

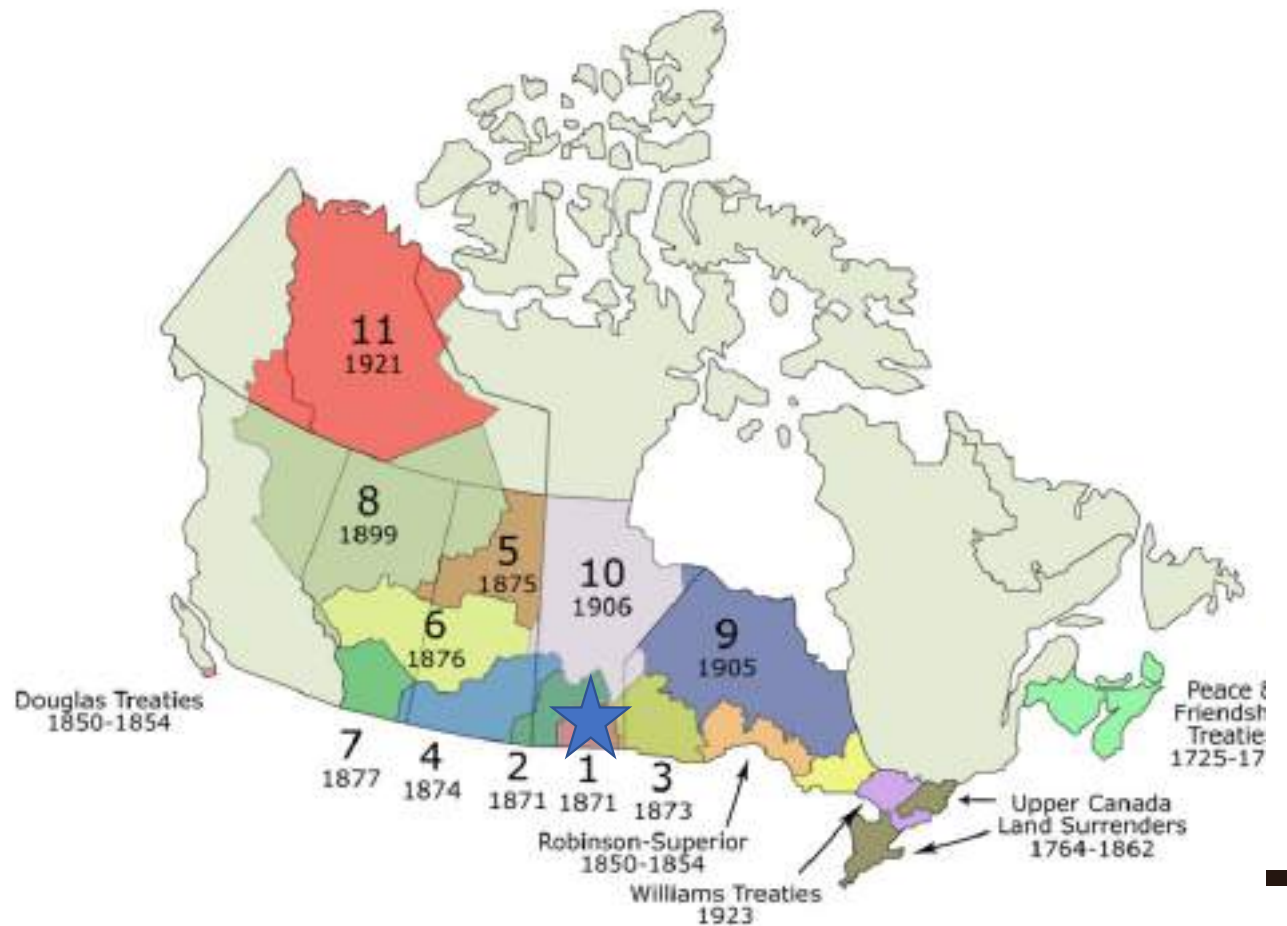
DEAF OFFENDERS: FINGERSPELLING ISN'T THE ONLY WAY TO COMMUNICATE

Dr. Tracey Bone, MSW, RSW
Associate Professor, Univ of Manitoba,
Canada
CCJA Conference, Sept. 30, 2022



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TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



AGENDA: "ISSUES"

- Introduction to the d/Deaf community
- Communication language and mode
- Discrimination unique to the d/Deaf
- Meeting communication needs of Deaf offenders



ASL sign for 'issues'










deaf (small d) / hard of hearing vs Deaf (Capital D)



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Defining deaf (small d) vs Deaf (capital D)

The Difference Between 'deaf' and 'Deaf'

deaf	Deaf
 <p>Hearing loss</p> <p>May not attend school for the deaf</p> <p></p>	 <p>Hearing loss</p> <p>Strong deaf identity</p> <p></p>
<p>Describe hearing loss only in medical terms</p> <p></p>	<p>Consider themselves culturally deaf</p> <p></p>
<p>Identifies with hearing people</p> <p></p>	<p>Attends schools and programs for the deaf</p> <p></p>
<p>Does not associate with the deaf community</p> <p></p>	<p>Member of deaf community</p> <p></p>

verywell

Canadian Association of the Deaf (CAD).

