HNHB Regional Aphasia Programs

www.aphasiaonwest.ca

Program and Referral Information

Our **Aphasia Programs** are intended to meet the need for **conversation, social interaction, information,** and **support** for **adults with Aphasia** and for their **families**. Our Supported Conversation Groups also offer the opportunity to **strengthen communication skills**. Groups are **NOT** a **replacement** for **individual speech therapy** but a **complement**. The **goal** of the Aphasia Program is for group members to **participate actively in conversation** using a variety of communication strategies. **Speech-Language Pathologists, Social Workers, Communicative Disorders Assistants,** and **trained volunteers** are involved with the Aphasia Programs to help make communication easier.

A typical session may include:

- Discussing current events and expressing opinions

- Sharing life stories and events

- Activities that focus on **conversation skills** using a variety of modes including speech, gestures, facial expression, writing, drawing and reading, to **more effectively express and understand messages in conversation**

- Supporting one another to **develop skill and confidence** in communicating

*Please note there may be **individual differences** between programs.

Adult Recreation Therapy Centre APHASIA PROGRAM Brant, Haldimand, Norfolk	Halton-Peel Community APHASIA PROGRAM Burlington	Niagara APHASIA PROGRAM	S.A.M. APHASIA PROGRAM Hamilton and Surrounding Area
Tel: 519-753-1882 ext. 104	**Tel: 905-875-8474**	**Tel: 905-984-2621** **Toll free: 1-877-212-3922**	**Tel: 905-525-5632**
Fax: 519-753-0034	**Fax: 365-601-1690**	**Fax: 905-984-6409**	**Fax: 905-525-4149**
www.artc.ca	**www.h-pcap.com**	**www.hnhbhealthline.ca**	**www.goodshepherdcentres.ca**

> Some **groups** are being **held virtually. Please contact your local Aphasia Program.**

Virtual groups are held **online** via **computer** or **phone.** Groups **do not** meet in person at a physical location; they are connected through technology.

Eligibility Criteria for Virtual Groups:

- Varied severities/types of **Aphasia** due to stroke or injury to the brain e.g., Acquired Brain Injury (ABI), Primary Progressive Aphasia (PPA), tumor

- Individuals must be medically stable and living in the community.

- Willingness to participate in Supportive Conversation Groups to improve communication

- Demonstrate **appropriate behavior** in a social group setting for the duration of the program

- **No/minimal cognitive difficulties**

- Access to communication technology (i.e., computer, tablet, or smartphone) and **internet connection**

- Ability to use device and virtual group platform (e.g., Zoom) OR, if needed, access to a **support person** to assist with use of technology (Note: some remote support can be provided by program staff)

If you have any **questions** about the referral process, criteria for admission or the program, please contact the Aphasia Program in your area.