



Hear Entendre Québec  
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## **CHIP Changes its Name to Hear Entendre Québec**

**(Montréal, Canada - September 12, 2019)** - Celebrating its 40th anniversary throughout 2019, Hear Entendre Québec, previously known as Communicaid for Hearing Impaired Persons (CHIP), is the only non-profit organization that provides anglophone services to those affected by hearing loss in Québec and has announced its official name change as part of its strategy to serve a wider audience.

“Our services for people affected by hearing loss will stay the same,” said the Executive Director of Hear Entendre Québec, Ms. Heidi Wager. She added, “Our goal is to move forward and reach a wider audience of the hearing loss community, which includes youth, a growing number of young adults, and adults.”

Hear Entendre Québec provides services to people affected by hearing loss and the community. The current five programs are:

### **1. Noise-Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL) Program**

This one-year-old program was created after staggering statistics regarding hearing loss were published by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2017. Currently more than 50 percent of people listen to their audio devices at dangerously high volume levels and WHO reported that 1.1 billion teenagers and young adults are at risk of NIHL. Although there is no cure, NIHL is preventable through awareness of safe listening habits. Through the use of a harm reduction/recreational model and an educational model, Hear Entendre Québec educates children (8-12) about the risk of NIHL and how to prevent it.

### **2. Outreach Program**

Designed to educate the general public about the signs and impact of hearing loss, Hear Entendre Québec's Outreach Program has been one of its longest running programs. It was developed because it has been well documented that, on average, it takes someone 10 years from the first signs of hearing loss to get tested and treated. As part of its commitment to improve the wellbeing of those affected by hearing loss, Hear Entendre Québec aims to significantly shorten this lag.

### **3. Speechreading Classes**

This program addresses an important issue that emerges with acquired hearing loss: communication challenges. Unlike someone who is born with hearing loss, individuals affected by hearing loss later in life are oral communicators. Hear Entendre Québec's Speechreading classes teach various adaptive communication skills to make up for their lack of hearing.

In 2018 more than 100 members attended Speechreading classes. Members taking this class have a documented increase in their confidence in their communication abilities and experiences.



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#### **4. Lily Bernstein Program (LB)**

The Lily Bernstein Program is a multifaceted program which offers a place where members can gain knowledge about hearing loss. This is done through one-on-one consultation, attending HEARtalks (information sessions) or taking advantage of Hear Entendre Québec's online resources. With the goal of demonstrating accessibility and self advocacy, the LB Program also offers social activities and outings.

To learn more about Hear Entendre Québec please visit the new rebranded website at:  
<https://hearhear.org/>

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#### **For more information, please contact:**

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#### **About Hear Entendre Québec**

Hear Entendre Québec, previously CHIP, is a registered non-profit charitable organization dedicated to supporting people with hearing loss and their families and communities since 1979. In recent years it has expanded its programs to address the needs of young adults and youth through the Noise-Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL) Program.