



# ALBERTA DEAF NEWS

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Alberta Association of the Deaf  
House #141, 11319-61 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta T6H 1M3  
Fax: (780) 430-9489

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## Happy New Year!

### President's Two-part Report

Season's Greetings to you all from Alberta Association of the Deaf. Let us all prepare for 2004 that will be another unique year. 2003 was unique in that the valuable experience we all gained through the particular year will help us prepare for 2004 and thereafter.

Part One: Congresses and conferences. It appears that 2004 will be a very busy year as AAD is committed to host the first Canadian Association of the Deaf-sponsored International Deaf Bilingualism Conference (IDBC 2005) in Edmonton, Sept. 21-24, 2005. Those who have volunteered for the World Federation of the Deaf's World Congress of the Deaf (July 18-26, 2003) know that voluntary support is needed to make the next international conference successful.

As a representative of AAD, I attended the 7th Latin American Congress of Bilingual Deaf Education for Deaf people hosted in Mexico City, Nov. 20-23, 2003, the first ever chaired by a Deaf person, Cesar Ernesto Escobedo Delgado. Approximately 700 people from Latin American countries, mostly Mexico, were present to listen to and reflect on 43 different presentations on topics mostly related to Deaf persons' need to feel invigorated and experience with at least a Sign Language and a major language. My impression is that, no matter which country/culture you are from we all have something in common, particularly with respect to the need to nurture experience-linked language and cultural values.

Contributions from Alberta: Linda Cundy is known to be the first person from Canada to give a presentation at a Latin American Congress; needless to say, her presentation was impressive. Darlene Karran, also from Alberta, volunteered interpreting for 5 to 10 Canadians and Americans who had trouble following Mexican Sign Language and International Sign interpreters.

Cuba won the bid for the 8th Latin American Congress in 2005. Such Latin American enthusiasm shows that our own IDBC 2005 fits as a part of the world-wide movement for Deaf persons to feel liberated to realize, appreciate and value becoming and being bilingual or even multilingual with a Sign Language and a dominant language.

Part Two: Changes in Alberta Deaf News. Alberta Deaf News (ADN) has been restructured to become more efficient mainly for internet-based distribution, and it now has a new look. Because it is expected to be between 2 to 4 pages long, writers may want to shorten their articles to fit better in this short newsletter format.

It is very important to remember ADN deadlines for submitting articles and photos, if any. Instead of delivering flyers and including advertisements, ADN will continue to include announcements of events sponsored by organizations, as well as articles for its next or near-future issues. Should you have any concerns or comments about the changes, please contact ADN Editor ([stratiya@shaw.ca](mailto:stratiya@shaw.ca)) or the AAD President ([davemas@shaw.ca](mailto:davemas@shaw.ca)).

D.G. Mason, President

## AAD REPRESENTED at Latin American Congress “Bilingual Education For Deaf People”

by Linda Hatrak Cundy



As an Education Consultant for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, I was invited to speak at the 7th Latin American Congress on Bilingual Education for Deaf People. The conference took place in Mexico City from November 20 to 23, 2003. Alberta Association of the Deaf sponsored me to attend the conference; it also paid for an interpreter, Darlene Karran to accompany me. David Mason attended as a representative of A.A.D. The decision to bring my own interpreter was very wise because Darlene was the only ASL interpreter there. The delegation from the USA depended on our interpreter all the time. The official languages of the conference were Mexican Sign Language (LSM), spoken Spanish and International Sign. It was reported that 700 people registered for three-day conference with almost 40 different presentations.

Through my work as an education consultant, I have firsthand observations of what Deaf and HH children are going through in public schools. The point in my presentation, “The ART of BEING PATIENT” was that Deaf and HH children know what it is like to be patient all the time. They have been asked to be patient while adults around them need 5-10 years to become proficient signers. Unfortunately, it takes up all years of Deaf children’s crucial years for language development. With a set of proper guidelines, the schools can provide a learning environment where Deaf children’s literacy skills “blossom beyond what we traditionally believe”. Instead of blossoming, they have been asked to be patient over and over again.

