

Praxis Team II January 20, 2013 Brainstorming and Researching Communities

to.

Community: Deaf People

Definition: see page by *Canadian Association of the Deaf*

http://www.cad.ca/definition_of_deaf.php

- *The deaf are ppl who depend on visual communication and those who have lost “functional” hearing (quote from the site)*
- *“The Canadian Association of the Deaf recognizes a person to be medically/audiologically deaf when that person has **little or no functional hearing and depends upon visual** rather than auditory communication. “Visual means of communication” include Sign language, lip-reading, speech-reading, and reading and writing. “Auditory means of communication” include voice, hearing, and hearing aids and devices.”*
 - Basically, someone is “deaf” if they can’t depend on hearing and voices to communicate—they need visual communication to function
 - Humans have a need for **communication** but deaf people are those that have one of the ways we communicate – namely through hearing – at risk.
 - **What are some of the ways we communicate? How does hearing help us communicate? What values of this method of communication do deaf people lose? What is being done to help them?**
 - According to CAD, deafness is not just defined by hearing loss: “*a quiet room with one or two other persons present, many hard of hearing persons can function quite well with a hearing-aid. When any kind of noise such as traffic, air-conditioning, or numerous other people enter the situation, however, **the hard of hearing person who does not have Sign language can in effect become deaf.** This example demonstrates that hearing loss per se cannot be used as the sole factor or as a “stand-alone” factor in defining deafness.*”

Some past projects they had (can give us a hint into some of the things we take for granted that deaf ppl struggle with – for example, **why do they need a special program to tell the hard-of-hearing about RESPs?**) http://www.cad.ca/projects_programs_en.php

- deaf people seem to have their “own culture and norms”
http://www.cad.ca/health_care.php
- Apparently, some have been labelled mentally disabled simply because they couldn’t find a way to communicate! **We could focus on this area...**

Apparently, there are also issues with accessibility services in publically funded services and buildings: “The decision of the Supreme Court in 1997 in the case of *Eldridge v. B.C.* confirmed that **any health care service, facility, or good that receives federal funding, whether directly or indirectly, must provide accessibility to those services, facilities, and goods for people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or otherwise disabled or handicapped.**”

http://www.cad.ca/health_care.php Is there a way we could make it easier for facilities to be more accessible for the deaf? Also relates to Dimmy’s LONG TERM HEALTHCARE BRAINSTORM – we could look at the community of deaf people in nursing homes!

Also, issue with **identifying early children with deafness**, and **teaching them Sign Language (according to CAD)** or at least some method of communication that will enable them to be literate, and have employment prospects. (see “Deaf Children and Youth” http://www.cad.ca/health_care.php) Is there a way to make it easier to identify deafness? What are the current ways of identifying deafness in people? What are the possible languages/methods of communication deaf people can use? How do deaf people currently communicate? How do the different types of deaf people communicate? Are there differences in the ways the different types of deaf people communicate? What are some of the issues in these methods of communication?

Also, hearing aids are EXPENSIVE b/c they cost around \$1000, medi-care covers only parts of it every couple of yrs, AND the hearing aids usually have parts that must be replaced every couple of years – at least according to CAD http://www.cad.ca/health_care.php (under medical expenses) **we need to verify these claims that CAD made!**

audiology and otolaryngology departments; also accessibility in the hospital – Community: Deaf Patients **what are the statistics on the number of deaf people in hospitals? Is it significant enough to make it accessible to them? Will it benefit other communities?** http://www.cad.ca/health_care.php

Under “Deaf Doctors” imply that maybe the U.S. could be used as a **reference/example** of how we can make deaf people successful in professional fields such as medicine. http://www.cad.ca/health_care.php

On the resource’s credibility: CAD is a charitable organization and therefore quite biased and opinionated. We will have to cross-check all the values (such as statistics and cost in healthcare) that they used in making their arguments. They have a lot of info on just about everything about deaf people though, so that’s good.

There are a whole bunch more topics from the CAD resource that we could use if needed, but I have to go on to another resource.

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Survey from Ontario Association of the Deaf (OAD): <http://www.deafontario.ca/2013-OAD-Survey-quality-life.pdf>

On *Onatriodeafsports* (http://ontariodeafsports.on.ca/?page_id=2) call the community “Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in Ontario” → so not just “deaf” but also “hard of hearing” defines the community.

- A member of sports alliance Ontario (SAO) → so obviously some ppl are trying to be considerate of deaf people

From the OAD website (<http://www.deafontario.ca/strategic.html>):

Communication	Improve communication within the Ontario Deaf Community.
Finance	Increase the Ontario Association of the Deaf Service provision and finance security.
American Sign Language (ASL)	Promote the recognition and preservation of American Sign Language as a natural birthright for Deaf people.
Audism	Increase awareness about Audism, a term used to describe discrimination against Deaf and hard of hearing people where spoken language is considered superior to sign language.
Education	Improve the quality of education for Deaf children attending provincial, public and separate school boards in Ontario.
Interpreting	Support the expansion of interpreting services and ensure high quality of service provision.
Advocacy	Develop avenues of advocacy to promote leadership and self-determination for the following groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deaf Blind • Deaf Youth • Deaf Seniors • Aboriginal Deaf • Deaf persons with HIV/AIDS • Unemployed Deaf • Langue des signes québécoise (LSQ)

Communication – refer to questions on pg 2 about how and what the problems are with deaf people communicating.