The Canadian Association of the Deaf estimates there are over 350,000 culturally Deaf Canadians and over 3 million hard of hearing Canadians.
(CAD, 2015)

Statistics Canada, 2016 census, the number of people who reported using sign languages at home was nearly 27, 510 people.

71 countries have achieved Sign Language Legislation (WFD 2016)
<https://wfdeaf.org/news/the-legal-recognition-of-national-sign-languages/>

Sign Languages

Complete, natural languages

Fundamental features of language: i.e. syntax

ALL

Includes fingerspelling

Is expressed by movements – hands, face, body

Source: National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, 2021

DEFINITION OF SIGN LANGUAGE:

NOUN

;ANY OF VARIOUS FORMAL LANGUAGES EMPLOYING A SYSTEM OF HAND GESTURES AND THEIR PLACEMENT RELATIVE TO THE UPPER BODY, FACIAL EXPRESSIONS, BODY POSTURES, AND FINGER SPELLING ESPECIALLY FOR COMMUNICATION BY AND WITH DEAF PEOPLE.
(MERRIAM-WEBSTER, N.D)



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ENGLISH
(MODE: *SPOKEN*)
VS
AMERICAN SIGN
LANGUAGE
(MODE: *SIGNED*)

DIFFERENCES:

5 WAYS ASL & ENGLISH ARE DIFFERENT (WIXTROM, 2021)

1. Method of expression



2. Method of reception



3. Synchronous vs Linear



4. Origins of development



5. Context requirements

Sign Languages- Canada

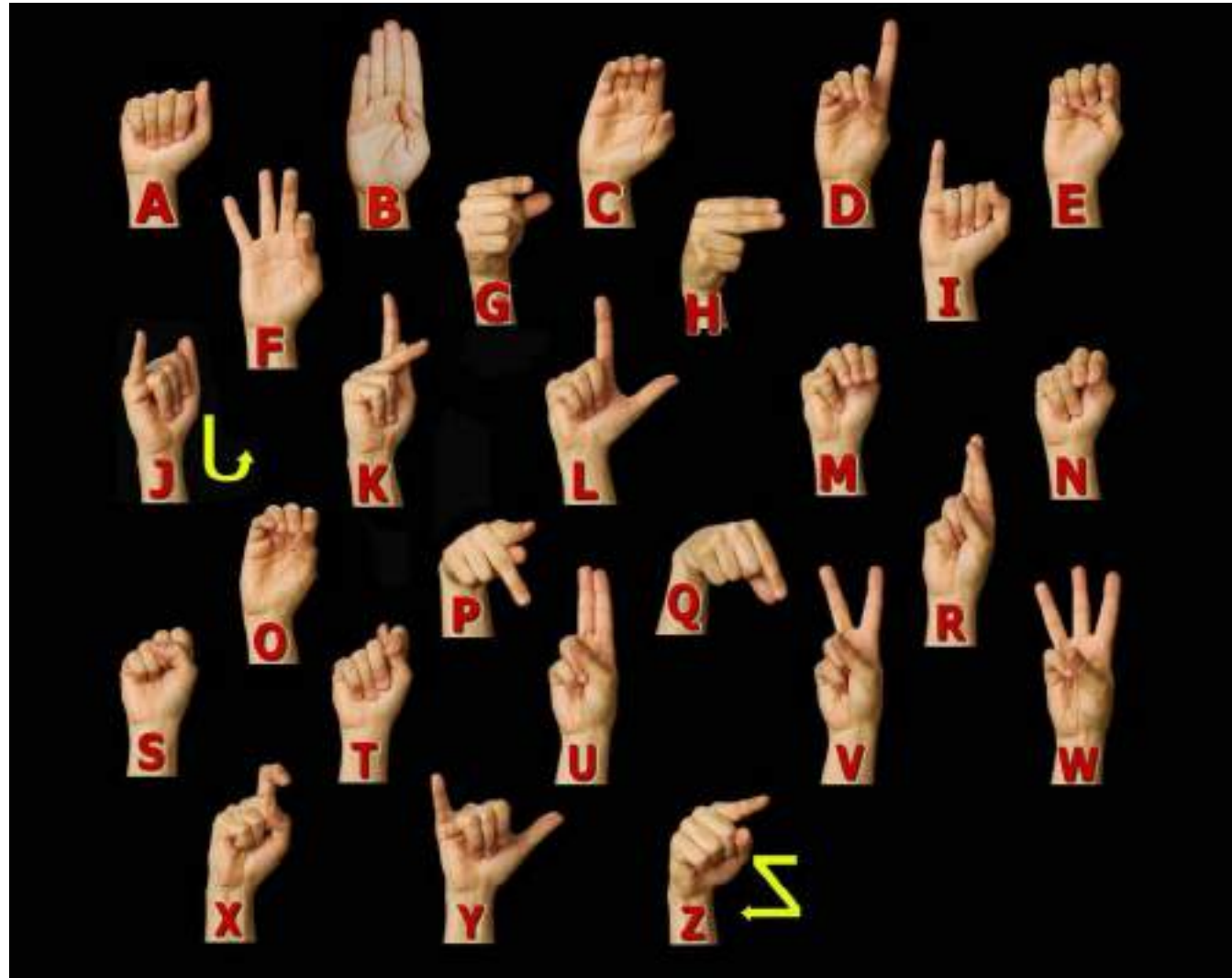
- On **May 13, 2019**, federal Bill C-81 officially recognized American Sign Language, Quebec Sign Language, and Indigenous Sign Languages as the “primary languages for communication by Deaf persons in Canada.” The bill aimed to promote inclusivity and equal access for a “barrier-free Canada.”
- (Gallaudet University – Sign Language, 2018)

