

Manitoba Aphasia Camp

A PROGRAM OF MARCH OF DIMES CANADA

**MANITOBA
APHASIA
CAMP 2018**



Camp Massad, Sandy Hook, Manitoba

September 8th or 9th, 2018

Working together with SpeechWorks Inc. and Camp Massad, March of Dimes Canada is hosting the Manitoba Aphasia Camp, for people with Aphasia. Two Day Camps will be held at Camp Massad, Sandy Hook – one on September 8th (Saturday) and one on September 9th (Sunday), 2018.

Aphasia, a language disorder brought on by stroke or brain injury, is invisible to most people, but devastating to some. While people with aphasia remain the intelligent individuals they have always been, they can lose their ability to communicate effectively. This often results in experiencing difficulties with speaking, understanding speech, reading, and writing, leaving them cut-off from their families and communities. Also affected are family members and/or caregivers who become isolated and even stressed as they address the added issues and challenges of taking care of a loved one with a disability.

Over the years, March of Dimes Canada has offered camps for those with aphasia (and their families and/or caregivers) in other regions of Canada. In partnership with local rehabilitation organizations and universities, we operate annual Aphasia Camps in Ontario, Nova Scotia, Alberta, and British Columbia.

Though the focus is primarily on aphasia, the Camp is open to those with other communication disorders, arising from stroke and/or other traumatic brain injuries. This is in line with the mandate of March of Dimes Canada to serve people with physical disabilities with the goal of providing them with all opportunities as they, having left the hospital, seek to integrate back into the community. This Camp builds upon the one that was convened in 2017.

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Our partners are as committed and dedicated as we are to this proposition. In addition, we are grateful for the funding support we have received from the Winnipeg Foundation and the India Association of Manitoba.

Benefits Arising

Most communities lack programs to support people with aphasia in rejoining society after they leave the hospital. Manitoba is no exception. Many people with aphasia lack opportunities for recreational outings and activities in an environment where their communication difficulties do not present a barrier. Even less probable is the ability to travel and take part elsewhere for such activities.

It is a wonderful opportunity for people with aphasia, family, caregivers, volunteers and staff to enjoy the "rustic setting" benefits with recreation, educational information, and development of relationships in a strong support-network.

The Manitoba Aphasia Camp gives both the person with aphasia and their caregivers/family member a "break" and an environment to interact with others who face similar issues and challenges. The camp allows participants to enjoy a day retreat in an aphasia-friendly environment. For the participants, caregivers, volunteers and staff, it is an opportunity for:

- Enjoying and partaking in a range of recreational activities
- Affirmation and/or expansion of experiences
- Development and/or consolidation of existing relationships
- Caregivers to meet and share experiences and helpful strategies
- Development of personal and/or professional experiences and skills

About March of Dimes Canada

March of Dimes Canada is a not-for-profit charitable organization that has been providing services to people with physical disabilities and their families for over 65 years. Founded in 1951 to assist individuals stricken by polio, upon the advent of the Salk vaccine, our purpose was expanded to serve all people with physical disabilities, by maximizing their independence, personal empowerment and community participation. Originally focused in Ontario, in 2006, we extended our programs nationally and currently have services available in British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Nunavut. We provided over 4 million hours of direct service to over 75,000 children and adults across Canada, living with multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, Parkinson's disease, acquired brain injuries, the effects of stroke or polio, and other conditions. The services we provide cover a broad range of needs, all with the common objective of increasing community participation and empowerment, including Employment and Recreation programs, Independent Living Services, Vocational Rehabilitation, Peer Support programs to stroke and polio survivors, and much more.