

Inform *and* Raise Awareness

by Jeanne Choquette (Président, Audition Québec)



For nearly 40 years, Audition Québec has been providing services to the hard of hearing or deafened francophone community in Québec. Initially known as ADSMQ (Association des malentendants et devenus sourds du Québec), Audition Québec revised its identity and brand in 2016 with the aim of further clarifying its mission and vision.

Audition Québec's mission is to promote the autonomy and inclusion of people with hearing problems in Québec. To achieve this mission, the organization provides information and referral services to adults affected by hearing loss, as well as their families, friends and work colleagues. It educates and informs the general population and public authorities and, through its services, helps people who are hard of hearing or deafened to increase their autonomy and communication skills in order to remain integrated into society.

Audition Québec's focus is on information-sharing and awareness-raising rather than in the defense of rights, which is more the responsibility of ReQIS (the Québec Network for the Social Inclusion of Deaf and Hard of Hearing People).

TRANSPARENT WINDOW MEDICAL MASKS AND OTHER TOOLS

Audition Québec has established a partnership with Entreprise Prémont, in Louiseville, which manufactures medical masks and has just unveiled the Humask-Pro Vision, a windowed mask that complies with Health Canada's requirements (ASTM F2100-19 standard). It will be available to the general public at the end of January. In the meantime, Audition Québec has set-up a pre-order form (in French, but easily understandable) at www.auditionquebec.org/humask. It will certainly allow healthcare professionals who have patients with hearing loss to better serve us! Audition Québec will also reach out to merchants to provide salespeople with this type of mask.

Among the other products available through Audition Québec (see the site www.auditionquebec.org/covid19):

- Badges and stickers *I read on the lips*
- Awareness kit for the general public and healthcare staff related to wearing opaque masks
- 18 strategies for communicating with people who are hard of hearing

Their resources are available in French only.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made it so that we, the hard of hearing, are now forced to face the fact that we have hearing loss. Audition Québec receives frequent calls/emails from people who have great difficulty functioning at work. That's why the most recent issue of our Sourdine magazine focuses on the world of employment for people with hearing loss. To access this specific issue, please visit our website at www.auditionquebec.org/sourdine.



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2111 Northcliffe Avenue, Suite 443, Montréal, Québec, H4A 3K6

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info@audiologie-centre-ouest.com

www.audiologie-centre-west.com



Safe & Clear Campaign

Hear Québec provides two new clear mask options removing barriers and making our world more accessible, one clear mask at a time...

As you know, Hear Québec has made it a priority to improve accessibility in our communities. This is even more crucial during these pandemic times, with all of the safety protocols in place to protect us. These same protocols also create more barriers for those of us with hearing loss.

We have distributed over 1500 ClearMasks and shields in order to help tear down some of the barriers this pandemic has presented. Now we are excited to provide two new types of clear face masks. These masks will allow those who are hard of hearing/deaf to speechread and feel included in their own communities.

With so many varieties of masks on the market, we made it a priority to test as many designs as we could to offer you what we thought was the best value and price. We are happy to be able to offer a total of four different products to our members and the general public.

M Smiley:

A reusable mask called the M Smiley is washable, comfortable and doesn't fog! This mask comes in adult and child sizes and its comfort level is superior to other reusable brands.

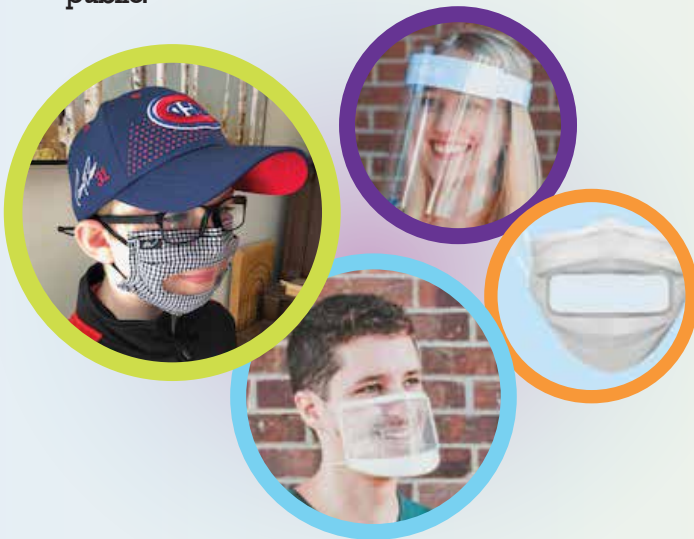
We are excited to be able to offer child size masks. These masks can facilitate conversations with children and an older family member or a young friend who has hearing loss. We truly want to eliminate barriers for everyone. Having a child size will allow us to do just that!



Humask Pro Vision:

The Humask Pro Vision is a new disposable mask that is coming to the market. This mask, with a transparent window, is the first to pass the required ASTM F2100 certification. **According to Health Canada, this is the highest quality standard used in healthcare settings (in accordance to the CNESST).** Its unique design has been created to provide space between the mouth and the transparent window for comfort and optimal breathability. Made from hypoallergenic and microporous membranes, this mask is distinguished by its anti-fog and anti-reflective properties.

Of course we also have the ClearMask and face shields available. To request your accessible masks, email mask@hearhear.org or visit the Safe & Clear section of our website.



"Going into a store with people wearing cloth masks makes things very difficult. It is even more challenging when it's a noisy environment. The use of masks with transparent windows is simple and helps me lipread. Very accessible for the hard of hearing."

*- Tahsin S. Mohammad,
a cochlear implant user*