Based on the definition of inclusion, most, if not all Deaf children are only physically integrated in the classroom. They are not really integrated academically. The support services are not appropriate enough for the Deaf students to receive message equivalency of the ongoing communication in the classroom. My observations are that most Deaf students have severe delays in language development, not because of their hearing loss. They are linguistically delayed because they do not have good language models at the onset of their education. They do not have proper language models both at home and at school. They are in dire need of trained interpreters to provide good language models in the school community.

In my work as an education consultant, I have come across the coin-phrase: “severe language delay due to hearing loss” or “severe delay in language development secondary to hearing impairment.” For me, it means Deaf children are, by necessity, delayed in language development because they cannot hear. How is it possible that they are “delayed in language development” if they do not have any language base at all, neither ASL nor written English? They will be delayed if they have not been exposed to any language in the first place. The correct term to use is “language deprivation.” Deaf children are deprived from language-rich environments rather than linguistically delayed. Hearing loss does not cause language development delay; rather, low cognitive abilities cause delay in language development. For some Deaf children with cognitive development delays, the language development may be further delayed because of deprived exposure to sign language.

### **Mentality of Educators of the Deaf**

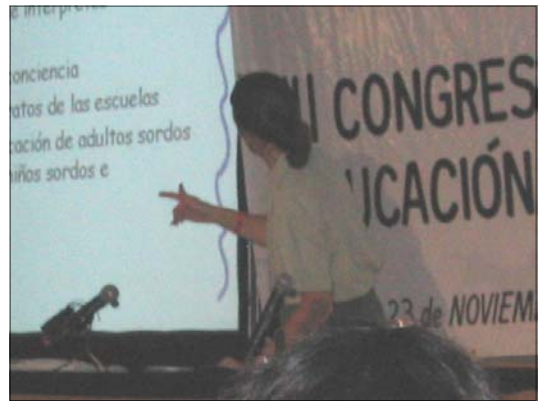
There appears to be a dilemma with educators in deaf education – they tend to perceive deaf children who are “smart” to be lucky because they are not supposed to be as smart as hearing children. Due to deafness, they are not supposed to develop linguistically the same way as hearing children. Therefore, the approach toward deaf education is to set lower expectations for Deaf children.

Imagine if the mentality is reversed to “a smart child who happens to be Deaf”, the perceptions and expectations would change drastically in that parents and teaching staff would treat the Deaf child the same way they would other children. As a result of the same expectations, Deaf children would not experience severe delays in language development.

Cont’d...

There is one simple recommendation (solution, if you will). We should be held responsible for screening and hiring educational interpreters. Not only screening and hiring, the schools need a system of monitoring the appropriateness of support services. The school personnel do not even have signing skills; yet the schools hire applicants on their own merit that they are proficient signers

We need to look at each child uniquely because every Deaf child is different and has different needs. If parents and schools do not advocate for appropriate support services, Deaf children will not receive quality education. That is so because they, by default, do not know what they are missing since they cannot hear what they are supposed to “hear” through teaching aides who are just beginning to learn or use signing.



Linda Cundy

Once we provide proper language models, we do not need to expend our energy on Deaf and HH children who experience severe delays in language development. With appropriate support services such as trained interpreters, they would be successfully integrated academically, socially and emotionally. New research supporting bilingualism has been steadily coming out, but educators of the deaf are not keeping up with research as much as they should.

Francois Grosjean wrote an article in *Sign Language Studies Journal*, entitled “Deaf Children Can and Should be Bilingual.” He said the following: “what is true of the hearing child must also become true of the deaf child.”

We need to look at sign language as being Deaf children’s language of access, and use it to allow them to:

- Develop cognitive abilities early enough
- Acquire world knowledge through visual language
- Communicate fully with the surrounding world through good literacy skills
- Acculturate into two worlds

We have been asking Deaf children to be patient with people who do not know signing, so Deaf children better learn how to “use speech” to the best of their ability. For some children, there is not much speech intelligibility to work with.

