

13-575 Thornton Road North, Oshawa, ON L1J 8L5

April 14, 2011

Ted Wieclawek, Fire Marshal of Ontario
Office of the Fire Marshal
5775 Yonge Street
7th Floor
Toronto, ON M2M 4J1

Dear Mr. Wieclawek,

We would like to congratulate you on your new position as Fire Marshal of Ontario. We are sure that it will prove to be an interesting and challenging experience for you. We also hope that we would have a good working relationship with you to reach our goal, which is to improve the quality of fire safety for Deaf, Deafened and Hard of Hearing residents in Ontario who we believe are at higher risk than the general population to die in a fire emergency.

We are also working on seeking financial assistance to make the purchase of visual smoke detectors more affordable for people with hearing loss in Ontario. It had been an ongoing struggle for many of us to purchase affordable visual smoke detectors as currently, the costs of purchasing these devices are exorbitant.

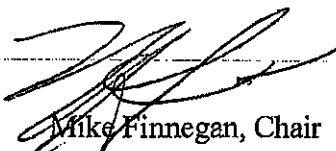
Also enclosed is a letter we wrote to Mr. Patrick Burke, the previous Fire Marshal of Ontario, dated May 26, 2010 in which we shared some ideas and strategies to improve the quality of fire safety for people with varying levels of hearing loss. We have yet to hear a response to this letter from the Office of the Fire Marshal.

We do appreciate the continued invitations to observe the Fire Marshal Public Safety Council that is held two times a year. However, we would like to know if there is any way we can have more of an active role in advocating for improved fire safety for people with hearing loss through this Council?

We hope that we can work together for better fire safety for Deaf, Deafened and Hard of Hearing people in their own homes in Ontario.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

With thanks,



Mike Finnegan, Chair

cc: Durham Deaf Accessibility Committee – Don Kinsley, Veronica Bickle, Gordon Ryall, Beverley Dooley, Kim Reid, Mirek Swiecicki and Behishta Mushtaq.
cc: Maggie Doherty-Gilbert, Regional Director, The Canadian Hearing Society, Peterborough, Durham and City of Kawartha Lakes Regions
cc: Chris Kenopic, President and CEO, The Canadian Hearing Society
cc: Gary Malkowski, Special Advisor to the CEO, The Canadian Hearing Society
cc: Jo-Ann Bentley, Provincial Co-ordinator, Communication Devices Program, The Canadian Hearing Society
cc: Dean Walker, Executive Director, Ontario Association of the Deaf
cc: John Mans, Treasurer, Ontario Association of the Deaf
cc: Michel David, President, Canadian Hard of Hearing Association, Ontario Chapter
cc: Valerie Eaton, Canadian Hard of Hearing Association, Toronto Branch