



SDHHS
Saskatchewan Deaf and
Hard of Hearing Services
Bridging the Gap

Serving Saskatchewan since 1981

SERVICES



SERVICES



Interpreting

SERVICES



CCCC Preschool

SERVICES



Early Childhood And
Family Service

SERVICES



Vocational
Services

SERVICES



Sign Support
Professional

SERVICES



Computerized Note-Taking Services

SERVICES



American Sign
Language Classes

SERVICES



Assistive Devices

SDHHS HAS BEEN SERVING SASKATCHEWAN SINCE 1981

Our Mission

To support the independence of Deaf, Deafened and Hard of Hearing people by providing services which enhance their quality of life.

Our Vision

A world without barriers for people who are Deaf, Deafened or Hard of Hearing.

Our Values

- Communication with respect, dignity, and cultural sensitivity.
- Collaboration and cooperation among individuals and communities.
- Self-determination, empowerment, and choice.
- Operational integrity and accountability that inspires trust.
- Accessibility.

Introduction:

- **Rae-Mairi:** (Deaf person from Sechelt BC, and recently moved to SK)
I moved from BC to SK to work as Sign Language Support Professional. In this position I have the ability to apply my lived experiences, and skills to bring ASL and ISLs to Saskatchewan Deaf and HoH Communities, as well as the educational settings. I was part of the Indigenous Committee who helped advocate and pass Sign Languages as Recognized languages in Government that is outlined in Bill C 94: Indigenous Disabilities and Preserve Indigenous Sign Languages as Languages Accessible for Indigenous across Canada. I have been working with Burton Bird, Alanda and other staff from SDHHS to provide support in learning ASL and ISLs within Saskatchewan Indigenous Schools as well as various Saskatchewan schools who have Deaf and HoH students. This also includes supporting their families with learning signed languages outside of school hours. My goal for Deaf and HoH individuals is to have barrier-free access to their rights to access their natural language as an official language and have the ability to communicate with everyone equally.



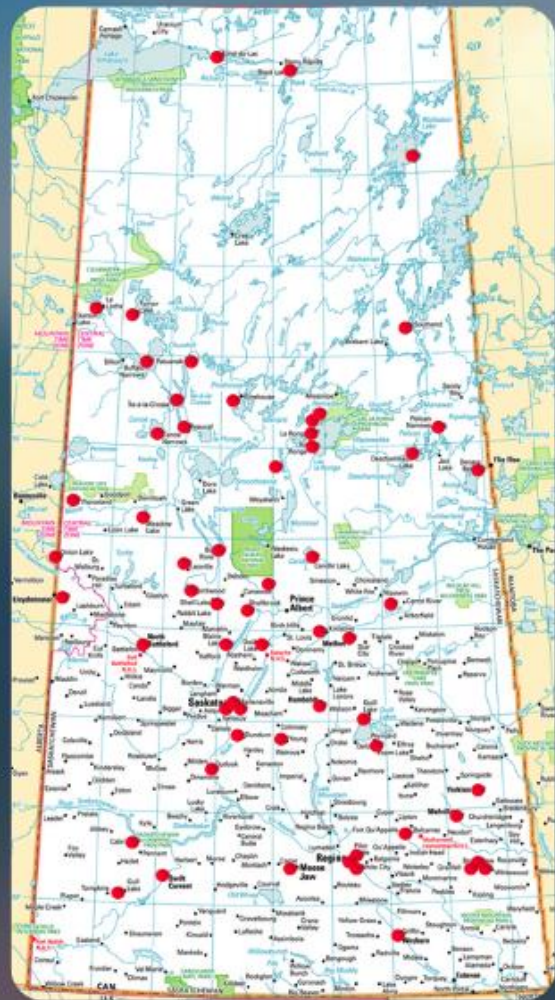
Introduction:

