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Accessibility is for Everyone

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It is our pleasure to welcome you to this very special “all accessibility” issue of the *Canadian Audiologist*. As guest co-editors, we would like to introduce ourselves. We are Christopher T. Sutton, national executive director of the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association and Janine Verge, audiologist and board member of the Canadian Academy of Audiology.

Accessibility is about creating communities, workplaces, educational institutions, and services that enable everyone to participate fully in society without barriers. This is a basic human right we should all strive to promote. While assistive and adaptive technology such as hearing aids and cochlear implants are excellent devices, they are often not enough. People need additional resources and supports to fully participate. In this issue, you will learn about the need for hearing loops, captioned telephone services, better hearing care services for First Nations communities, post-secondary educational supports, and communicatively accessible hearing screenings for people with aphasia.

With the introduction and, hopefully, implementation of Bill C-81: An Accessible Canada Act, it is an important time for all of us to consider our own role in how we can break down these barriers and how to best encourage and support others to do the same.

We would like to sincerely thank Marshall Chasin, Steve Aiken, Scott Bryant, Jean Holden, the CAA board and executive, the CHHA board, and the authors of the articles in this issue for their hard work and support for making Canada more accessible for people living with hearing loss.

We hope that you enjoy this issue of the Canadian Audiologist and that it critically helps to start and continue a shared dialogue about the importance of accessibility in our community. By working together, we can break down barriers and assist in building a Barrier Free Canada for people of all abilities