

## Contact Information

Theresa Tancock, Family Services Coordinator  
Canadian Deafblind Assoc. - BC Chapter  
227 - 6th Street, New Westminster, BC V3L 3A5  
(P) 604-528-6170 (F) 604-528-6174  
(E) [theresa@cdbabc.ca](mailto:theresa@cdbabc.ca)

## Title and Date:

Deafblind Awareness Month  
June 2023

## Draft Proclamation:

WHEREAS deafblindness is a unique information-gathering disability that incorporates the dual-sensory loss of both sight and hearing, and

WHEREAS individuals who are deafblind can live full, meaningful lives as independently as possible with the right supports in place, such as Intervenor services that serve as a bridge to communication for individuals who are deafblind, and

WHEREAS led by groups and organizations in British Columbia and across Canada that support individuals who are deafblind to increase their independence and improve their quality of life through specialized services, the National Deafblind Awareness Committee encourages the promotion of deafblindness and National Deafblind Awareness Month, including flag raisings and lighting up of local landmarks, and

WHEREAS June is the birth month of Helen Keller, a person who was deafblind known around the world for her perseverance and achievements and who remains an inspiration to the deafblind community, and

WHEREAS Deafblind Awareness Month is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the contributions that individuals who are deafblind make in their communities throughout British Columbia with the support of Intervenor services;

NOW KNOW YE THAT We do by these presents proclaim and declare that June 2023 shall be known as

**“Deafblind Awareness Month”**



## British Columbia

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.

In 2017, the Canadian Survey on Disability: Concepts and Methods Guide<sup>1</sup> provided customized data on deafblindness in their survey (based on the reported seeing and hearing disabilities). These findings are found in the Stakeholder Consultation Project for DeafBlind Ontario Services<sup>2</sup>.

Last year, we were fortunate enough to have June 2022 proclaimed as Deafblind Awareness Month in our province and many communities in BC. We are hoping you will again join us in celebrating National Deafblind Awareness Month in communities across British Columbia and Canada.

<sup>1</sup> Canadian Survey on Disability, 2017: Concepts and Methods Guide (beginning on page 12).

<sup>2</sup> [https://deafblindontario.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/2019\\_Stakeholders\\_Consultation\\_Report\\_FINAL-s\\_1022047.pdf](https://deafblindontario.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/2019_Stakeholders_Consultation_Report_FINAL-s_1022047.pdf) (submitted August 2019; Atul Jaiswal, PhD in Rehabilitation Science, MA in Disability Studies & Action, BSc. Occupational Therapy)