

We are

Deaf & Hear Alberta

We envision a society where the hearing population connects with, understands, accepts and embraces the Deaf and hard of hearing.

We want a world free of communication barriers for the Deaf and hard of hearing for we believe that communication equity is a basic human right.

We believe that the Deaf, deafened and hard of hearing have the right to equal access to all aspects of life and they will be able to do this when the hearing world truly understands the Deaf and hard of hearing world.

Deaf Alberta

More Information

www.deafalberta.ca
(fully interpreted in ASL)

Book an interpreter:

<http://aslbooking.deafandhearalberta.ca/>
booking@deafandhearalberta.ca

Visit our eStore:

Estore.deafandhearalberta.ca

Contact Us

Email: info@deafandhearalberta.ca
Web: deafalberta.ca
Voice/Fax: 403-284-6200
Toll-Free: 866-471-2805

Calgary office: 63 Cornell Road NW
Calgary, Alberta T2L 0L4
TTY: 403-284-6205

Edmonton office: Alberta School for the Deaf
Upstairs, 6240 113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T6H 3L2
TTY: 780-666-1350

“Deaf
people
can do
anything,
except
hear.”

I. King Jordan,
former president of
Gallaudet University.



Deaf Alberta

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Deaf Culture



The “Deaf” self-identify as a cultural group with a shared language, experience and culture. Their vision is for full inclusion in society. Deaf people face many communication barriers that either limit the quality of or their access to education, employment and health care and their full participation in society.

Deaf individuals are capable of doing whatever hearing/ speaking people do; they just use a different language.

The language of the Deaf in English-speaking Canada is American Sign Language (ASL) – a visual, spatial language rather than a verbal one. If ASL were as well known among the general population as other spoken languages, the barriers for communication with Deaf people would be removed.

Approximately one percent of the provincial population is Deaf or late-deafened. This translates to approximately 38,000 Albertans representing a wide spectrum of deafness. Those who ascribe to “big ‘D’ Deaf” are individuals who identify with and participate in the culture, society and language of Deaf people, which is based on the use of Sign Language. Deafened or late-deafened refers to individuals who have lost all hearing as an adult, but have spent most of their life in a hearing culture.

Deafness does not mean that one cannot speak. Some of the deaf have been trained in the oral method and their communication method is verbal and auditory. An oral deaf person who uses Sign Language may also consider themselves part of the Deaf community.

Regardless of history, background and personal choices of the Deaf and their family members, Deaf Alberta recognizes, respects and supports the freedom of choice for language and educational methods for all Deaf and hard of hearing persons.

Our Role

Our mission at Deaf Alberta is to ensure the Deaf have access to communication in their language of choice. The availability of sign language interpreters, captioning and other communication vehicles improves a Deaf person’s access to quality education, employment, social and leisure activities and services such as health care.

Interpreting Services is a province-wide service that advocates for and provides equal communication access delivered by professionally-trained Sign Language Interpreters. Over 70 of the best English-ASL interpreters in Alberta help us facilitate communication between the Deaf and a hearing audience. Our interpreting services and screening procedures are among the most highly regarded in Canada.

Deaf Services to the Deaf Community include children’s and family programming; educational and social support; and providing referrals to complementary community services.

American Sign Language is offered in various settings such as ASL classes, customized workplace sessions, private one-on-one sessions, Family Focused ASL, and more. We also provide Sensitivity Training for workplaces to help employees better understand the Deaf employee. Our staff is fluent in ASL and all ASL classes are taught by qualified Deaf Instructors.

Student Literacy Through a partnership with schools, we are working to improve English reading levels in struggling Deaf and hard of hearing students with our student literacy program.

Counselling Services To ensure access to the most appropriate care and therapy possible, three community partners offer counselling and mental health services conducted in American Sign Language. No person who requires help will be turned away. Contact Deaf Alberta for a referral and more information.

Assistive Technology, support and education that enhances everyday life. Our accessibility specialists conduct personal, facility or workplace assessments to ensure the right technology matches a client’s needs. For those who do not qualify for insurance coverage and cannot afford necessary products or services, we can assist them in applying to funding sources. We also offer ongoing client support. A full range of products can be purchased on-line at our e-Store or in person at our fully accessible office.



Deaf Alberta brings a dynamic and passionate team to work for you. We have staff who are culturally Deaf and are fully fluent in ASL. Team profiles can be found online at www.deafalberta.ca/aboutus

Support Us

Your donation will enhance services provided to Deaf individuals and Deaf families, as well as their loved ones, to have access to programs and services such as ASL classes, private tutoring, Family Focused ASL, counselling, information and referrals, and more.

Donate on-line at deafandhearalberta.ca

Affiliated Organizations

Calgary Association of the Deaf (CAD)
cad1935@live.ca

Edmonton Association of the Deaf (EAD)
eadoffice@shawcable.com

Alberta Association of the Deaf (AAD)
donmcthy@shaw.ca

Alberta Deaf Sports Association (ADSA)
info@albertadeafsports.ca

Alberta Cultural Society of the Deaf (ACSD)
ACSDoffice@shawcable.com

Associations of the Deaf are volunteer groups that promote social interaction, American Sign Language, cultural identity and rights for the Deaf.