- **Alanda:** (Deaf Denesuline and Metis woman, raised in Prince Albert, SK.)
I looked up to the great role models in school and camps and I ended up studying hard to get my college diploma to support future youths. I understand how important it is to serve the community as individuals participating in charitable activities and by helping indigenous people in need. I have been volunteering a lot with SDHHS for many years and gained many experiences in the Deaf community. I was given the opportunity to work as a Sign Support Professional at SDHHS. I have a variety of duties; I have helped with the schools, and watching the students' skills grow inspires me. One of the youths came to one of our services with no language and they had high levels of frustration. I started working one-to-one with them, teaching sign language in hopes of improving their ability to better share their experiences with us. Communication helps strengthen the bond with the youth. My goal is to improve Saskatchewan's Deaf & Hard of Hearing community; it may be challenge, but with respect, we learn how to be a leader and promote collaboration within a team without communication barriers.



SDHHS offers a variety of supports to Saskatchewan residents. We work with babies, children, youth, young adults, parents, family members, and senior citizens.

The red dots indicate Deaf and Hard of Hearing people that SDHHS has contact with. There are many more individuals and families who are not aware of SDHHS services.





OUR EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH NEWCOMERS

Question...

Are American Sign Language (ASL) & Indigenous Sign Language (ISLs) languages?

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Bill C-81, the Accessible Canada Act recognizes ASL, LSQ and ISL as the primary Languages of Deaf people, (June 2019)

- American Sign Language
- Quebec Sign Language (Langue des signes du québécoise), and
- Indigenous Sign Languages (currently 5 sign languages have been recognized across Canada)

Bill C-91, A Act of Respecting Indigenous Language and enacts the Indigenous Language Act, which recognizes Indigenous language rights as Aboriginal rights protected under section 35 of the Constitution Act. (1982)

Signed languages are as rich and complex as any spoken language and meet the linguistic criteria to be labeled as languages.

WHAT IS SIGN LANGUAGE?

Out of the world's population of about 8 billion people

How many are sign language users?



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How many are sign language users?



More than 371 different sign languages in the world, spoken by more than 72 million deaf or hard-of-hearing people worldwide.

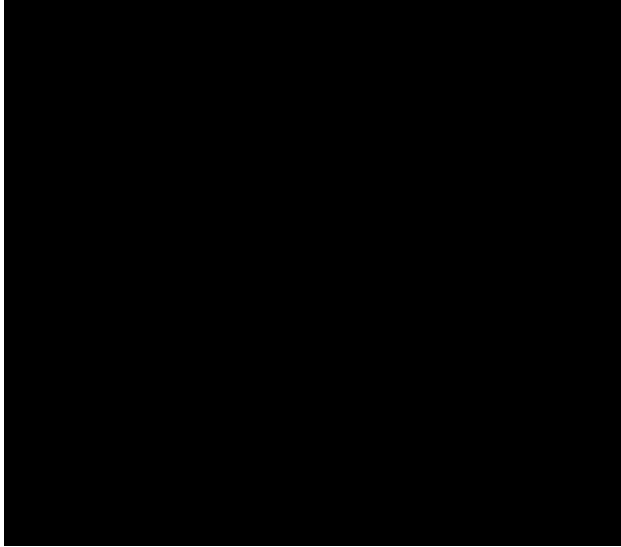
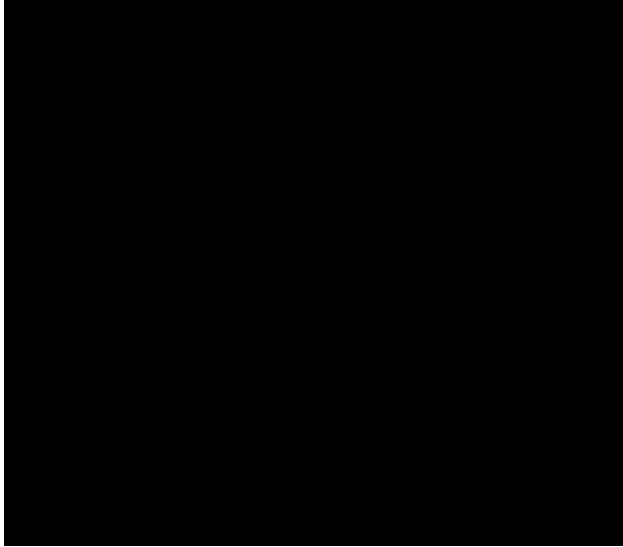




