

# Auditory Outreach: September Newsletter



## Speech to Text Equipment Loans: Here to Stay

We are very happy to share that speech-to-text equipment loans are now a permanent part of the Auditory Outreach equipment loan library! Hooray!

Students who would benefit from access to speech-to-text technology can continue to request equipment by submitting the **Speech-to-Text Equipment Request Form**. Please ensure that you include the make and model of any phones that you wish to use for captioning or transcription; we need this information in order to ensure we send all the required equipment.

Before equipment use begins, students are required to complete our **Required Pre-Intervention Student Survey**. This helps us understand students' experiences and needs before introducing speech-to-text technology and supports our ongoing evaluation of the program.

## Back-to-School and Auditory Outreach Updates Webinar

Join us for our Back-to-School and Auditory Outreach Updates Webinar on October 6 from 11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

We'll review important service updates and reminders to help get the school year off to a smooth start. Carrie Siu, our Educational Audiologist, will also join us to share equipment updates and information for the year ahead.

Can't attend live? No problem! Register anyway and we'll send you the recording so you can watch when it works for you.

**Register for the Back-to-School and Equipment Updates Webinar**

## Welcome to the Auditory Outreach Team!

We are thrilled to welcome Katie Manghillis, to Auditory Outreach as our Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing! She brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, and expertise to the role, and we are so fortunate to have her joining us. I know she will be a wonderful addition to our team, and we can't wait to learn from her and work alongside her. Admittedly, I'm most excited to learn from her first-hand field experience with speech-to-text equipment.

Katie is available for questions and CI consultations at [katie.manghillis@sd47.bc.ca](mailto:katie.manghillis@sd47.bc.ca) or by submitting this **Outreach Request Referral Form**.

Please note that Katie only works part-time (0.4 FTE) with our program, so we appreciate your patience when awaiting a response.

## Cochlear Connections Club is Back!

We are so excited to launch into our third year of Cochlear Connections Club (CCC)!

CCC is a virtual group for students in Grades 5–12 who have a cochlear implant. The group offers a mix of learning, fun and, most importantly, the opportunity to connect with other students who have cochlear implants. Students can share experiences, ask questions, learn from one another and spend time with peers who may have some similar experiences. All of last year's participants have indicated that they would like to return, so we must be doing something right!

Our first session will take place at the end of October, with more details coming soon. Watch your inbox.

Do you have a student who you think would benefit from joining CCC? Please email [lora.baker@sd47.bc.ca](mailto:lora.baker@sd47.bc.ca) or [katie.manghillis@sd47.bc.ca](mailto:katie.manghillis@sd47.bc.ca) so we can make sure they receive the upcoming information.

We can't wait to reconnect with returning CCC members and welcome some new faces this year!

## Equipment Troubleshooting

Having trouble with equipment? Please try troubleshooting first before packing it up for a trip back to Auditory Outreach. Many common issues can be solved without having to ship equipment back and forth.

Our Remote Microphone Troubleshooting Guide is a great place to start:

[Remote Microphone Troubleshooting Guide](#)

**Still stuck? Reach out to Carrie Siu at [Carrie.Siu@sd47.bc.ca](mailto:Carrie.Siu@sd47.bc.ca). She may be able to help troubleshoot the problem and save everyone of a round trip to the post office.**

If equipment does need to come back to us for tech service, please return all items that are not working, but keep accessories and components that are working well. Please be sure to mark on the tech service form all of the pieces that you are returning to us. This lets us know exactly what should be in the package when it arrives and helps us get equipment back up and running and back to students as quickly as possible.

## Scribeberry

We know that privacy is one of the biggest considerations when exploring AI-supported speech-to-text tools in schools, and we are working hard to provide secure and user-friendly software options to our students. However, as many are undoubtedly aware, Canadian developed and Canadian based transcription/ captioning software options are limited.

Auditory Outreach, together with our host district, qathet School District, has completed a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) for Scribeberry. Scribeberry is a Canadian, AI-supported transcription and live-captioning option where user data is stored and processed on Canadian servers. Scribeberry does not create or retain audio recordings, and user-submitted data is not used to train large language models.

While Scribeberry comes with its own user-experience intricacies, it is currently the AI-supported transcription option approved by our host district for this initiative. We encourage you to share the completed PIA with your own district. In the near future, we are hoping to offer Scribeberry pilot subscriptions so that students and school teams can explore its use. Stay tuned for more information!

## **Download the Scribeberry Privacy Impact Assessment**

### Permission to Share

A quick but important reminder for students with cochlear implants. Often, a student's Permission to Share form only provides consent for Auditory Outreach to share information with the BC Children's Hospital Cochlear Implant Clinic. If equipment will be shipped to a community audiology clinic, or if a community audiologist is involved in supporting the student, we also need permission to communicate and share information with the community clinic.

### Equipment Loan Eligibility

A reminder that, as part of our Ministry of Education and Child Care mandate, Auditory Outreach equipment loans are available to students with diagnosed peripheral hearing loss. We recognize that students with auditory processing concerns, attention differences or other learning needs may also experience challenges accessing spoken information in the classroom. However, these needs alone do not meet the eligibility criteria for Auditory Outreach equipment loans unless the student also has a diagnosed peripheral hearing loss.

We appreciate your help in confirming eligibility before submitting an equipment request. This helps us process requests efficiently and ensures our equipment loan program remains aligned with our provincial mandate.

### Check Your Forms!

Please ensure you are checking our website for the most up to date forms as we regularly update them. Old forms don't have all the information we need and using one can delay equipment requests. Thank you for your attention to this!

## POP Con Lite – October 23

Pop Con Lite, coming to a screen in front of you on Friday October 23, 2026! Most of the Provincial Outreach Programs, including Auditory Outreach are co-hosting a POP Con Lite conference on the provincial Pro D day. This year each POP has prepared pre-recorded sessions, so once registered, you can watch from anywhere and anytime.

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*This year,  
Auditory Outreach  
presents:*

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RESISTANCE TO  
HEARING  
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**Auditory Outreach**   
Provincial Resource Program