

## Meet Gary Malkowski – Director, OAEA

Gary Malkowski was born and raised in Hamilton, Ontario. He received his B.A. in Social Work and Psychology and a Masters degree in Rehabilitation Counselling from the only accredited university for the Deaf in the world - Gallaudet University, in Washington D.C.

Gary presently serves as the Special Advisor to the President, Public Affairs at The Canadian Hearing Society ([www.chs.ca](http://www.chs.ca)) Gary also serves on the Board of Directors for the following organizations: the ARCH Disability Law Centre ([www.archdisabilitylaw.ca](http://www.archdisabilitylaw.ca)), the Ontario Association of Education Advocates ([www.oaea.ca](http://www.oaea.ca)) and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Alliance (AODA) ([www.aodaalliance.org](http://www.aodaalliance.org)). In addition to that, Gary is a founding member of the Captioning Movies Now Coalition ([www.cmnc.ca](http://www.cmnc.ca))



Gary has an excellent and extensive track record of accomplishments, including his involvement with the Federal and Provincial Ministries of Citizenship, Education, Colleges, Universities and Training in policies and legislation on employment equity. He has worked tirelessly on such issues as anti-racism, access and ethno-cultural equity, and access to professions and trades initiatives. He has made invaluable contributions to legal community services, including Osgoode Hall Law School and the Law Society of Upper Canada, providing legal strategies and advice to lawyers who had successfully reached several important rulings at the Supreme Court of Canada. These legal developments led to the successful introduction and implementation of the Federal and Provincial Employment Equity Acts, the Anti-Racism Education Directorate, the Ontario Human Rights Commission's Duty to Accommodate Policy, the Mental Health Services Act, and the Literacy and Life Skills Program.

Prior to joining The Canadian Hearing Society, Gary became the first elected Deaf politician in the world. During his term as MPP for York East (1990-1995), he was the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Citizenship. He was also Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education and Training. He served as a member on numerous Standing Committees, including Administration of Justice, Finance and Economic Affairs, Social Development, Resource Development, General Government and Public Accounts as well for the Select Committee on Confederation of Ontario. In 1994, he introduced a Private Member's bill for the Ontarians with Disabilities Act. This action ultimately led to the introduction and implementation of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act of 2005.

Prior to being elected to the provincial government, Gary worked at CHS as a vocational rehabilitation counsellor. He has also taught courses in politics at George Brown College. He chaired a task force of the Ontario Association of the Deaf ([www.deafontario.ca](http://www.deafontario.ca)) that initiated a review of Deaf education by the Ontario Ministry of Education and Training. He has served as the Vice-President, Canadian Association of the Deaf, ([www.cad.ca](http://www.cad.ca)), as a board member with both the Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf ([www.ccsdeaf.com](http://www.ccsdeaf.com)) and the Canadian Deaf Sports Association ([www.assc-cdsa.com](http://www.assc-cdsa.com)); and in the capacity of President with the Ontario Deaf Sports Association ([www.ontariodeafsports.on.ca](http://www.ontariodeafsports.on.ca))

Gary was recently awarded the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in recognition of his community service. He has also received the 1996 Canadian "Who's Who" Award, the 1989 Ontario Liberal Government Community Action Award, the Ontario Federation of Community Mental Health and Addiction Program's Outstanding Contribution to Mental Health Communities Award and many other honours provincially, nationally and internationally. He has been featured on TV, radio, and in newspapers and magazines nationally and internationally, including the CTV, Global and CBC. He has been the subject of a BBC documentary and a [biographical play](#). Gary currently resides in Toronto's east end with his wife Karen. He has six children; three daughters Carlee (25), Sara (22), and Marissa (21) and three sons Christopher (17), Lukas (14) and TJ (9).

### Links worth noting:

[The Canadian Hearing Society](#)

[The Ontario Association of the Deaf](#) (OAD)

[Citizens with Disabilities - Ontario](#)

The [OAD's Parent Conference](#) – May 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007

The OAD's [Open Letter to the Minister of Education](#)  
Re: Deaf Children's Language Access & Mental Health Risks

A four-part vlog series called "[The Greatest Irony](#)" discussing the two most popular and fastest-growing language programs available for Deaf and Hearing babies.

### The Ontario Association of the Deaf's 8 Point Plan & Policy

#### The 8 Point Plan:

The Ontario Association of the Deaf (OAD), with the help of few OAD members, would like to inform the Deaf community and our hearing allies that we have developed our focus for the Deaf Community. We have developed eight distinct points to encourage the government, the Deaf community and our hearing allies to work together towards a better future for the Ontario Deaf Community. [Click here to read more](#)

#### The OAD's 8 Point Policy