Figure 1.1
Indian Sign Language (ISL)

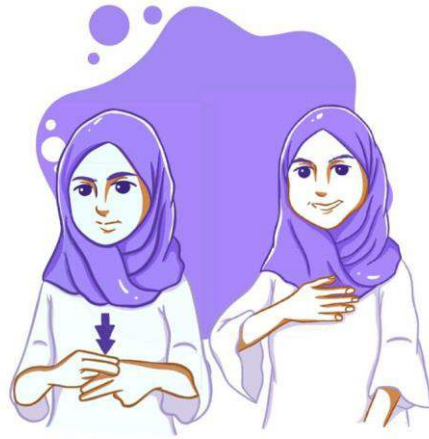


Figure 1.2
Indonesian Sign Language (Bisindo)



Figure 1.3
Japanese Sign Language (JSL)

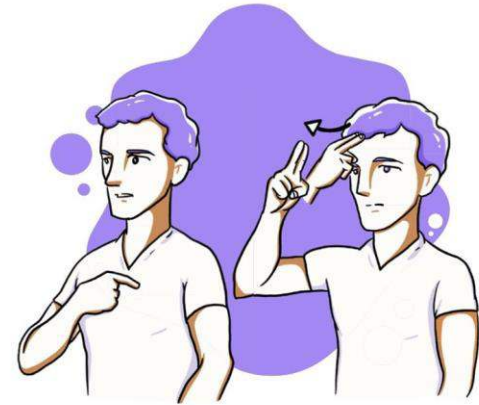


Figure 1.4
New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL)



Figure 1.6
Australian Sign Language
(Auslan)



Figure 1.7
British Sign Language
(BSL)



Figure 1.8
American Sign Language
(ASL)

What are some elements of Sign Language?

- ASL includes phonology, morphology, lexicon/inflections, semantics, syntax, and pragmatics.
- ASL phonology can be broken down into 5 parameters; movement, palm orientation, handshapes, location, and facial expression.
- ISLs' grammatical structures are similar to native spoken languages from First Nations, Inuit & Metis. Most are visually signed in a way that visual literature to supports and complements their respective spoken languages. (Universal language among Nation people).
- ISLs are the languages once used to help nations communicate with each other, not just for Deaf, but Indigenous people used sign languages long before the development of ASL.

What are some elements of Sign Language?

- ISLs are used for story-telling, oratory and various ceremonies. Elders use it as ^{wall}
- ISLs are growing by d/Deaf and HoH Indigenous communities across Canada for ordinary daily use.
- ISLs (PISL - Plains Indian Sign Language) is a manually coded language.
- ISLs: Plains Indian Sign Language, Oneida Sign Language, and Inuit/Nunavut Sign Languages. The Salish Sign Language is fading and they are working to preserve it through the assistance of their elders. Work is also being done to preserve Metis Sign Language and LSQ (Sign Language of Quebec)
- The government has committed to providing long-term, sustainable funding for Indigenous languages. They have established an Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous Language and facilitate collaboration between federal, provincial, territorial and Indigenous governments to deliver supports.

Remember, ASL is a Language!

Foundation:

ASL & ISLs have a foundation of language which to build other skills. This includes speaking and listening skills, as well as reading and writing skills.

Literacy:

Using ASL and/or ISLs enable a deaf or hard of hearing child to learn to read much faster and with more ease. This is because early access to a language allows the child to make connections to print.

Options:

ASL & ISLs lead to the option of becoming bilingual. With the foundational knowledge of one language, it is much easier to learn a second. Knowing two languages provide communication and learning options.

