



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
January 10, 2022

Durham, ON (January 10, 2022) - Durham Deaf Services (DDS) is proud to announce that Martin Franssen of the **Durham Regional Police Services** has been awarded the Durham Deaf Services Community Champion Award. Martin has been working diligently to improve accessibility and inclusivity for the Deaf community!

The **Durham Deaf Services Community Champion Award** celebrates individuals, businesses, and organizations who have shown an outstanding commitment to breaking down barriers and enriching the lives of Deaf, deafened and hard of hearing children/individuals/families in our community.

Durham Deaf Services awards a member/group in our community with the DDS Community Champion Award annually. Each year individuals/businesses/organizations are recognized for efforts that go beyond to support the Deaf, deafened, and hard of hearing community. Nominations are accepted annually. The annual nomination deadline is November 30 each year. Winners are announced the following January each year. The Board of Directors would like to express our sincere gratitude for all that Detective Franssen does to improve accessibility in our community.

### ***Quote from Martin Franssen DRPS Financial Crime Unit***

"Everyone has the ability to achieve. For some with a "disability", achievement may be more of a challenge than for those without.

I learned very early in life, it is not about a disability. It is about individual abilities. Treat each and every person as an individual provide them the right resources and support and amazing achievements will be had."

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### **About Durham Deaf Services**

Durham Deaf Services (DDS) is a non-profit organization that offers services and programs that promote self-reliance within the Deaf, deafened, and hard of hearing community. DDS is committed to increasing Deaf Cultural awareness. DDS is governed by a Board of Directors, who are Deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing. The organization is funded by the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development for our Deaf Adult Literacy program as well as by grants, memberships, and various fundraising activities. For more information, please visit [www.durhamdeaf.org](http://www.durhamdeaf.org). Durham Deaf Services is a non-profit org.