



Hear Entendre Québec  
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***Hear Québec provides four different clear mask options with your donations: Making our world more accessible one mask at a time and by removing barriers...***

**(Montréal - January 20, 2021)** - The Executive Director of Hear Québec, Heidi Wager, announces Hear Quebec's Safe & Clear Campaign, which aims at providing high standard quality masks with transparent windows and shields through each donation. They are dedicated to removing barriers and promoting accessibility for the hearing loss community and beyond! Join the movement by getting an accessible mask or making a donation.  
***#Accessibility #TogetherWeCan***

Heidi says “When you make a donation, you get a mask, then you help ensure that everyone living with hearing loss has the accessibility they need so that they feel included within their environments.” She adds, “When you transform one life, you transform a community.”

*“Going into a store with people wearing cloth masks makes things very difficult,” stated Tahsin Mohammad, a Cochlear Implant user. He explained, “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.”*

Hear Québec has distributed over 1500 ClearMasks and shields in order to tear down the barriers that this pandemic has presented. Now they are excited to provide several types of face masks with transparent windows and shields, including M Smiley and new Humask-Pro Vision, as part of its mandate to provide accessibility to the hard of hearing community and people affected by hearing loss. These masks will **allow those who are hard of hearing/deaf to speechread.**

The first new mask is the:



**M Smiley:** A reusable mask with an anti-fog window. Hear Québec has tested out many different reusable masks over the last few months and the comfort level and anti-fog for this mask outweighs many of the other products in the market.

The second is the:

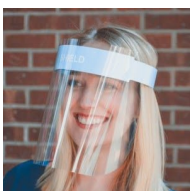


**Humask-Pro Vision:** Is a new disposable mask that is coming to the market. This disposable mask with a transparent window is the first to pass the required ASTM F2100 certification. This is the highest quality standard according to Health Canada, which is the standards used in healthcare settings (in accordance to the CNESST). Its unique design has been designed 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.

Still available are:



**ClearMask:** Hear Québec distributed over 1000 of these masks since July 2020. They are single use only, anti fog and latex free. They are one of the first masks with transparent windows that were Health Canada approved.



**Face Shield:** Adjustable protective shield for an extra layer of protection from particles, bacteria, and dust. Hear Québec has two customized versions of the shields, one that says “I support accessibility” and another that says “I speechread.” These versions highlight the accessibility benefit of face shields rather than just the safety benefits.

For more information on the products and how to place a request please visit the **Safe & Clear Campaign Website:** <https://hearhear.org/face-mask-shield/>



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**ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION:** Hear Québec is the only non-profit registered charity serving the anglophone community affected by hearing loss in Québec. For the first 35 years Hear Québec was completely volunteer driven for 35 years by people with hearing loss. Now more than 40 years later, we have grown but this dedication to see improvement in the quality of life of those with hearing loss is what gave birth to this organization that stands with the hard of hearing community to this day. Making the most of the hearing we have is at the very core of everything we do.

Many of our staff, board of directors, volunteers, and stage students are affected by hearing loss. We understand and are concerned with the struggles that people with hearing difficulties often experience in their daily lives. Hear Québec strives to bring about awareness within the community and shed light on the invisibility of hearing loss. Many people are also unaware of their own risk of becoming hard of hearing or the impacts of untreated hearing loss. We offer an array of programs and services to those affected by hearing loss, the greater community, as well as, give presentations about Noise-Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL) that help prevent hearing loss in future generations.

We focus on improving well-being by providing a trusted source for hearing health information, peer mentoring and support, and an accessible community to reduce social isolation. Members and others seeking our support come from all across the Island of Montréal, Laval, and the South Shore. To learn more about us please visit our website at [www.hearhear.org](http://www.hearhear.org)