Finance – what do they need money for? Health-care? What else? Are Deaf people more at-risk financially than other communities? Why?

American Sign Language as a method of communication. What are the benefits to it? What are the drawbacks? Exactly how do deaf ppl communicate with this? Since some of them don't know the words or sounds of the words. Again, how does the type of deafness affect how they understand objects and/or are able to communicate?

Deaf people (who were born that way) can't speak either, right? So they are almost mute too? – **Research!** Is there a way in which they can learn to recognize the sounds? Or speak?

Education – **Community: Deaf children in**

- Public school
- Private school
- Separate school boards (like Catholic)

Other communities – deaf blind, deaf youth, aboriginal deaf, deaf seniors, deaf people with HIV/AIDS, unemployed deaf – **Are there problems common to all these specific communities**

that could be narrowed down to a specific community?(e.g. General:I need this thing Specific: How can I apply this problem in a classroom setting?)

There is also the *Deaf Outreach Program*. <http://www.deafontario.ca/dop.html>

Important stakeholder in Toronto: **Toronto Association of the Deaf**

- they hold sport and social events for the deaf
- I think the other Toronto associations, such as the Ontario Deaf Sports, may descend from the TAD
- TAD itself seems to be a subhead of OAD see membership form:
<http://www.deaftoronto.ca/images/Pages/membershipforms.pdf>
- Contact info for this stakeholder: <http://www.deaftoronto.ca/index.php/contact>
 - A stakeholder b/c they represent the needs of the deaf community in Toronto

Another stakeholder/representative in Toronto: <http://silentvoice.ca/about-us/> Silent Voice

- Location: GTA → **is GTA within the assignment guidelines???**
- Would work if we are focusing on deaf children, because that is what they're about

They're contact info: 50 St. Clair Ave East

Suite 300

Toronto, ON

M4T 1M9

416-463-1104 (Voice)

416-463-3928 (TTY)

416-778-1876 (fax)

silent.voice@silentvoice.ca

<http://silentvoice.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Organizational-Chart-November-20121.pdf> - interesting, each of the subheads is sort of like a specific community within the deaf community

- Deaf people who pay taxes (Tax Clinic heading)
- Youth
- Students
- Deaf Teachers
- Deaf people looking for houses
- Deaf people communicating with hearing family members (or vice versa)
- Deaf Parents with hearing children

Another stakeholder we could visit is the Deaf Culture Centre – it seems to literally be a museum dedicated to understanding deaf culture and life

<http://www.deafculturecentre.ca/Public/home2.aspx>

Times to visit: Mondays – closed, Weekdays and Saturday – 11am to 6pm, Friday 2-6, Sundays 12 – 5

http://www.deafculturecentre.ca/Public/Page/Files/10_Guided%20Tours.pdf – guided tours to “immerse yourself in deaf culture” → good and fun way to research!

The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Society: <http://www.dhhs.ca/>

News article about police officers reaching out to the deaf community:

<http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=6085>

How do they call 9-1-1???? Leaving the line open doesn't necessarily work...police officers may not realize they are deaf and/or can't speak – would also be a problem for **mute** people as well. What are current other solutions?

More Stakeholders:

<http://www2.bobrumball.org/> - Bob Rumball Organizations; in Toronto The Bob Rumball Centre for the Deaf – a community recreational centre

<http://www.dhhs.ca/> - Deaf and Hard of Hearing Society

Now, clearly, “Deaf People or the Deaf Community” is TOO BROAD of a community for us to work with, so here's a list of more specific communities we could focus on:

- People who acquired deafness (so at one point they could hear)
- People born deaf, who could never hear (how is this different from acquired deafness?)
- Deaf people who pay taxes (Tax Clinic heading)
- Deaf Children
 - o Deaf babies, unidentified/incorrectly diagnosed deaf children
- Deaf patients with a terminal illness
 - o Deaf patients in hospice and palliative care
- Deaf people in a nursing home/long term care – RELATES TO DIMMY'S BRAINSTORM
- Deaf with other disabilities
 - o Deaf and mute
 - o Deaf and blind
 - o Deaf and unable to walk
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- Deaf Aboriginals
- Deaf workers/those who want to work – Unemployed deaf

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- Deaf Youth
 - o Those who need an education
- Deaf Students
 - o In university (**Statistics on how many actually go to university or post-secondary?**)
 - o In deaf schools (in Toronto: Toronto School for the Deaf)
 - o In public schools/separate school boards
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- Deaf Teachers (see students for specific communities)
 - o Teaching in deaf schools
 - o Teaching in public schools
- Deaf people looking for houses
- Deaf people communicating with hearing family members (or vice versa)
- Deaf Parents with hearing children
- Deaf parents with hearing children
- Deaf sports players
- Deaf employed in professional fields (such as medicine, business, etc....)
- Deaf who drive
- Deaf people lacking no method of auditory communication
 - o Ex. Family members who hear and speak
- Deaf people in Toronto whose family's primary language is not English
 - o Deaf and newly immigrated
- <http://www.vitalsigns.cc/newdeafnotes.htm> site that provides deaf people with churches where there is sign language, as well as movies that are close-captioned
- Reading must be really important for deaf people – but how will they know what the words sound like? And why do we need specific sounds anyway in the English language?
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