

## **Lions of B.C. Hearing Conservation Society**

### **Mission Statement**

The purpose of this Society is and shall be to foster and promote hearing conservation and aid to the deaf, deafened and the hearing impaired in the province of British Columbia, along with other related programs which may be approved by the Board of Directors.



## **Your club can assist!**

### **Check List**

- Appoint a Hearing Chair**
- Establish a Budget**
- Purchase a Society Membership**
- Make a Donation**

**For more information and  
contacts:**

**[www.lionsofbc hearingsociety.org](http://www.lionsofbc hearingsociety.org)**

# **Lions of BC Hearing Conservation Society**



**Sight and hearing conservation** is a core focus of lions worldwide, and has been one of the principal Lions programs within our Multiple District 19 for many years.

**The Lions of BC Hearing Conservation Society** was registered under the Societies Act of BC in April 1999, specifically to assist BC lions clubs to address hearing loss issues within their communities. Assistance is available for individuals who suffer from hearing loss but who cannot afford the cost of hearing aids.

Many BC Lions clubs establish an annual budget to support individuals who meet club established guidelines for hearing assistance, and who apply to them for help. (See opposite for details of how such funds are spent and how the Society supports clubs in this endeavour).

**Society membership** is open to interested members of any Lions Club within BC. Membership fees are \$20.00 per member for a two year term. Duties of members include acting as club representatives in the Society, and working in the local community to help achieve Society goals. If possible, we ask that members attend at least one Society meeting per year.

**The society does not fund raise** on its own but relies on the support of clubs for the funds needed to run its programs. We ask that every BC Club consider using the Society's services to help the hearing disadvantaged in their community, and support the Society with an annual donation.

## **Our programs include:**

### **Collection of Used Hearing Aids**

Suitable collection boxes have been distributed to hearing aid providers, funeral homes, and various other locations throughout BC, to facilitate the donation of hearing aids to the Society. Supporting clubs monitor the boxes and collect donated aids for shipping to our Hearing Aid Bank. The aids are tested, cleaned, repaired or recycled and subsequently made available to BC hearing aid providers upon request.

### **Provision of Refurbished Hearing Aids**

Any Lions Club in BC can sponsor a resident in their community who has hearing difficulties and is financially unable to afford the cost of a hearing aid. The applicant must provide the club with a hearing evaluation done by a licensed provider, and such other information as may be desired to validate the request for assistance. The club prepares and signs an application to the Society, who then works with the provider to make appropriate aids available for the individual. By signing the application, the club accepts responsibility for the provider's fees (approximately \$300/aid). The aids are provided to the individual free of charge.

### **Provision of New Hearing Aids**

In certain cases, particularly with young children, only new hearing aids will be appropriate. In these cases the Society will share all costs on a 50/50 basis with the sponsoring club. (The club may be able to find other resources within the community to share their portion of the cost). Occasionally the applicant will have some insurance benefits that can also be applied to the purchase of aids.

### **Community Hearing Support Services**

The Lions of BC Hearing Conservation Society welcomes opportunities to assist community initiatives that address hearing difficulties. For example, we are strong supporters of "A Sound Start", a program to screen the hearing of all BC newborns within the first three months of birth. Appropriate equipment and training is being placed in all BC maternity hospitals, funded in part by your Society. If your club has a project that specifically addresses support for hearing, you are encouraged to provide details to the Society through your District Hearing Chair.

## **YOUR CLUB CAN ASSIST!**

We ask all Lions Clubs in BC to support their Hearing Society annually. Clubs may simply donate, or use our Fellowships to honour a member of their club or community for their hearing related work. We offer a Society Fellowship Certificate and a lapel pin for a \$50 donation. We also offer the prestigious Meade Sutherland Fellowship award, in honour of a BC lion who was a passionate advocate of the Lions Hearing Program. This award includes a fine medal engraved with the recipient's name, a distinctive ribbon, and a special Society lapel pin. This award must be presented by a Lions club and is available for a specific donation of \$500.