Fingerspelling:

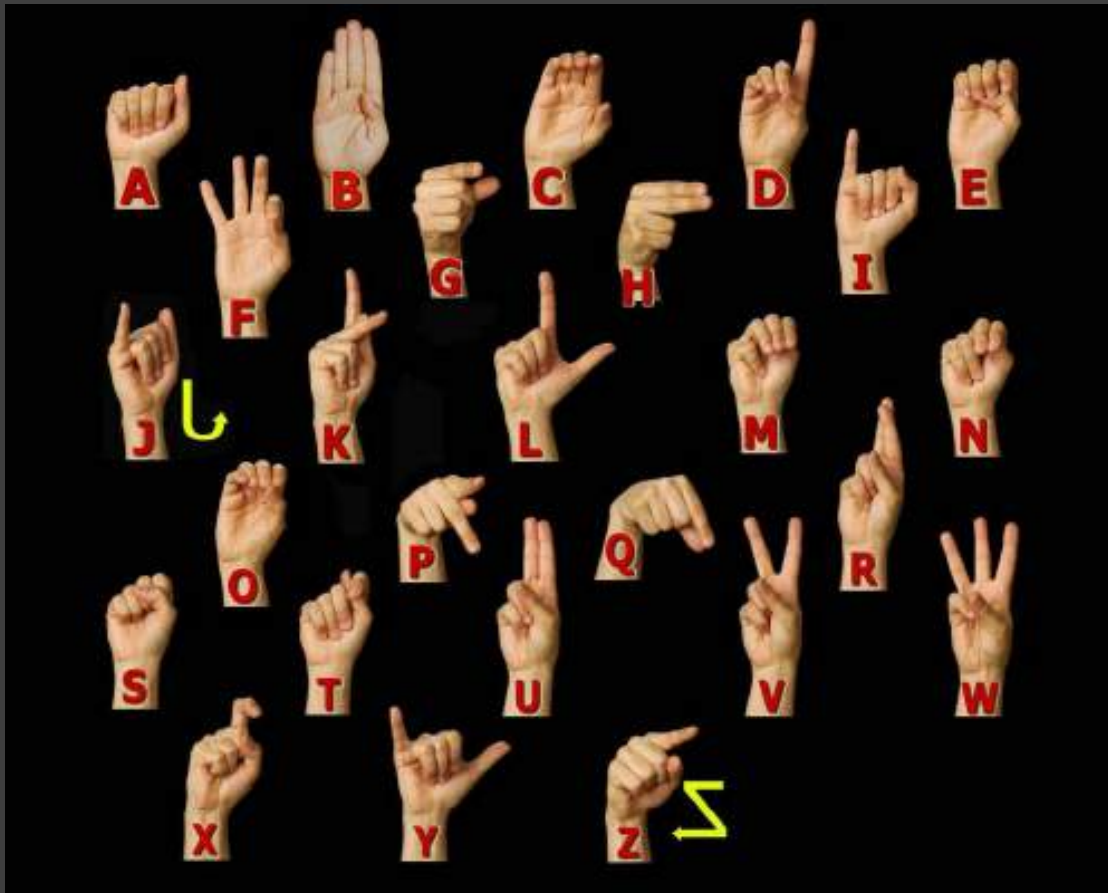
Fingerspelling is a process of spelling out words by using hand shapes that correspond to the letters of the word.

i.e. *manual* alphabet.

