



Canadian Helen Keller Centre

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Registered Charitable # 86423 9082 RR0001

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Organisme de bienfaisance enregistré # 864239082 RR0001

Attachment 3

Proclamation June 1, 2021
National Deafblind Awareness Month

On December 21, 2000, the Ontario Legislature officially proclaimed the month of June in each year as Deaf-Blind Awareness Month, to recognize that "Deafblindness is a unique disability that incorporates the sensory loss of both sight and hearing" and was created to help "recognize that increased public awareness of this disability is crucial to increase opportunities for those who live with it."

The Canadian Senate passed a motion on May 28, 2015 also recognizing June as Deafblind Awareness Month across Canada. This motion helps "to promote public awareness of deafblind issues and to recognize the contribution of Canadians who are deafblind."

June is also the birth month of Helen Keller, an internationally recognized person who was deafblind.

Join us in celebrating National Deafblind Awareness Month virtually in communities across Canada. Throughout the month, community objects across the country will be yarn bombed, a form of street art where yarn that is knit, crochet, or wrapped, adorns an object in a public space. This largescale global tactile arts project symbolizes the coming together of people in the field of deafblindness, with the goal of raising awareness and knowledge about this unique disability.

The National Deafblind Awareness working group includes individuals who are deafblind, service providers and consumer groups working in partnership to plan annual awareness campaigns each June that celebrate the achievements and contributions that individuals who are deafblind make from coast to coast. Our goal is to share information with members of the public about the unique disability of deafblindness and the supports, available through Intervenor Services. We are interested in helping members of the public, media and elected officials understand the distinct disability of deafblindness so that they can learn how to remove barriers that individuals who are deafblind face in their daily lives.

Please note, due to the unpredictable circumstances surrounding COVID-19, opportunities to hold events may be restricted or postponed for the health and safety of communities across Canada.

Please join us in proclaiming June as National Deafblind Awareness Month.
Let us make a wave from coast to coast.

Regards,

Lee Simpson
Canadian Helen Keller Centre/National Deafblind Awareness Committee



DEAFBLIND AWARENESS MONTH

Make a *wave* from coast to coast

MOIS DE LA SENSIBILISATION À LA SURDICÉCITÉ

Créez une *vague* d'un océan à l'autre