



## Speech and Hearing BC Commends Provincial Support for New Centre of Excellence

**VANCOUVER (September 27, 2018)** - Speech and Hearing British Columbia is pleased to recognize the government of British Columbia for providing \$1 million in funding to improve services for the deaf and hard of hearing. The funding has been provided to the Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WIDHH), which will become a model of excellence of accessibility for deaf and hard of hearing British Columbians.

“Today’s announcement by our provincial government is a step in the right direction to better meet the healthcare needs of British Columbians, especially when factoring in how critical communication health is for individuals,” said Speech and Hearing BC President Sherri Zelazny. “We know that children, seniors, adults, and communities across the province have faced challenges in timely and affordable access to communication health services. The WIDHH new centre of excellence will help address these critical issues.”

Speech and Hearing BC is a not-for-profit association with more than 1200-member speech-language pathologists and audiologists in British Columbia, who believe in the importance of providing treatment to individuals of all ages who may experience problems with their speech, language, hearing, voice, swallowing, fluency or social communication.

“In light of the fact that it is International Week of the Deaf, this announcement is in perfect conjunction with the purpose of International Week of the Deaf, which is to promote the rights of deaf and hard of hearing Canadians here and around the world to politicians, the health authorities, and the general public.”, added Zelazny. “We look forward to continuing to engage and work with the government of British Columbia to meet the communication health needs of British Columbians.”

-30-

**Media Contact:**

Christian von Donat  
Public Relations, Speech and Hearing BC  
Cell: 613-408-0498  
[christian@impactcanada.com](mailto:christian@impactcanada.com)