. Our position: The real causes of high unemployment are hearing patronization, inappropriate educational methodology, and systemic discrimination.

Immigration Issue: The Canadian Immigration Act requires Canada to reject applications for immigration from persons with any “disease, disorder, disability or other health impairment” which may cause them to be “a danger to public health or public safety” or which may reasonably be expected to place “excessive demands on health or social services.” Our position: The provision of the Canada Immigration Act discriminate against Deaf and disabled people and should be removed.

Closed-Captioning Issue: Television programming is still not fully accessible to Deaf people. At present time, only one broadcasting company in Canada (CBC) makes its full programming schedule accessible to Deaf viewers via captioning or interpretation. And while other national broadcasters boast that their “network programming” is almost entirely captioned, the truth is that “network programming” constitutes anything from 10 to 80 percent of the full programming schedule. Our position: Quality captioning or Sign language interpreting should be mandatory for all television programming and is achievable immediately. There are no excuses!

Language Issue: There are dozens of manual-gestural “languages” and sign systems in use in Canada, particularly in schools of the Deaf. In Canada there are two legitimate Sign languages: American Sign Language (ASL) and la Langue des Sourdes du Quebec (LSQ). However, several varieties of sign systems have been developed by hearing people. These are systems, not languages. Our position: These systems deform the true Sign language in order to conform to the grammar and syntax of a verbal language. They are a form of cultural oppression. The Sign languages of the Deaf are the only true Sign languages and must be given the same status and respect as any other legitimate language.

Technology Issue: Technology and technical devices are being developed by hearing people for Deaf people which are not effective, successful, or popular among the Deaf. Technology can be divided into two categories: that which empowers and enables those who use
it, and that which empowers and enables those who develop and control it. **Our position:** Technology that empowers the Deaf usually can only come from Deaf people themselves.

**Visit Our New CAD eStore Online!**

Now CAD has a new online internet store for our members who are seeking gifts or something just for themselves. Previously, we had publications for sale in the resource section, but rearranged the website so publications and merchandise, together, are placed in one area, the eStore.

This time we have photos of the items for sale along with their descriptions and prices. The eStore is divided into three sections: publications, accessories and clothing. In the accessories and clothing sections are some wonderful items that make nice gifts, such as golf shirts, denim shirts, sport bags, knapsacks, totes and coffee mugs. In the publication section are some wonderful books, both informative and entertaining for the readers.

So, please stop by and visit our eStore at: www.cad.ca.