Other benefits of learning:

Fine motor coordination, cognitive recognition, spatial recognition, brain development, increase in IQ when using a bilingual-bicultural approach.

12 REASONS TO LEARN ASL

Easily communicate underwater

You can talk when your mouth is full

Understand and help end autism

Speak right through a closed window and still be understood

Talk across a crowded room without yelling

Quietly chat at the movies without being rude

Learn a language that's unique visual spatial & gestural

Count to ten and higher on just one hand

It's a 3D language. 3D glasses not needed!

Satisfy your foreign language requirement

It will never be too loud or too quiet to sign to someone

Get to know some wonderful people in the deaf community!

ASL classes

Registration for Fall 2024!!



The flyer features a yellow background with a repeating leaf pattern. At the top left is the SDHHS logo with the text 'Saskatchewan Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Bridging the Gap'. In the center, a white circle with a blue border contains the text 'AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE CLASSES FALL 2024' and an icon of three hands. To the right, a red circle contains the text 'DEADLINE SEPT. 13'. Below this is a blue box with the text 'WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:'. The main text is enclosed in a red-bordered box and includes details about class start dates, times, registration status, and costs. At the bottom, a blue-bordered box contains the text 'SCAN THIS QR CODE FOR THE REGISTRATION FORM!' and a QR code.

 **SDHHS**
Saskatchewan Deaf and
Hard of Hearing Services
Bridging the Gap


**AMERICAN
SIGN
LANGUAGE
CLASSES**
FALL 2024

**DEADLINE
SEPT. 13**

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

CLASSES START WEEK OF SEPT 23 2024
7PM - 9PM
10 WEEK COURSE, TWICE WEEKLY (40 HOURS)

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THESE CLASSES:
ASL 101 ONLINE (TUES/THURS)
ASL 102 ONLINE (TUES/THURS)
ASL 201 ONLINE (TUES/THURS)
ASL 202 ONLINE (MON/WED)
ASL 101 IN PERSON REGINA (MON/WED)
ASL 101 IN PERSON SASKATOON (TUES/THURS)

CLASSES: \$240.00
TEXTBOOK: \$115.00

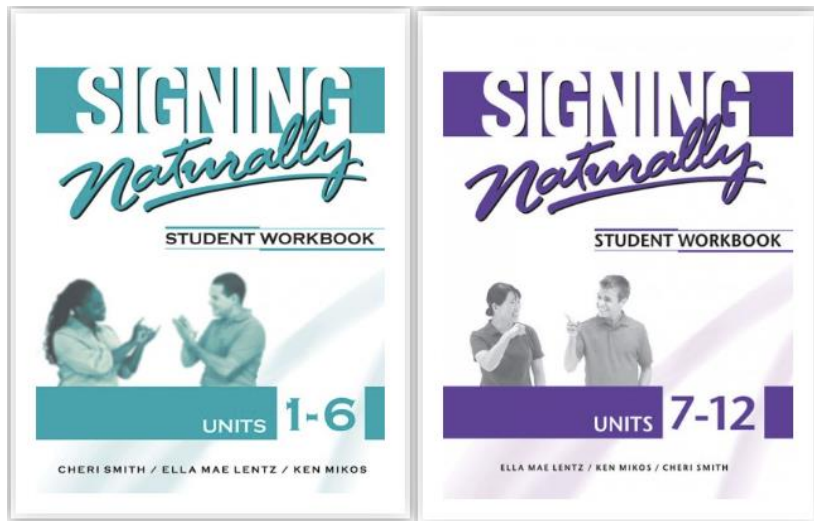
CLASS AVAILABILITY IS DETERMINED BY REGISTRATION TOTALS
MUST BE 16+ TO REGISTER
1-YEAR SDHHS MEMBERSHIP IS INCLUDED WITH REGISTRATION
NO REFUNDS AFTER SEPTEMBER 1ST

**SCAN THIS
QR CODE FOR THE
REGISTRATION
FORM!**



Registration for Fall 2024!!