The American Fingerspelled alphabet has 22 distinct handshapes (Lifeprint.com)



Fingerspelling:

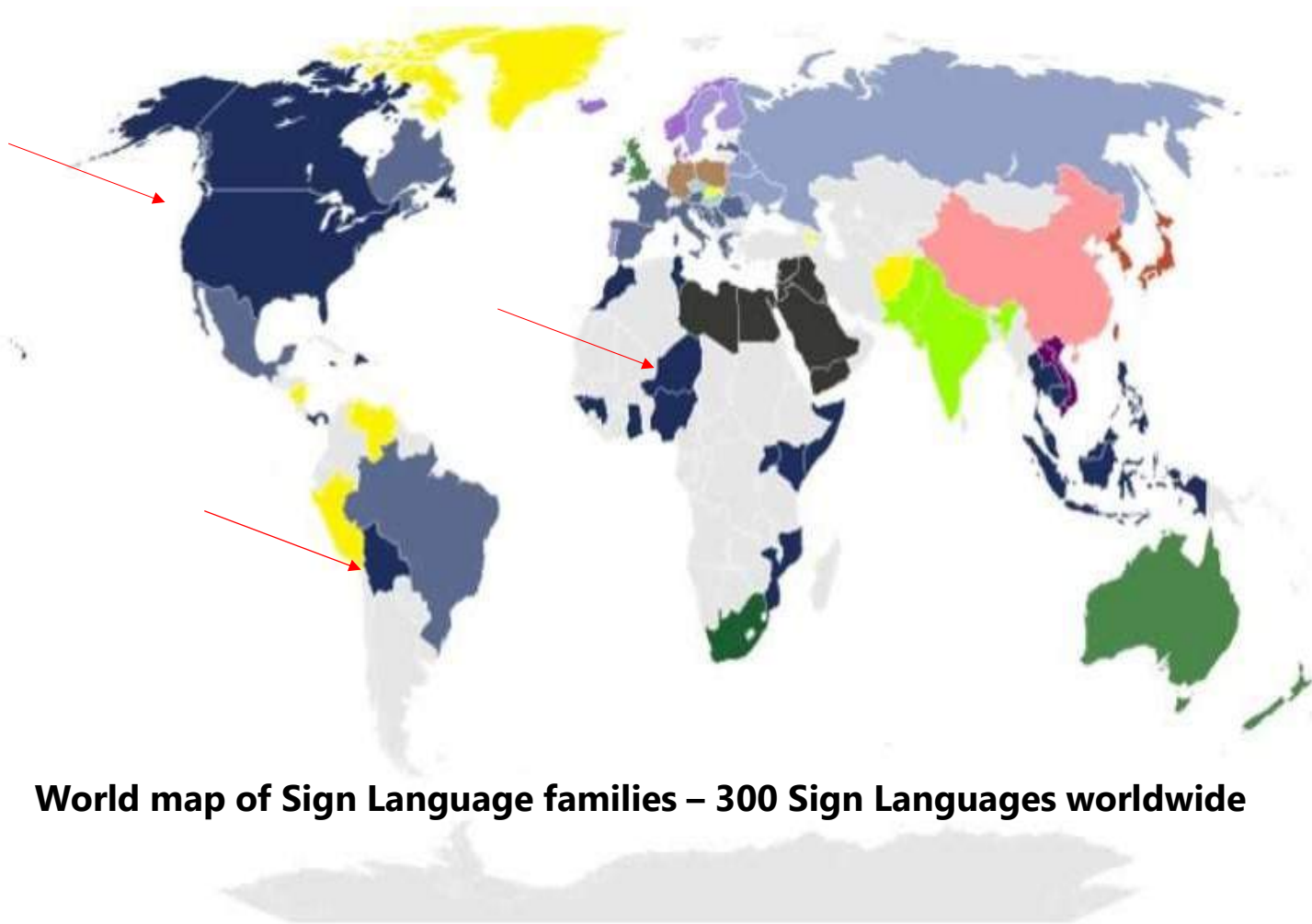


/s commonly used:

- (some) people's names
- places
- titles
- organizations

BUT NOT for full communication

Spoken equivalent>



- The classification of Sign Language families**
- French Sign Language family
 - American Sign Language (ASL) cluster**
 - Russian Sign Language cluster
 - Czech Sign Language cluster
 - Danish Sign Language family
 - Swedish Sign Language family
 - German Sign Language family
 - Vietnamese sign languages & some Thai and Lao SLs
 - Arab sign-language family
 - Indo-Pakistani Sign Language
 - Chinese Sign Language
 - Japanese Sign Language family (including Taiwanese Sign Language)
 - BANZSL family (British, Australian and New Zealand Sign Language)
 - South African Sign Language
 - Isolated languages
 - No data

World map of Sign Language families – 300 Sign Languages worldwide

The Legal Recognition of National Sign Languages

National-level legal recognition of sign languages

Updated December 2021



WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

Canada 🇨🇦
American Sign Language, Quebec Sign Language and Indigenous Sign languages were recognized on 11 July 2019
Explicit status recognition, Disability Legislation and Sign Language Law or Act including other means of communication

The Netherlands 🇳🇱
Dutch Sign Language was recognized on 22 September 2020
Explicit status recognition and Sign Language Law

Guatemala 🇬🇹
Guatemalan Sign Language was recognized on 18 February 2020
Explicit status recognition

