



# FAMILY NETWORK FOR DEAF CHILDREN

AND OUR SUMMER PROGRAM,  
deaf youth today

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WHO AM I?  
(yes- I ask myself that  
same question)

## **The Klassen family**

Cecelia & Doug  
Annie, Mari & Jake

Guess who is Deaf?  
And yes we all sign!



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## How did FNDC start?

26 years ago – no supports or services for families when  
Early Intervention ended - felt like we flew off a cliff



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SO ...

4 moms of preschool deaf kids  
had an IDEA

Let's start a non profit to  
advocate and change the  
SYSTEM.

We didn't know  
the journey we were on ...



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## FNDC believes that ...

*DHH children reach their full potential through a supportive home environment*

*Families have the right to make informed choices based on the needs of their DHH child*

*DHH children have the right to age-level language equal to their hearing peers*

*DHH children have the right to a quality education in a language that provides full access*

*Each child is unique and has individual abilities and needs that must be recognized*

*The rich and varied experiences and language of the Deaf Community are a valuable resource for DHH children and their families*

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“I wouldn’t change **you** for  
the **world**, but I would  
change the **world** for you.”

## ~LET THE ADVOCACY BEGIN~

We made friends

We made a few enemies

We made mistakes

BUT ... WE MADE CHANGES !

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## We advocated AND were part of all these changes for DHH children/youth & adults!

- counselling for children/youth or families (WBP)
- ASL classes for parents (free) (PDHHS)
- Provincial Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services (PDHHS)
- Family & Community Services (FCS)
- funding for BC Deaf Sports Federation (BCDSF) Interpreting
- Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP)
- Video Relay Services (VRS)
- Medical interpreting Services (MIS)
- Newborn Hearing Screening (EHP)
- free hearing aids for pre-school age children
- funding for Gallaudet University, National Technical Institute for the Deaf
- free replacement Cochlear Implant processors
- Unlimited cochlear implants per year
- ASL for credit for any students at Colleges/University (Douglas College)

**Definitely changes to CELEBRATE!**

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## Deaf & Hard of Hearing Education you ask?



That's a **story** for another day

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# What else does FNDC do?

**Newsletter**  
**Email Updates**  
**Social Media posts**  
**Workshops for Parents**  
**Family Events: Skating, Picnic etc**  
**Partnerships with other organizations**  
**Committees, Committees & more Committees**

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## Then came DEAF YOUTH TODAY



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# QUESTIONS???



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## Introduction to Andrea ...

### The Maloney's

Terry & Andrea

Tessa, Avery & TJ



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## Deaf Youth Today: WHO? WHAT?

### WHO can attend?

DHH children & youth in BC

ages 5 to 18

Kids who are comfortable in a sign language camp (fluent or learning)

Sometimes hearing siblings & children of DHH adults (CODA's)

### WHAT is DYT?

an ASL camp for Language development/enhancement

a camp experience for DHH kids equal to hearing peers

a camp to encourage friendships, socializing and independence

a camp that invests in DHH youth's leadership skills & future employment

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## TRADITIONALLY we have:

Day Camps for DHH kids, siblings & CODA's

DHH kids' camp (Hornby Island)

Family Deaf Camp

Counsellor in Training Program



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**This summer DYT looks different!**

**Virtual Camp (online)  
Camp-in-a-Box (online)  
Outdoor Day Camp  
Mentor/Buddy Connect (online)**

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## **Virtual Camp**



- Art@Home
- Yoga@Home
- Crossfit@Home
- Counsellor in Training

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# CAMP-IN-A-BOX



Boxes are mailed  
Camps are online  
and  
Fun is at home!

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## Outdoor Day Camps



**4 different  
outdoor camp  
weeks!**

**PLUS  
BIKE CAMP**

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# Mentor/ Buddy Connect

- One-on-one chat sessions
- Group chat sessions,
- Teen Hangout nights
- Pop up programs
- Group online games
- Activities



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## DYT Summer Program also:

- Works with families
- Ensures \$ is not a barrier
- Creative so child can attend
- Assist with one-to-one workers
- Connect: Deaf community events & Outside resources

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## DYT EMPLOYMENT

- Deaf/HH applicants (ages 16 to 30)
- fluent in ASL or learning ASL
- prior CIT training for those under 20 yrs
- volunteer and/or work experience
- independent, responsible
- desire and able to supervise young children



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## Questions?

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