ASL classes



- Formal adult ASL classes offered by SDHHS's 5 ASL instructors to anyone over the age of 16
- In-person: Saskatoon & Regina
- Online: anywhere in Saskatchewan
- Level 1 & 2
- 10 week sessions in Fall, Winter and Spring
- Free registration for Deaf & HoH and for family of a deaf child. They are responsible for purchasing the textbooks
- Community-based & School-based
- Teachers, EA & Interpreters are welcome

Example of ASL classes

Online:



In-Person:



Deaf Culture and *Deaf Gain*

Attention Getting

Shoulder tap, Wave,
Flickering a light switch,
iPhone Flashing, Stomping
on the floor.

Deaf Standard Time

Visiting for hours and still
having a hard time leaving.
(Deaf Goodbyes)

Physical Connection

Typically give a hug for hellos and
goodbyes. Acceptable hand to
shoulder contact to show support.

Concrete Conversations

Typically explains situations using
more visual details. Tend to ask for
more specific information.

Speakers

At a dance, the stereo speakers are
typically moved to the floor so the vibrations
can be felt. The bass may be turned up on
the car speakers to feel the beat.

Leaving a Message

A signed video message is clearer than a text message.

Classroom/Meeting Set up

A circular setup allows for everyone to
see each other.

Window Conversations

Being able to communicate anywhere as
long as one has eye contact.
From the car, store, house etc.

Chat Across the Room

No need to shout. The signs can be
seen from a distance.

Can Drive and Talk at the Same Time

Typically explains or ask more
specific how to communicate

MEET DEAFBLIND PEOPLE

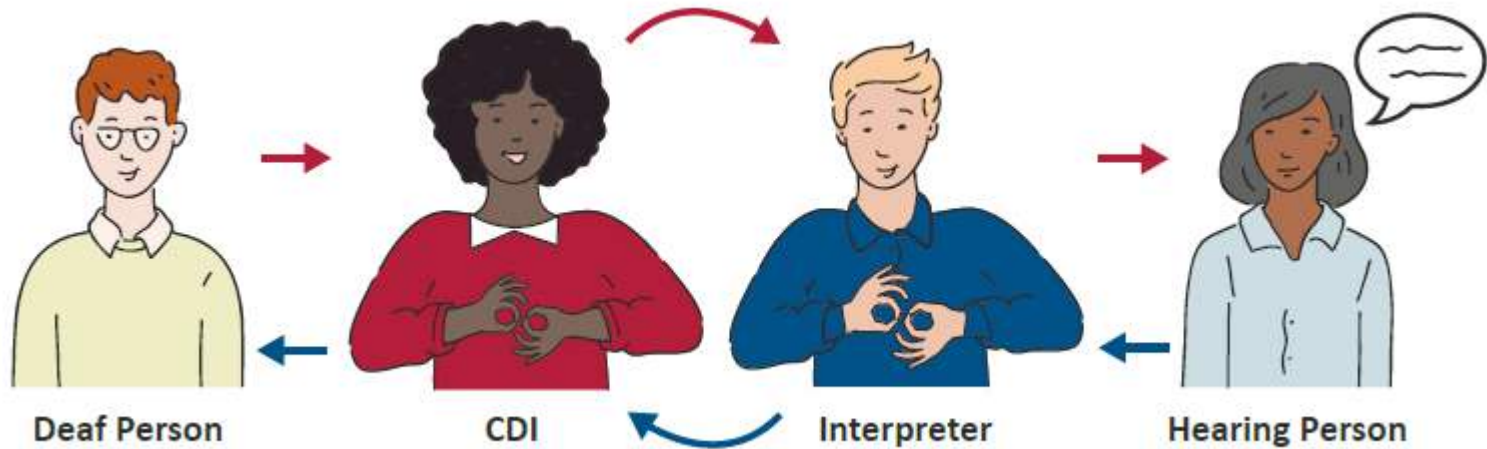
AT BIRTH OR DEVELOPED LATER IN LIFE

- Deaf person with low vision
- Deaf person with blindness
- Hard of Hearing with low vision
- Hard of Hearing with blindness