Paraguay 🇵🇾
Paraguay Sign Language was recognized in May 2020
Explicit status recognition and Sign Language Law

Italy 🇮🇹
Italian Sign Language was recognized on 19 May 2021
Explicit status recognition and Sign Language Law

Bulgaria 🇧🇬
Bulgarian Sign Language was recognized on 21 January 2021
Explicit status recognition and Sign Language Law

Uganda 🇺🇬
First country in Africa to achieve Sign Language Recognition in Constitutional level on 8th October 1995

Uzbekistan 🇺🇿
Uzbek Sign Language was recognized in 2020
Explicit status recognition and Disability

Philippines 🇵🇭
Filipino Sign Language was recognized on 30 October 2018
Explicit status recognition and Sign Language Law

Fiji 🇫🇯
Fiji Sign Language was recognized in 2013 and 2018
Explicit status Constitutional recognition and Disability

Chile 🇨🇱
Chilean Sign Language was recognized on 22 January 2021
Explicit status recognition and Sign Language Law



● 71
● 122

2014	Albania	2008	Ecuador	1999	Latvia	2018	Philippines
2005	Austria	2014	El Salvador	1995	Lithuania	2011	Poland
2013	Bangladesh	2007	Estonia	2018	Luxembourg	1997	Portugal
2003/2006/2019	Belgium	1995	Finland	2009	North Macedonia	2015	South Korea
2009	Bolivia	2013/2018	Fiji	2016	Malta	2002	Romania
2009	Bosnia and Herzegovina	2002	Germany	2008	Malaysia	2012	Russian Federation
2002/2005	Brazil	2017	Greece	2015	Marshall Islands	2015	Serbia
2021	Bulgaria	2020	Guatemala	2005	Mexico	1995	Slovakia
2019	Canada	2013	Honduras	2016	Mongolia	2002/2021	Slovenia
2010/2021	Chile	2009	Hungary	2004	Namibia	1996	South Africa
1996	Colombia	2011	Iceland	2015/2017	Nepal	2007/2010	Spain
2020	Costa Rica	2016	India	2020	The Netherlands	1981/2006/2009	Sweden
2015	Croatia	2017	Ireland	2006	New Zealand	2005	Turkey
2005	Cyprus	2021	Italy	2009	Nicaragua	1995	Uganda
1998/2008	Czech Republic	2011	Japan	2021	Norway	2004/2017/2019	Ukraine
2014	Denmark	2010	Kenya	1992	Panama	2001	Uruguay
		2010/2014	Kosovo	2015	Papua New Guinea	2020	Uzbekistan
				2020	Paraguay	1999	Venezuela
				2010	Peru	2010	Zimbabwe

- Countries with Sign Language Recognition
- Countries without Sign Language Recognition
- Constitutional Recognition
- General Language Legislation
- Sign Language Law or Act
- Sign Language Law or Act and Other Means of Communication
- National Language Council Recognition
- Disability Legislation

DISCRIMINATION



ABLEISM

Treating non-disabled people as the standard, therefore excluding the disabled



CLASSISM

Discrimination based on class often involving class superiority

RACISM

Discrimination based on race often involving race superiority



CASTE

Stereotyping of people based on age
According to UNICEF, caste discrimination is prevalent in India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Japan. They estimate it affects 250 million people.



AGEISM



SEXISM

The belief or attitude that one gender/sex is inferior, less competent or less valuable than others.

Men are better than women

SEXUALISM

Treating heterosexuality as standard, therefore excluding homo-, pan-, asexual etc



SIZEISM

Discrimination based on body shape, such as disdain toward overweight or underweight people or treating 'normal weight' as the standard

CISSEXISM

The belief that transsexuals' identified genders are inferior to, or less authentic than cisgender people (when physical and subconscious genders are the same)



!CHECK YOUR PRIVILEGE!

i-am-the-lighthouse.tumblr.com

DISCRIMINATION

AUDISM

AUDISM

Audism: (1975) noun

the notion that one is superior based on one's ability to hear or to behave in the manner of one who hears.

(T. Humphries)

Bone, MSW thesis (1998) – Examples of Audism

- 1. Sign Language interpreters were refused for PO / inmate meetings, employment, case management meetings, National Parole Board hearings
- 2. Case management staff refused to provide equal access to the Teletype writer machine (i.e. Deaf-accessible telephone) as hearing inmates to telephones.
- 3. CSC used staff, or fellow inmates to interpret for Deaf inmate.
- 4. No Deaf-centric, culturally appropriate intake assessment tool.
- 5. Lack of assistive devices (flashing alarms, Video Relay Service [visual communication access], Interpreters), television with closed captioning**
- 6. Lack of appropriate community-based services to meet the needs of d/Deaf offenders in the community.