We have been asking Deaf children to be patient with people who are learning how to sign, so Deaf children better slow down and teach adults new signs.

I am not leaving you a bleak picture; there are some good programs out there for Deaf and HH children. We however need to focus on these areas:

- Willingness of Educational Interpreters to work in rural areas
- Willingness of families to relocate to bigger cities where there are programs for the Deaf and HH
- Create hiring policies for trained interpreters working in schools
- Network with Deaf adults and other parents of Deaf and HH children
- Consistently commit to quality of education for Deaf and HH children

If Deaf and HH children must be in public schools by themselves, then do it right. The appropriate support services must be in place; they should match Deaf children’s needs. With a set of strong guidelines, the schools will be in a better position to achieve the ultimate goal: to provide a learning environment where Deaf children’s literacy skills “blossom beyond what we traditionally believe”. We are patient no more.

AAD wishes to extend their heartfelt sympathy to Bob Whitford, his families and relatives of Alberta, B.C. and England for the sudden passing of his brother, David Huff of Nanton, Alberta on December 19, 2003 at the age of 54.

**Apologies** – David Dziwenka and Linda Nickel’s names are not in Gordon Lang’s obituary of December 2003 issue. David is one of Marjorie’s brothers. This was an oversight.

## Davin and Paul Did It Again!



Paul Filiatreault

In mid-November, Davin Bell and Paul Filiatreault went to Calgary to perform 'jury duty' for the Picture This... Film Festival. This was their second time judging films that celebrate disability culture. They watched over 70 different films of varying lengths and engaged in critiques and discussions with 10 other jurors. When it came time to vote the "Best of Fest" film, there was a deadlock between two amazing works. Ultimately, a five-minute music video made for deaf people beat out a documentary. Davin and Paul personally recommend everyone to see this innovative music video. That piece of work alone is worth going to the Picture This... Film Festival, running February 10-13, 2004.



Davin Bell

Also, a dramatic short film by a deaf filmmaker from Ontario, "I'm Not From Hear," won two awards. Her name is Catherine MacKinnon. So, make sure to write "Picture This... Festival" (PTF) on your February 2004 calendar and go to Calgary to see and support this double-award-winning film.

You can watch all the movies you can at the festival for a very cheap price and get all the free popcorn you want! You can get tickets by phone or online. Buy before Christmas, and save 10%! Call (403) 717-5610 OR visit [www.picturethisfestival.org](http://www.picturethisfestival.org) or e-mail [info@picturethisfestival.org](mailto:info@picturethisfestival.org) and request a pdf form. This year, PTF is offering discounts to people on low income programs, as well as seniors and students. PTF wants volunteers, so if you volunteer you'll get a free Full Festival pass very easily.

For those interested in a live presentation on what Picture This... Festival is all about, you can request a "ROAD SHOW" (only for Calgary area) from the director at [director@picturethisfestival.org](mailto:director@picturethisfestival.org) or phone (403) 717-5610.

Finally, it will be a fun time and you'll enjoy many great films that celebrate disability culture. Davin and Paul will be going as well! Congratulations to Davin and Paul!!!

### Upcoming Events—January 2004

**January 17<sup>th</sup>** "Working Together – Deaf and Hearing Interpreters and the Deaf Community" by Patrick Boudreault sponsored by The U. of Alta, David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies, Western Canadian Center for Studies in Deafness, and the Alberta Chapter of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. For further information, please contact Deb Russell at [debra.russell@ulberta.ca](mailto:debra.russell@ulberta.ca) or by phone: (780) 492-1156 or Taneal Brown at [taneal\\_brown@yahoo.ca](mailto:taneal_brown@yahoo.ca)

**January 17<sup>th</sup>**—AAD meeting at House 141 at 10 a.m.

**January 14 at 4 p.m. and January 22 at 11 a.m.**— EAD bingos at Gate 81, contact Cathy Kruger, TTY#483-4722 or email [clkruiger@telusplanet.net](mailto:clkruiger@telusplanet.net)