MEET CERTIFIED DEAF INTERPRETERS (CDI)

ABLE TO COMMUNICATE FOREIGN LANGUAGE
AMONG DEAF NEWCOMERS



ASL-English Interpreter vs. Deaf Interpreter

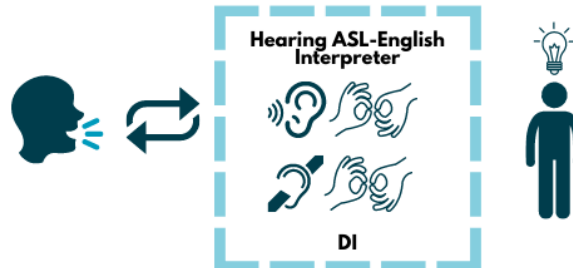
ASL-English Interpreters interpret from spoken English to ASL, and from ASL into spoken English



For a variety of reasons, not every Deaf or Hard of Hearing person has the same level of fluency in ASL



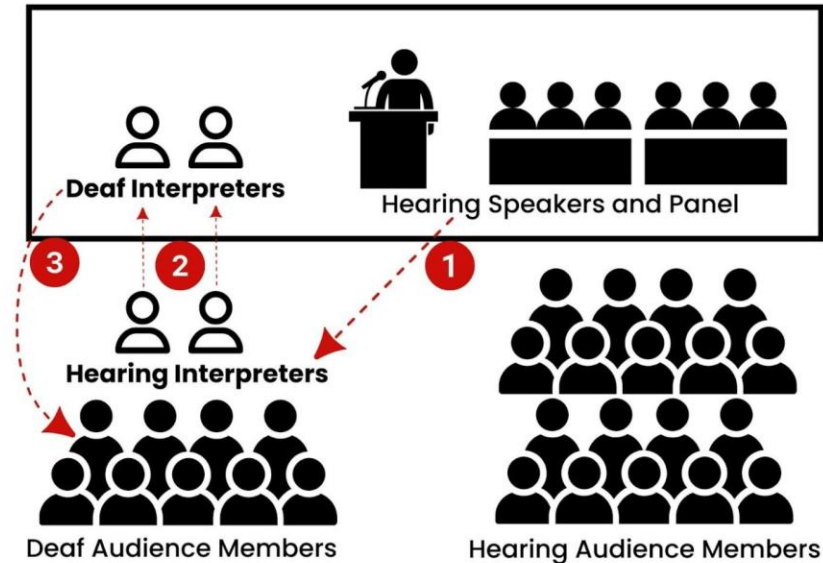
A Deaf Interpreter and a hearing ASL-English Interpreter work together to ensure the communication between the Deaf participant and the hearing participant





Deaf and Hearing Interpreter Teams: Communication Flow

1. Hearing Interpreters receive information from the Hearing Speakers.
2. Deaf Interpreters receive information from the Hearing Interpreters.
3. Deaf Audience receives information from the Deaf Interpreters.



SIGN SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS ARE ALMOST SIMILAR TO DI

WHEN ARRIVING IN SASKATCHEWAN FIRST TIME

-SET UP SESSIONS

-HELP WITH UNDERSTANDING ASL AND OUR
CULTURE

-HELP FOR BEING INDEPENDENT



DEAF PEOPLE EXPERIENCE ABLEISM / AUDISM EVERYDAY

Ableism refers to discrimination (in belief or practice) based on a person's abilities, whether developmental, learning, physical, psychiatric or sensory. Ableism is a form discrimination that devalues and disregards people with disabilities.

Audism: Discrimination or prejudice against individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing



Reference



Our Social Media!



Facebook



Website
www.sdhhs.com



Instagram

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**Social Media
Handle**

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