

December 17, 2017

The Deaf Community
c/o Kim Woods, President
The Greater Vancouver Association of the Deaf (GVAD)
2125 West 7th Avenue
Vancouver, BC, V6K 1X9

Dear Kim,

I recently received a petition from the Deaf Community (of Vancouver?) and am writing to you because there is no contact information for me.

Thank you for taking the time and the energy to collect the signatures of the 88 persons who signed the petition. The number of people involved tells me this is a very important issue for the Deaf Community.

I have sent an email to all the WIDHH Board members so they know about your concerns.

After the October 26th Members meeting, the Board met and talked about the need for WIDHH to improve our relationship with the Deaf community and how to make changes in the way we communicate with our Deaf members.

Some of the changes we are working on include making monthly or bi-monthly Vlogs for our members, available on our website, and establishing an advisory committee for the MIS program. The advisory committee will include 51% culturally deaf members. WIDHH will establish a search committee for the replacement of the Head of Interpreting Services at the time that Janice Lyons retires. The search committee will include representation from the Deaf community. Finally, the Board approved bi-monthly meetings with the President of GVAD, as recently established, with Nora McKellin.

These are some of the ideas that the Board has developed. We would welcome more suggestions from the Deaf Community, for our January 25th meeting. Unless a representative of the Deaf Community is appointed, I will continue to communicate with you through the GVAD President, Kim. I ask Kim to publicize this letter as she sees fit, so that you know the Board is aware and concerned about your petition and the requests you are making.

Thank you for your correspondence and know that we are committed to working with you to solve your concerns.



Barbara M. Brown
President, WIDHH Board of Directors