

## **The Hearing Aid Board**

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## **Régis des Appareils Auditifs**

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**2004/05**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

### **Legislative Authority**

*The Hearing Aid Act*  
*The Hearing Aid Act Regulation*

### **Board Membership**

Peter Storoschuk, Chairman  
Marjorie Kolbe, Secretary (Director of the Consumers' Bureau)  
Dr. David McCullough  
Terri Rampton  
Leslie Holden  
Pat Hastings  
Bob Turner

### **Activities**

#### a) Meetings

The Hearing Aid Board held two meetings in 2004 on July 13th, 2004 and October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004. At the July meeting, conflict of interest guidelines for Board members were approved.

#### b) Information/Education

A brief article regarding *The Hearing Aid Act* and the role of the Hearing Aid Board appeared in the Seniors Guide for 2004. The Guide is printed and distributed to 25,000 Manitoba seniors and is also available on the website of the Seniors Directorate.

Information about the Act and the Board will also be included in the Seniors Guide for 2005.

Pat Hastings was asked to represent Manitoba on the advisory committee to the Grant MacEwan Hearing Aid Practitioner Diploma Program. Mr. Hastings attended one meeting in 2004 for this purpose.

c) Licensing

The Hearing Aid Board certifies hearing aid dealers and the Consumers' Bureau issues hearing aid dealer licences. The Consumers' Bureau issued 49 hearing aid dealer licences in 2004/05. This included five new licences, 32 full licence renewals, five new student licences and seven student licence renewals. Licencing revenue in 2004/05 totalled \$4,914.00.

d) Examinations

In 2004/05 eight students wrote the Hearing Aid Board's examination. These examinations were supervised by Consumers' Bureau staff and marked by a member of the Hearing Aid Board.

In October, the Board entered into an agreement with the International Hearing Society (IHS) to use their written examination. Four students wrote this examination in February 2005. The examination is scored through IHS and three students passed.

Two practical examinations were conducted in 2004/05 by a Hearing Aid Board member.

e) Inspections

New premises are inspected by members of the Hearing Aid Board and/or the Consumers' Bureau Manager of Licensing and Enforcement to ensure requirements of *The Hearing Aid Act* and Regulation are met. In 2004/05 one new premise was inspected by the Manager of Licensing and Enforcement.

## **Complaints**

Complaints are received by the Hearing Aid Board and by the Consumers' Bureau. Under *The Hearing Aid Act* and Regulation, the Director of the Consumers' Bureau receives, records and investigates complaints. The Board may make decisions regarding any action that may be taken including suspension or cancellation of a licence.

In 2004/05, four complaints were received and investigated.

## New Initiatives

### a) Licensing, education and certification

In 2004/05 Hearing Aid Board members communicated with all Manitoba hearing aid dealers regarding possible changes to licencing requirements. As a result of these consultations a number of decisions regarding education and certification requirements were made:

- all new hearing aid dealers must become Board Certified (pass the necessary examinations set by the International Hearing Society and administered locally) within three years of receiving their full license from the Consumers' Bureau
- all other hearing aid dealers (not including audiologists) must receive their Board Certification by December 31, 2009
- the current hearing aid examination was replaced by a standard exam issued and marked by the International Hearing Society and supervised at the Consumers' Bureau
- new examinations fees were approved by the Hearing Aid Board
- educational requirements for new students were revised and effective January 1, 2005 new students are required to complete the Grant MacEwan Hearing Aid Practitioner Program

Note: Students enrolled in the International Hearing Society (IHS) correspondence program prior to that date are permitted to complete their IHS studies.

### b) Regulation review

- hearing aid dealers were consulted regarding possible amendments to *The Hearing Aid Act* Regulation