Russel et al. (2018) – Findings (criminal justice system – whole)

- Significant gaps:
- Lack of equitable access
 - **Major barriers in communication** - d/Deaf individuals found communication within the criminal justice system a challenge – police, court process, lawyers, social workers, probation / parole officers. No or infrequently ASL English Interpreters.
 - **Lack of qualified ASL interpreters** in the various components of the CJS.
 - ASL Interpreters not showing up as scheduled.
 - Shortage of ASL interpreters.
 - **AUDISM**– lack of knowledge of and respect for Deaf culture and language [ASL] and mode [signed]
 - **Lack of accessible information** (re: legal rights, the court system, etc.) in ASL.

oto by
n
s
under

AUDISM – DIRECT EXAMPLE

HANDCUFF BEHIND THE
BACK



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EXAMPLES: AUDISM IN PRISONS/ RELEASE (2020)

1. Not including ASL English interpreter in programming, case management or PBC meetings

2. Not accommodating communication (ASL) request – Assuming lip reading/writing

3. Using staff/family to interpreter

Lowering expectations re: work, educ., programs

FAKE INTERPRETER - MANDELA'S MEMORIAL SERVICE

(DEC. 11, 2013)



ASL ENGLISH INTERPRETERS

- Interview with
- Dr. Erin Wilkinson
- Associate Professor
- University of New Mexico

[Working with an ASL Interpreter](#)



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IMPACT

Communication



Communication

COVID-19 MASK
MANDATES:

STANDARD MASKS



COVID-19 mask mandates: Accessible

- MEDICAL GRADE

ENTERPRISE PREMONT
HUMASK PRO VISION 3000-W-
50
LEVEL 3

SUPPORTED BY THE
CANADIAN HARD OF HEARING
ASSOCIATION (CHHA)





CSC CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMS

- "... means of reducing recidivism rates and increasing the safety of Canadian communities."
- (CSC Correctional Programs, 2021)

Image: Correctional Service of Canada, 2021)

RECRUITMENT POSTER (1)

COMPONENTS:

- PICTURE (ASL SIGN)
- WORDING
- ACCOMMODATION



DEAF & HARD OF HEARING PARTICIPANTS NEEDED FOR A RESEARCH STUDY

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

- Deaf or hard of hearing person
 - Age 18 and above
- OK to meet in person - discuss about looking for services

DO WHAT?

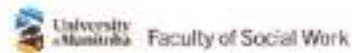
- On-line survey (about 15 minutes) OR
- Discussion in small group (Focus Group)

WHY?

- If a Deaf or hard of hearing person is feeling sad, or alone, or mad, where do they go?
- Mental health services for Deaf or hard of hearing:
Enough resources?
The right services?
How can we make better?

Complete survey - enter draw for 1 of 8 \$25.00 gift cards. Prize to complete available.
Complete small group - receive \$25.00 for participating. (Time: ~90 minutes, ASL Interpreter present)

FOR DATES, MORE INFORMATION OR TO VOLUNTEER PLEASE CONTACT RESEARCHER:
Tracy Bone, PhD, Faculty of Social Work, tracy.bone@umanitoba.ca, (text) 204-227-2372



UMANITOBA.CA/SOCIAL-WORK

Manitoba
Possible.

The Research Ethics Board 1-2022-12 at the University of Manitoba approved this study. Protocol #1-2022-033 04/24/22



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CSC CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMS

- Room layout:
- Traditional:
- Rows of tables/chairs

PROGRAMS (2)

Deaf-friendly =

-room layout

-lighting

-windows

-ASL interpreter (3)

