

The Canadian Hard of Hearing Association – NL (CHHA-NL)

**a non-profit, charitable organization
committed to:**

- **advocacy**
- **awareness**
- **prevention**
- **programs and services** that promote a better quality of life for hard of hearing and late-deafened people of all ages and their families in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Unfair Hearing Test - CD

- Listen to the list of 10 words on the audio tape.
- Write down or try to remember the words you can identify.

1st reading – simulates slight high-frequency hearing loss and is spoken softly

1) Fill

2) Catch

3) Thumb

4) Heap

5) Wise

6) Wedge

7) Fish

8) Shows

9) Bed

10) Juice

These are just 10 words. Can you imagine the challenge of understanding a whole conversation?.....with background noise?

A Challenge!

**PERFECT
HEARING
LOOKS
LIKE
THIS.**

**IMPAIRED
HEARING
LOOKS
LIKE
THIS.**

Hearing Loss can be quite serious

Untreated hearing loss has serious emotional and social consequences especially for older persons

Seniors with **untreated** hearing loss are more likely to report depression, anxiety, and paranoia & are less likely to participate in organized social activities

Seniors **who decide to wear** hearing aids or use assistive listening devices report significant improvement in many areas of their lives, ranging from their relationships at home and sense of independence to their social and sex life.

CHHA-NL Programs & Services



Help Is Out There!

CHHA-NL Programs and Services

Services

- Membership
- Newsletters (4)
- Assistive Technology Loans Program
- Resource Library
- Website (www.chha-nl.nl.ca)
- Advisory & Consultation Services (“Client Services”)
- Advocacy & Accessibility

Programs

▪ Education

- School Presentations
- Public Presentations/Workshops
- Speechreading & Coping Skills Courses
- **Support Groups** (Parents of hard of hearing children, Youth, Meniere's/Tinnitus, Cochlear Implant)

▪ Community Outreach

▪ Seniors Program

- (Hearing Helpers Project)

▪ Special Projects (Adopt-a-Classroom, Infant Screening)

Communication Triangle

There are three components to communication.
Characteristics of each can make or break its success.

Speaker:

(not speaking clearly, speaking too quickly, speaking too softly, other (accents, facial hair) , mode of communication (phone, amplification devices, etc.)

Environment:

(background noise, lighting conditions, seating arrangement, acoustics, distractions.)

Listener:

(type of hearing loss, ability to pay attention, emotional status (tiredness, etc), distracting thoughts or feelings, listening devices.)

Tips for Speakers

- get the person's attention first
- **make sure your face can be seen clearly**
- **speaking clearly!**
- **rephrase when you are not understood** *(remember vowels are easier for someone with hearing loss to understand, while we identify words by consonants. Rephrasing may help.)*
- **make sure your face can be clearly seen (lighting)**
- **reduce or eliminate background noise**
- **talk directly to the person who is hard of hearing**
- **DON'T SHOUT!**
- **Use assistive listening devices when possible**

Reasons Given for Low Usage of Hearing Aids By Hard of Hearing Seniors:

- Cost - cannot afford them (PHAP: Provincial Hearing Aid Program)
- Unaware they have hearing loss
- Denial that they have hearing loss, that it affects their lives, or that it can be treated
- Cosmetic (do not want their hearing loss visible to others, belief they will appear old or weak)
- Shame (fear they will appear as less intelligent)
- Negative prior experience with hearing aids or by friends/family
- Represents change and the need to learn & adapt to something new

Technology for the Hard of Hearing

Sometimes called:

