



*Canadian Association of Educators
of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing - British Columbia*

CAEDHH-BC

May 4, 2016

Dear CAEDHH National Executive:

We are writing to provide feedback to your request to increase membership fees beginning the upcoming year (2016-2017).

In BC, we certainly understand your struggle as we currently struggle to maintain our own balanced budget. Our current membership fees are \$140 and at this level with our current expenditures, we rely on our annual conference to make just over \$2000 in order to balance our annual operating expenses. Our Executive has been exploring our own methods of cost savings with the ultimate goal of creating a budget that works within the limits of our membership fees alone. Relying on an annual conference and making money from it is not realistic long term.

At our last meeting (April 25, 2016), we examined ways to further cut our expenses in order to support our operating budget as it stands now. We will be suspending all of our awards, hiring one interpreter instead of two, exploring other web-based methods of registration and exploring mail service options.

We recognize that as a National group, you have likely been doing the same reflection on your own expenses and budget. From our perspective, the National in-person meetings are a large expenditure for both the National and Regional budgets, and thus, we would like to see National consider online meetings. Although in-person meetings are efficient and fruitful, and the issue of time change creates challenges, we feel that in these times of budgetary constraints, that such cost-saving measures should be taken.

From membership feedback, we know that a raise in fees, will result in fewer CAEDHH members. Because of this, our Executive is not willing to raise fees. Any increase imposed by National will create further deficit in our operating budget.

Perhaps once CAEDHH National has had a chance to collect responses from all affiliated chapters, all local presidents and CAEDHH National could meet to discuss some possible alternatives and make some recommendations to bring back to their respective local associations. We look forward to finding a common solution with you.

Sincerely,

The Executive Committee of CAEDHH-BC:

Nancy Norman, and Rhena Tevendale, Co-Presidents,

Kristina Baker, Chiara Berton, Pam Guilbault, Alana Haller, Eric Johnson, Patty Juno, Jit Khiara, Lynley Lewis, Mary-Ann Livesey, Katelin Miller, Dyan Spear, Bowen Tang, Angela Wallenuis

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