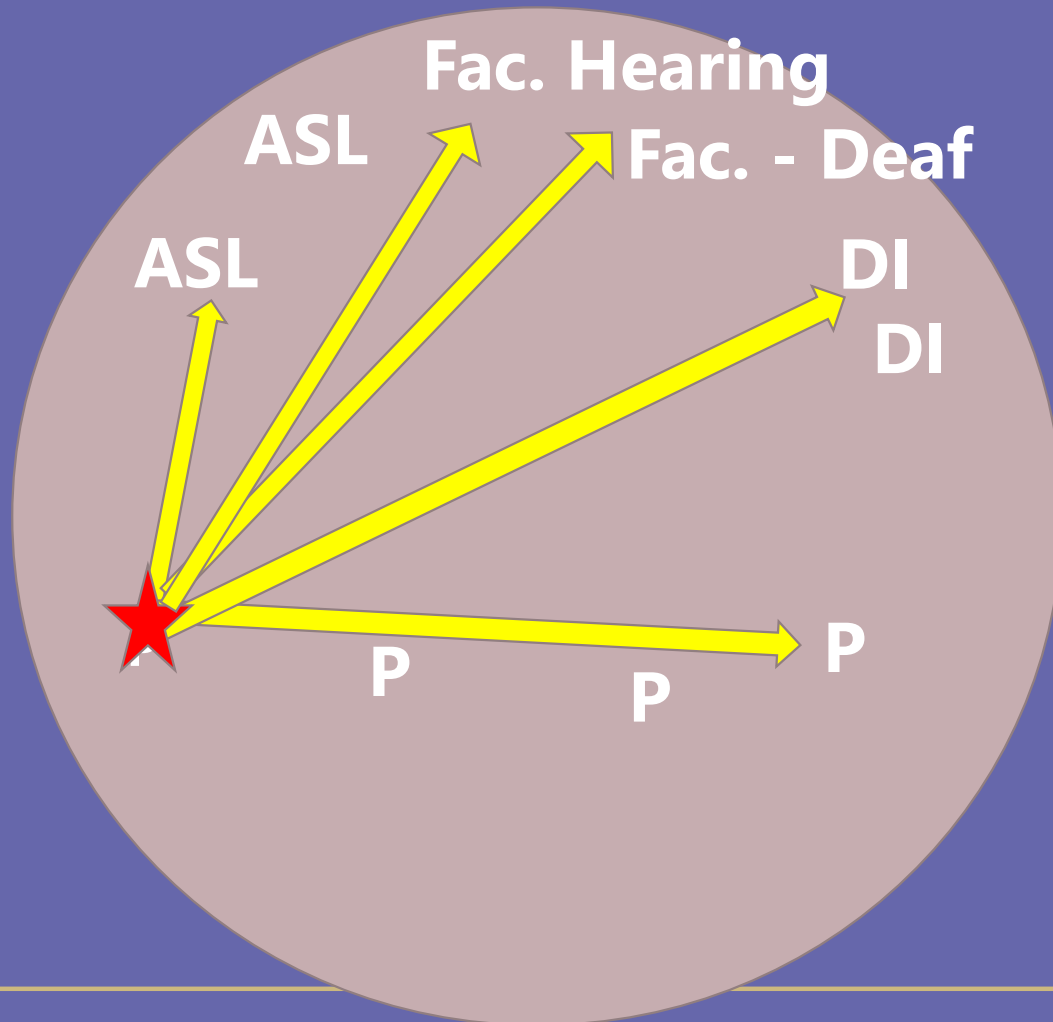


Classroom at Gallaudet University, Rochester, NY.