**Submission deadline for the next issue is January 19, 2004**

**EAD Meeting**, EADCC, first Monday of each month except July & August

**CAD Meeting**, SADC, 7 p.m., first Monday of each month except July & August

**EAD Seniors**, EADCC, Tuesdays, 11 a.m., except July & August

**EDLP**, EADCC, Tuesdays, 7 p.m., except July & August

**CAD Seniors**, SADC, first and third Wednesdays, 12:30 p.m., except July & August

**EAD Handtalk Bar Social**, EADCC, Fridays, 8 p.m.



## Unemployed and have a disability?

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## Alberta Deaf Directory

### Deaf Organizations

#### Alberta Association of the Deaf (AAD)

President — David Mason  
House #141, 11319-61 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T6H 1M3  
Thibodeau Office TTY: (780) 447-9236 ext. 236  
FAX: (780) 432-5730 Email: aad@centreforhearing.com

#### Alberta Cultural Society of the Deaf (ACSD)

President — Bruce Mayer  
11404-142 Street, Edmonton, AB T5M 1V1  
TTY: (780) 453-5053 FAX: (780) 430-9489  
Email: acsd@interbaun.com

#### Alberta Deaf Sports Association (ADSA)

President—Arista Haas  
House #143, 11331-61 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T6H 1M3  
TTY: (780) 438-8079 FAX: (780) 438-9114  
Email: ahhaas@shaw.ca

#### Calgary Association of the Deaf (CAD)

President—Jonathan Guinta  
Suite #512, 3545-32 Avenue N.E., Calgary, AB T1Y 6M6  
TTY: (403) 277-4092 Email: jonathanguinta@shaw.ca

#### Calgary Deaf Senior Citizen Club

President—Ray Matsune  
TTY: (403) 244-5622  
FAX: (403) 244-5603  
Email: roymatsune@yahoo.com

#### Central Alberta Association of the Deaf (CAAD)

President—Heather Westerlund  
Vice-President—Joseph Urban  
P.O. Box 24015, Plaza Centre PO,  
Red Deer AB T4N 6X6  
FAX: (403) 664-3391 (Heather)  
FAX: (403) 227-5586 (Joseph)  
Email: jurban@telusplanet.net

#### Edmonton Association of the Deaf (EAD)

President — Dale Hergott  
11404-142 Street, Edmonton, AB T5M 1V1  
FAX: (780) 436-4639 Email: beam.bergott.up@shaw.ca

#### Edmonton Deaf Senior Citizen Club

Chair — Margaret Pody  
TTY/FAX: (780) 475-5977  
Email: gmrpody@telusplanet.net

#### Edmonton Deaf-Blind Society (ED-BS)

President — Laurie Pushie  
11404-142 Street, Edmonton, AB T5M 1V1  
TTY: (780) 406-5597

### Interpreter Organizations

#### Association of Visual Language Interpreters of

#### Southern Alberta (AVLISA)

President—Janice Manchul  
Email: avlisa@shaw.ca

#### Alberta Chapter of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (ACRID)

President—Carol Arink  
House #144, 11337-61 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T6H 1M3  
TTY/Voice: (780) 437-4911  
Email: carink@epsb.edmonton.ab.ca  
Website: <http://www.compusmart.ab.ca/acrid/>

#### Freelance Interpreters Consolidated (FLIC)

P.O. Box 36023, RPO Lakeview  
Calgary, AB T3E 7C6  
TTY/Voice: (403) 283-8767  
E-mail: booking@flicinc.com  
Website: [www.flicinc.com](http://www.flicinc.com)

### Schools/ Programs for the Deaf

#### Alberta School for the Deaf

6240-113 Street, Edmonton, AB T6H 3L2  
Kathy Dolby, Assistant Principal  
ASD School Council - Leslie Wutzke, Chairperson  
TTY/Voice: (780) 439-3323 FAX: (780) 436-5863  
Email: [whatski@telus.net](mailto:whatski@telus.net)

#### Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education

Calgary Board of Education, Parkdale Centre  
728—32 Street NW, Calgary, AB T2N 2V9  
Norma Jean Taylor, System Principal  
TTY: (403) 777-7265 Voice (403) 777-7240 x2219  
FAX (403) 777-6016 Email: [njtaylor@cbe.ab.ca](mailto:njtaylor@cbe.ab.ca)

#### Queen Elizabeth Elementary School

402-18 Street NW, Calgary, AB T2N 2G5

#### Queen Elizabeth Junior/Senior High School

512-18 Street, NW, Calgary, AB T2N 2G5

#### Sir William Van Home H.S. Deaf/H.H. Program

2215 Uxbridge Dr. NW, Calgary AB T2N 3Z3

#### Knob Hill Elementary (ECS Program)

2036-20th Avenue SW, Calgary, AB  
FAX/Voice: (403) 777-8580

#### Stanley Jones Elementary

950 6 Street NE, Calgary, AB  
Voice: (403) 777-6800 FAX (403) 777-6803

### Agencies/Services for the Deaf

#### Connect Society—D.E.A.F. Services

Colleen Robinson, C.E.O./ Executive Director  
Cheryl Redhead, Early Childhood Services Coordinator  
St. Andrew School, 11342 - 127 St., Edmonton, AB T5M 0T8  
TTY/Voice: (780) 454-9581 FAX: (780) 447-5820

#### Edmonton Interpreter Services, Edmonton

Sigrid Garipey, Coordinator (9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mon.-Fri.)  
TTY: (780) 429-1939 Voice: (780) 451-9999

#### Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services

63 Cornell Rd., Calgary, AB T2L 0L4  
TTY: (403) 284-6201 Voice: (403) 284-6200  
FAX: (403) 282-7006 E-mail: [resource@dhhs.org](mailto:resource@dhhs.org)  
Website: [www.dhhs.org](http://www.dhhs.org)

### Religious Organizations

#### Cross of Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf

Rev. R. A. Bauer, Pastor  
11460—60 Avenue, Edmonton AB T6H 1J5  
Voice/TTY: (780) 435-7788 FAX after 6 p.m.  
Bible Study for all ages—Sundays 9:15 a.m.  
Worship—Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

#### Hidden Treasures Deaf Ministry (HTDM)

Pastor Greg Nickel, Chaplain of Deaf Community  
P.O. Box 92042, Edmonton, Alberta T6T 1N1  
TTY: (780) 469-2052 FAX: (780) 465-9206  
Email: [HidTreas77@hotmail.com](mailto:HidTreas77@hotmail.com)

#### St. Mark's Catholic Community of the Deaf

Providence Centre, 3005, 119 Street, Edmonton, AB T6J 5R5  
Pastoral Workers - Sister Elizabeth Kass and Janet Varaska  
E-mail: [ekass@providence.ab.ca](mailto:ekass@providence.ab.ca)  
TTY: (780) 436-7250 FAX: (780) 436-7255 Phone: (780) 963-0631  
President: John Shores TTY: (780) 434-8640  
Mass—Sundays at 11:30 a.m.

#### Calgary Baptist Deaf Fellowship

2670 Radcliffe Rd. S. E., Calgary, AB T2A 7M2  
Pastor Wayne Woodward  
TTY/Voice: (403) 226-7207  
Email: [waynewoodward@shaw.ca](mailto:waynewoodward@shaw.ca)  
Blackberry: [woodward@mobile.rogers.com](mailto:woodward@mobile.rogers.com)

#### CD Community Church

P.O. Box 36034, Edmonton, AB T5X 5V9  
Pastor Dale & Wilma Boyd  
TTY: (780) 473-2768 FAX: (780) 456-3687  
Email: [dboyd@cdchurch.org](mailto:dboyd@cdchurch.org)  
Website: [www.cdchurch.org/cddeafchurch.htm](http://www.cdchurch.org/cddeafchurch.htm)