HAT = Hearing **A**ssistive **T**echnology

ALDs = **A**ssistive **L**istening **D**eVICES

Assistive technology or Assistive devices



Assistive Technology

Telephone Devices



Amplified Phone for the hard of hearing



Neck loop for amplified cell phone use



In-line amplifier for corded phones

TTY for text communication over the phone line



Assistive Technology

Individual Listening Systems



Pocket talker for
amplified
communication

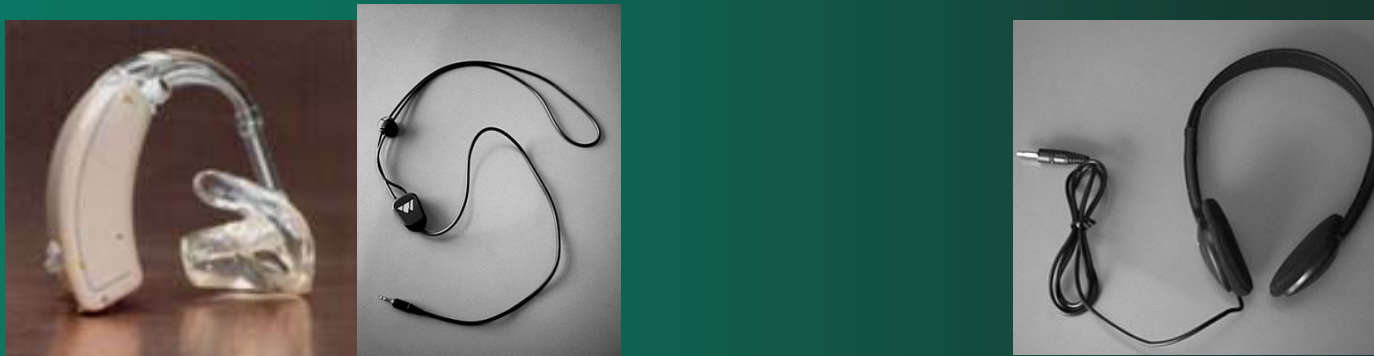


TV amplifier

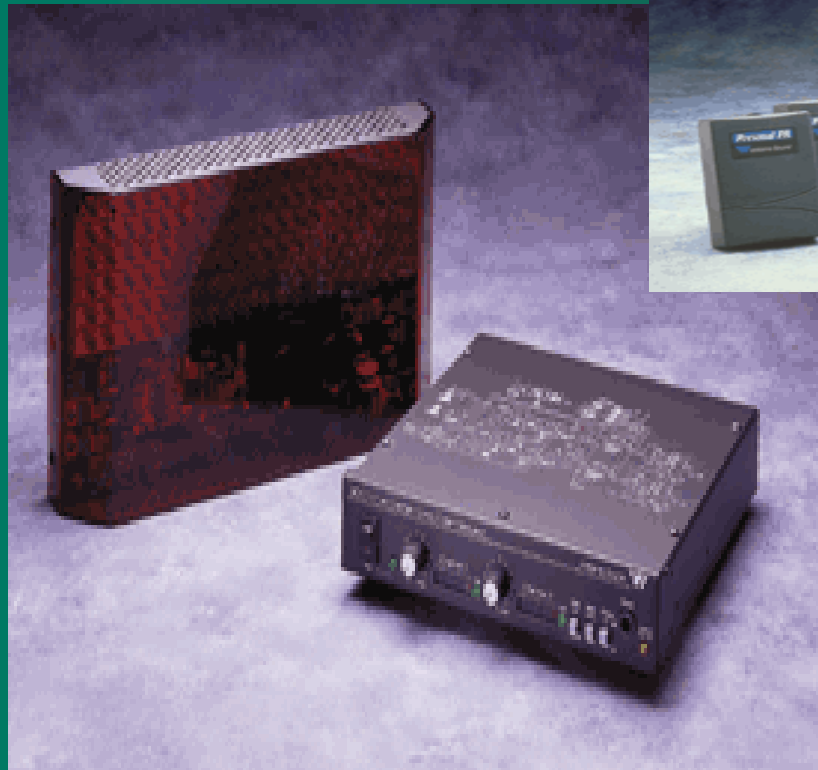
Assistive Technology

2 ways to listen

- Hearing aid with a telecoil “T-switch” & a neckloop
- Headset



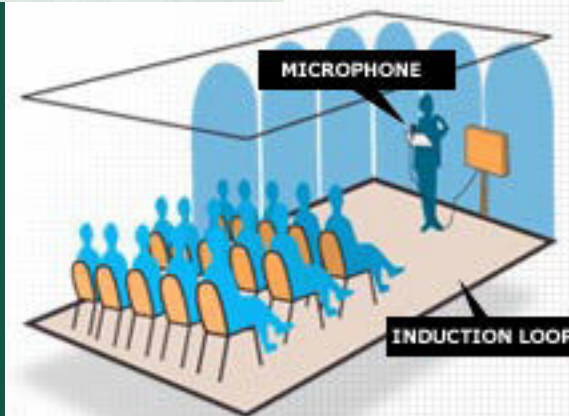
Group Listening Systems



Infra red technology



Radio/FM technology



An induction loop system transmits magnetic energy to telecoil-equipped hearing aids through a wire that surrounds an audience.

Induction Loop

Assistive Technology: Signaling Devices



1. Audio - Hearing
2. Visual - Sight
3. Tactile – Touch
4. Combination



Any Questions?

Thank you!



**The Canadian
Hard of Hearing Association**

1-888-753-3224, chhanl@nfld.net,
www.chha-nl.nl.ca