



Hear Entendre Québec

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Hear Québec provides accessible clear mask options with your donations - making our world more accessible one mask at a time by removing barriers to communication

(Montréal - Nov 1st, 2021) - Following the announcement that the Québec Government will be no longer supplying accessible masks, Heidi Wager, Executive Director of Hear Québec, is proud to announce that Hear Québec will continue to run our Safe & Clear Campaign which aims to provide high standard (level 1 and 2) accessible masks with transparent windows.

We are dedicated to removing barriers and promoting accessibility for the hearing loss community and beyond! Join the movement by making a donation to the Safe & Clear Campaign to get an accessible mask, or write to Premier Legault and Mayor Plante as we have to demand accessibility for the hard of hearing community. **#Accessibility**
#TogetherWeCan

Ms. Wager says, “When you make a donation to get a mask, you help ensure that everyone living with hearing loss has the accessibility they need to 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 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.”

Hear Québec has been distributing accessible masks and face shields in order to tear down the barriers that this pandemic has presented for the hard of hearing community for over a year now. The hearing loss community is often forgotten because hearing loss is an invisible



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disability, but you can help us shed light on the needs of the hard of hearing community by using an accessible mask.

We are honored to provide several types of face masks with transparent windows and shields including reusable M Smiley masks and Humask-Pro Vision masks (level 2 protection) as part of our 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** and feel less isolated and included in the conversation.

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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For more information please contact:

Heidy Wager, Executive Director

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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