GROUP #2

DETAILS:
ROOM LAYOUT
SITE LINES

T = TRACEY (CO-FACILITATOR)
J = JAYLENE (CO-FACILITATOR)
★ = PARTICIPANT 1
ASL = ASL INTERPRETER
DI = DEAF INTERPRETER



GROUP #2

DETAILS:
ROOM LAYOUT
SITE LINES

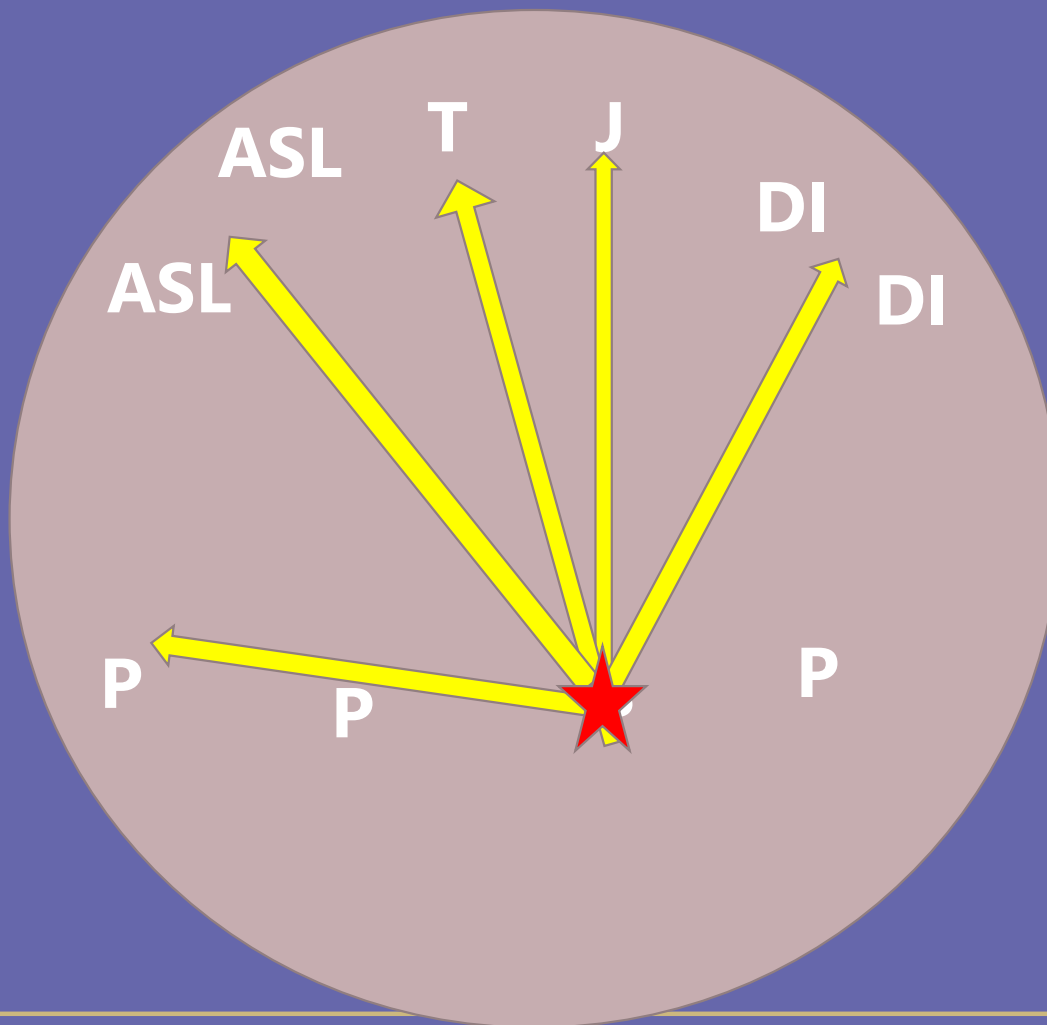
T = TRACEY

J = JAYLENE

★ = PARTICIPANT 3

ASL = ASL INTERPRETER

DI = DEAF INTERPRETER



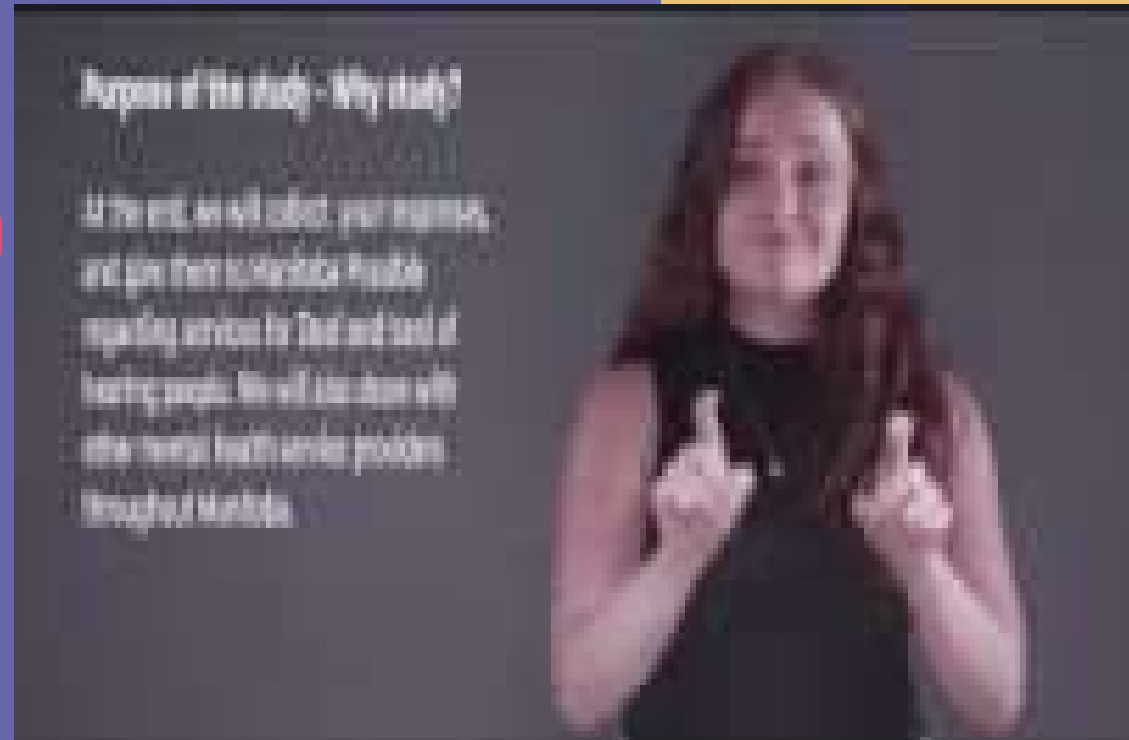
ON-LINE SURVEY INTRODUCTION: (4)

2 *MODES* – SIGNED / WRITTEN
2 *LANGUAGES* – ASL / ENGLISH

(Example of English text)

Purpose of the study – Why study?

Tracey and the research team want to understand the experiences of Deaf and hard of hearing people in accessing mental health services and supports in the community.



DEAF OFFENDERS: COMMUNICATION

1. Programming information *Poster*
2. Programming: Seating/room layout & Lighting
3. *Accommodate language request – ASL or LSQ*
 - 3.1 *Certified Sign Language Interpreter (NOT untrained, uncertified inmate, family, staff)*
4. *ASL version of program content*
5. *Accessible communication for Deaf inmate (i.e video relay service)*
6. And - for *some* words - fingerspelling



ASL sign for 'communication'

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Dr. Tracey Bone, MSW, RSW
Faculty of Social Work,
University of Manitoba, CAN.
Tracey.bone@umanitoba.ca