



Hear Entendre Québec
7000 Rue Sherbrooke West/Ouest, Montréal, Québec H4B 1R3
Phone/Tél: 514-488-5552 ext/poste: 4500 | Cell/Text: 514-797-2447
Fax: 514-489-3477 | Web: www.hearhear.org

Hear Québec Gives Back for #GivingTuesday 2021 **Giving the Gift of Accessibility; Giving the Gift that Matters!**

Montreal - November 23, 2021 - Hear Québec is not sitting #GivingTuesday out; we will be out in the community giving back on November 30th, 2021. This will be our 5th year participating in the #GivingTuesday movement. On #GivingTuesday, the Hear Québec team will be strategically placed around the city giving out accessible masks to all. The team will be spread out throughout the city at places such as McGill's downtown campus and City Hall. **Our goal is to give the gift of accessibility to over 500 people** in the community and raise awareness about the importance of accessibility for the hard of hearing community in promoting inclusion.

We have put out an invitation for Mairesse Valérie Plante to join us in handing out accessible masks. We have reached out to her [twice](#) in the last few months in the hopes of discussing accessibility for the hard of hearing community in Montreal, but we have not heard back. However, we will not let this stop us; we are taking the message of accessibility to her! Come join us at City Hall to send a message to the mayor that our accessibility needs will be heard!

“Going into a store with people wearing cloth masks makes things difficult,” stated Tahsin Mohammad, a Cochlear Implant user and Hear Québec member. He explained, “This barrier compounds the already difficult hearing environment of the noisy store. The use of masks with transparent windows is simple and helps me lipread. Clear masks are very accessible for the hard of hearing.”

#GivingTuesday is the world's largest generosity movement and is considered by many as the opening day of the giving season. #GivingTuesday continues to gain traction across the country with thousands of partner organizations and millions of Canadians expected to take part. Since 2013, #GivingTuesday has united millions of Canadians to support and champion the causes they believe in and the communities in which we live.

The impact of #GivingTuesday goes well beyond charitable donations, inspiring giving in all of its forms. From coast to coast, people are embracing this day as an



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opportunity to raise money for local charities and nonprofits, run food and clothing drives, give blood, encourage kindness, help a neighbour, and celebrate generosity. At a time when we are all experiencing the continued effects of the pandemic, #GivingTuesday is an opportunity for people around the world to stand together in unity - to use their individual power of generosity to remain connected and heal.

We would love to have you join in spreading the message of accessibility; come down to City Hall to speak with Executive Director Heidi Wager and the author of the previous open letters to the mayor, Abby Stonehouse, on #GivingTuesday.

As Abby Stonehouse explains, "Hearing loss is an invisible disability. The needs of this community are often misunderstood. Those of us that live with this disability face barriers that the general population are not aware of - barriers that can be extremely isolating. These barriers have become more evident due to the use of cloth masks."

We also welcome you to distribute masks at a location of your own choosing; we will give you a free box of accessible masks to give out to your community. Please note, if you choose to help us distribute masks, you are agreeing to take part in our social media campaign and may appear in photographs we post and be asked for testimonials about your experience. If you are interested in distributing masks, please fill out this [form](#) by Sunday, November 28th.

To visit our #GivingTuesday partner page, please use this [link](#).

To make a donation for #GivingTuesday, please use this [link](#).

-End-

For more information please contact:

Heidi Wager, Executive Director

514-488-5552 ext. 4500 heidywager@hearhear.org

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.



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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