

WAI Endorsements

When I first went into the group, people came to me and welcomed me and they have never stopped welcoming me. They let me take my time and the facilitators helped me out with prompts that were constructive. I would want try to do more than I had done than last month. I have grown with every new experience that I have had at WAI and I look forward to many more. I think that because of WAI I am a better person.

Jo, Conversation Group Participant

I honestly don't know where we would be without the services of WAI. The workshops and conversation groups are invaluable tools. It is so helpful to be able to consult with experts and volunteers who provide coaching with different methods of communication and also point us in the right direction to the many resources that are out there. Sometimes it just helps to know that we are not alone.

Monica, Caregiver

I attended your workshop in 2017 and learned valuable new techniques for communicating with my patients who have aphasia from strokes and dementia. I now recommend the workshop and support available from Westman Aphasia Inc. whenever I am aware of communication difficulties.

Elizabeth Rhynold M.D., PMH Geriatrician



How can you help?

Westman Aphasia Inc. relies on both corporate and public support.

If you would like to support us and make a difference in the lives of those living with this communication disorder, please send your donation to Westman Aphasia Inc.

Tax receipts will be issued for all donations of \$10.00 and over.

We now accept e-transfers at treasurer.westmanaphasia@gmail.com

To volunteer or participate, please contact us.

Westman Aphasia Inc.
100 – 1300, 18th Street
Office 156
Brandon, MB, R7A 6X7

Phone: (204) 571-0802
Fax: (204) 727-5873

Email: westmanaphasia@gmail.com
Website: www.westmanaphasia.ca



Charitable # BN 820243517RR0001

Westman Aphasia Inc.



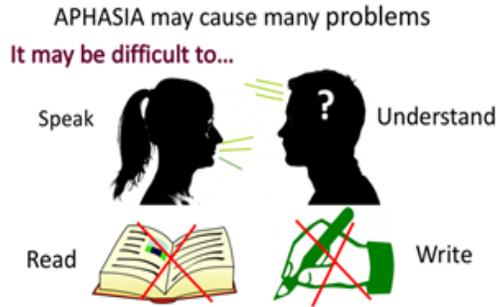
Aphasia can affect the ability to use or understand spoken words

At Westman Aphasia (WAI) we help people with aphasia and their caregivers



Communication is more than just words

What is Aphasia?



Aphasia can affect the ability to use or understand spoken words. It can cause difficulty with finding words to express oneself as well as difficulty with reading or writing words and sentences.

Aphasia is caused by damage to the language center of the brain.

- The most common cause of aphasia is **stroke**. It is estimated that over 30% of individuals who suffer a stroke will have some degree of aphasia.
- Head injuries, brain tumors, progressive disease of the brain and dementia can also cause aphasia.

Aphasia alone does not affect intelligence

For the individual with aphasia, the difficulty to communicate often leads to social isolation from family and the community

Mandate for Westman Aphasia Inc.

Westman Aphasia Inc. is a charitable, community-based organization developed to address the needs of individuals living with aphasia and the needs of their caregivers

The organization will:

- **Provide** training for individuals living with aphasia, their families and volunteers to learn how to communicate more effectively
- **Develop** resources and provide support to individuals and their families to help them adapt to living with a chronic communication disorder
- **Provide** education about aphasia to the community and to health care professionals
- **Collaborate** with local agencies, educational institutions and community groups to further develop “aphasia friendly” services in the community



Who are the people of WAI?

Westman Aphasia Inc. consists of a

- Board of Directors,
- program clinicians and
- trained volunteers.

What does WAI provide?

Programs:

Monthly groups facilitated by clinicians and trained volunteers.

‘Building Communication Bridges’

- is a conversation group for individuals with aphasia that provides an opportunity to further develop and practice communication techniques in a group setting.

‘Caregiver Support Group’

- provides an opportunity for caregivers, family and friends to discuss the specific challenges and psychosocial issues involved when living with aphasia.

Workshops:

- For caregivers, volunteers and health care providers
- Education about:
 - Aphasia
 - The effects of aphasia on the individual, the caregiver and the family
 - Supported Conversation for Adults with Aphasia (SCA™) provided by a Speech-Language Pathologist who has received training from the Aphasia Institute in Toronto, Ontario