

Meet Jennifer

Fall 2015

Jennifer is a hard-working and inspiring youth who just finished a summer placement with CHHA-NL. She is starting her first semester at Memorial University in the fall and intends to work towards a Bachelor of Social Work degree. Jennifer is passionate about many aspects of social work but her goal is to work in a role where she can focus on mental health concerns in the province.

Jennifer was diagnosed with severe to profound hearing loss when she was just a baby. Hearing loss is hereditary on her father's side of the family.

Jennifer doesn't let hearing loss slow her down. It can be a challenge but it is also a huge part of her life.

"It taught me to be a great advocate for myself and others; it has helped me view things from new perspectives and allows me to do things that I would never have imagined."

Jennifer has a message for those with hearing loss, or other disabilities:

"Why fit in when you're born to stand out? It's okay if we are different, we're all different in one way or another. Be an advocate for yourself as well others; don't be afraid to voice your needs at work or in an educational environment."

Jennifer has been involved with CHHA-NL for as long as she can remember. She actively volunteers with CHHA-NL and has also participated in the Leadership Empowerment and Achievement Program (LEAP) and the Dr. Norah Browne Speak off. Jennifer is also the recipient of our **2015 Community Awareness Award and 2015 CHHA-NL Entrance Scholarship.**

"I have made new friends by being involved with CHHA-NL. It has had many positive impacts on my life and I will take the skills that I have learned with me moving forward."

Anyone who knows Jennifer will tell you that she is not afraid to let her true colors shine. Through her involvement in Miss Achievement Newfoundland and Labrador, a scholarship program for young women across the province, she has done just that. Jennifer had an opportunity to put all of her skills to the test during the program but what really stood out was her eye-opening performance of "True Colors" by Cyndi Lauper.

"I performed the song using American Sign Language. I provided the audience with a new perspective on how an individual with hearing loss can enjoy and listen to music, while also promoting deaf culture. There was tremendous support from the competitors as well as family and friends, this made my experience in the program even better."

We, at CHHA-NL, are proud of all of Jennifer's successes, we know she will go on to do great things in the future.





VOCM Cares Donates to CHHA-NL Summer Camp

The Canadian Hard of Hearing Association – Newfoundland and Labrador (CHHA-NL) would like to thank the VOCM Cares Foundation for donating \$3000 to our nautically themed summer camp – “Let Your Dreams Set Sail”

Thank you for supporting the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association – Newfoundland and Labrador!

NEWFOUNDLAND POWER: A LEADER IN HEARING CONSERVATION PRACTICES

Newfoundland Power is setting a high standard for hearing conservation and better hearing in our province. The Company has over 650 employees who benefit from a best-practice commitment to hearing conservation education and training.

Hearing loss prevention has been an important part of the company for over 20 years. In 2008, with the guidance of an Occupational Health Nurse and Health and Safety Advisor, Newfoundland Power launched a revised **Hearing Conservation Program** for their employees. The program led to significant changes including:

- **Hearing conservation education and awareness training for employees** (including training on how to report noise exposure)
- **Shared responsibility and accountability in preventing hearing loss** among employees, supervisors, health and safety professionals, management, union, and human resources
- **Regularly scheduled audiograms** (including individual counseling if needed)
- **Access to appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)**
- **Noise level control**
- **Orientation for new employees**

Noise is one of the most common workplace hazards. CHHA-NL commends Newfoundland Power for taking an active approach to hearing loss prevention for current and future employees.



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