

**AGENDA ITEM #6**

**CANADIAN HARD OF HEARING ASSOCIATION / ASSOCIATION DES MALENTENDANTS  
CANADIENS**

Annual General Meeting of the Members  
Wednesday May 27, 2020  
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm ET

**SLATE OF DIRECTORS FOR CONFIRMATION**

**Board of Directors** -- The following nominations to be confirmed at the Annual General Meeting of the Members:

Chair: Marilyn Kingdon  
Vice Chair: Daniel Tessier-Young  
Secretary: David Leyton-Brown  
Treasurer: Christopher Arnold  
Members at Large: Jo Deluzio  
Sheila Serup  
YAN Representative: Leanna Rowe

**CHHA National Board of Directors – Board Member Bios**

**Marilyn Kingdon – Chair** --Marilyn has been a part of the hearing loss community for most of her adult life. She lost her hearing as a young adult and began a passionate journey to help others with hearing loss since that time.

Marilyn has been the President and Chair of the board of directors for CHHA national for the past year. It has been my privilege to lead the board of directors during the year of change for the organization as it forges a path forward. I feel that there is more that I can contribute toward the organization and would like to continue in the President role.

Marilyn has been with both the national and local organization for over 30 years and was part of the group of individuals instrumental in establishing the Edmonton Branch and its office.

Professionally, Marilyn retired from her role as a Governance Specialist with a large Edmonton based public company in 2018. A believer of life long learning, she is a graduate of MacEwan University in the Paralegal Studies program in 1996. Wanting to

further her education, she applied to Athabasca University to complete a Bachelor of Professional Arts degree in Governance, Law and Management in 2017.

Personally, Marilyn is married and has two grown children and two grandchildren.

**Daniel Tessier-Young – Vice-Chair** -- I am interested in the opportunity to re-join the CHHA Board of Directors. I have considerable experience working with non-profit organizations as a consultant and volunteer and I am confident that I can contribute to Board deliberations. As a person who has been hard of hearing since birth, I have a strong interest in working with the hearing health community and hearing-related advocacy groups.

Volunteering at CHHA would be an excellent opportunity to make a meaningful contribution and help the organization meet its strategic goals. My schedule is reasonably flexible – as I am semi-retired – and able to participate in meetings as required weekdays, week nights or weekends.

I have a solid record of achievement in association management, public affairs, advocacy and event planning. I am bilingual, results-oriented practitioner accomplished in the development, management and execution of high-impact outreach and partnership initiatives. I have a deep understanding of the federal and provincial policy process and how decisions are influenced by the intersection of political, bureaucratic, public and stakeholder interests.

I am passionate about community and charitable involvement and I am particularly interested in hearing health, social housing, suicide prevention and community support for young adults.

**David Leyton-Brown -- Secretary** -- My progressive hearing loss began in mid-life, and CHHA was there for me as I transitioned from “normal” hearing, through one and then two hearing aids, to one and now two cochlear implants. CHHA was an invaluable source of information, advice, support and advocacy, but above all a community of members going through the same challenges, who “got it” and understood from personal experience the realities of life for the hard of hearing. Each member needs different information and support at different stages of their hearing loss, as I did. It is truly a delight to find that there are others who have faced, or are facing, the same issues, and have found coping supports and strategies.

Now that I am retired and have fewer demands on my time, I have the opportunity to use my skills and experience to give back, as I have done as a mentor to prospective cochlear implant recipients at Sunnybrook Hospital. I have extensive Board experience, and hope that I can contribute to Board deliberations to help CHHA to continue to provide for the hard of hearing the benefits that I gratefully received.



**Christopher Arnold – Treasurer** -- I stand for office as I am very passionate about hearing health and all those impacted by it. I believe it's right for me to give back as much as possible to all those that have helped me run a hearing aid and hearing health business. There is a lot of work to be done for hearing advocacy for those that are hard of hearing, and I want to be a part of it. I also want to advocate how those without hearing difficulties can protect their hearing.

I love working with patients, supporting their hearing and communication needs. It's extremely satisfying to know that every day I can help someone improve their life, even if its just a little.

I'm asking for the opportunity to join the board and offer my knowledge and expertise in the areas I have strength in to help CHHA become more successful than it already is. It would also be great to help improve in areas that I could become stronger in as well.

**Jo Deluzio – Member at Large** - I have been on the CHHA board for almost one year, serving as the Chair of the Governance Committee. As an audiologist, and also the sister of someone who is hard of hearing, I am passionate about removing barriers for people who are hard of hearing. I have served on a number of local and national boards both within and outside of the hearing health care sector and I have served as Chair of the board of a large non-profit agency, so I believe I bring a wealth of board experience to CHHA. I have been involved with CHHA for many years providing volunteer hearing health care expertise when asked, and I have presented at several CHHA national conferences.

I have practiced as an audiologist around the Toronto Area for almost 37 years. In addition to my audiology degrees, I hold a PhD in speech-language pathology (S-LP) from the University of Toronto, where I have been teaching audiology and aural (re) habilitation in the graduate program in S-LP for the 20 years. I believe one of my greatest accomplishments has been to survive six teenagers. This has greatly developed my patience and my ability to resolve conflict within a team.

**Shelia Serup – Member at Large** – As a person living with a hearing loss, I am passionate about creating an inclusive society for all people with disabilities. My background includes: an MBA, accreditation as a business communicator, and over 20 years experience in regulatory, legal, private, public and non-profit sectors. As an executive director in a non-profit providing education programs for youth, I have built relationships and financial stability.

As CHHA-Calgary president, building financial viability has enabled our branch to provide and donate accessible looping systems to three public spaces, including the Calgary airport. I have served on 12 other boards including MEC, and our CHHA national board.



In the role of President with CHHA, I would offer excellent leadership skills, financial acumen, advocacy, and collaboration to build a stronger and sustainable CHHA for future generations. Inclusion for all people with hearing loss matters in areas of education, employment, communications, and medical services among others. It is important for people to work together to ensure access for many.

I believe in strengthening and bringing together chapters and branches, the Young Adults Network and cochlear implant groups. I would lead an active board and committees in strategic planning, advocacy, fund development, and membership. As Vice-President, I would serve to ensure CHHA is a strong voice for Canadians who are hard of hearing.

**Leanna Rowe - Young Adults Network (YAN) Representative** – Being a part of CHHA has been life changing for me. I used to always feel like a person who was caught in between. I never really felt like I fit in with people who were hearing but also could not seem to fit in with those who identified themselves as being Deaf. It was not until I discovered CHHA that I realized that we are all different variations of the same but CHHA is a place that brings us all together. Since being a part of this organization, I have made lifetime friends, heard stories that inspired me, and have been supported by other members who have helped shape me into the person that I am today. My dream for CHHA would be to work together to continue to foster growth in our membership, including young adults who will someday be the future of CHHA. As the Young Adult Representative, I hope to take my years of experience working within various levels of this organization and continue to foster the growth of the CHHA network of young adults with hearing loss in this country, as well as act as a liaison between the Young Adults Network and the CHHA- National Board of Directors. My dream for CHHA is that I hope that together we can continue to influence the lives of others as CHHA has influenced and shaped mine.