

## CANADA

# Surround sound boosts children's learning: study

## Young pupils miss one in six words in class

BY JANICE TIBBETTS

All Canadian teachers from kindergarten to Grade 3 should wear microphones, and classrooms should be equipped with surround-sound systems to give every pupil a "front-row seat" when it comes to hearing, say audiologists and speech pathologists.

Citing research that shows young children cannot hear one of every six words the teacher says, the Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists said yesterday that classroom chatter, the din of computers, the hum of lights and outside distractions make classrooms noisy places that hinder pupils' learning.

"When we put speakers in a classroom ... everybody shuts up and listens," André Lafargue, a New Brunswick audiologist, told a news conference on Parliament Hill.

A new study of 1,162 pupils in kindergarten to Grade 3, conducted by the New Brunswick government and professors at the University of New Brunswick and the Atlantic Baptist University in Moncton, N.B., found that sound amplification is a significant benefit to young pupils and should be considered a "vital part" of helping them learn.

In the study, researchers studied 31 classes with sound systems installed and 29 without.

Pupils hear poorly if they are more than 2.75 metres away from the teacher. Another significant problem is that teachers' voices become strained, trying to make themselves

heard.

In tens of thousands of classrooms across Canada, teachers are already donning lightweight microphones around their necks to project their voices in the classroom.

Teacher Anna Crosland at Bear Creek Elementary School in Surrey, B.C., said "it's still early days" for surround sound at her school, but the systems appear to be making a difference since they were installed in the middle of the last school year.

"Even the youngest children are able to articulate that it's easier for them to hear the teacher," said Ms. Crosland.

"I see the children physically sit back in their chairs, knowing they're not going to have to struggle to hear what the teacher has to say."

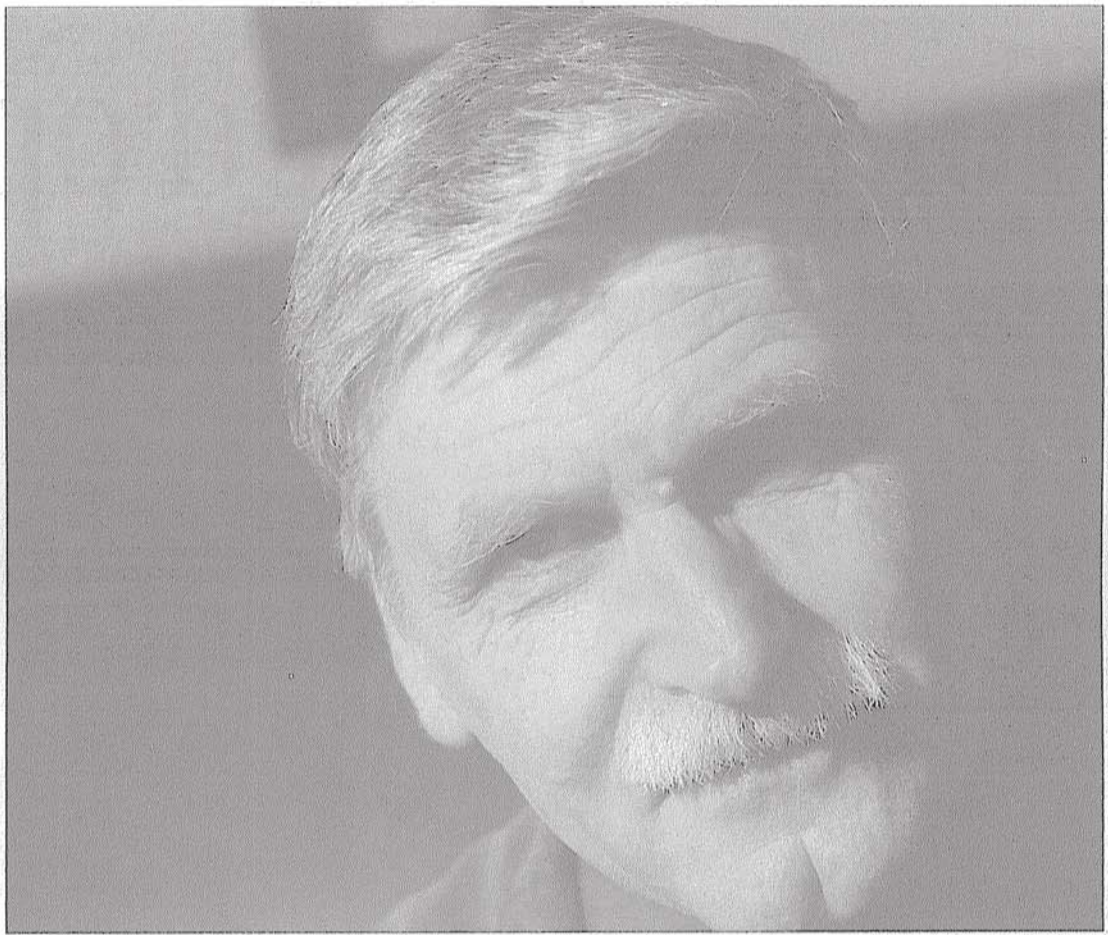
The systems also appear to be making a difference for pupils who are learning English as a second language, she said.

The West Vancouver School Board just bought dozens of systems for about \$1,200 each, for all classrooms from Primary Grade to Grade 3.

"We think it's going to help our children," said superintendent Geoff Jobson, who hopes to expand the system for pupils in all grades if the board sees results this year.

The speech-language pathologists and audiologists association said that classrooms are becoming noisier than ever. Not only are computers and other technology creating a classroom buzz, pupils are also doing more talking than ever before because of interactive learning that requires more participation and group work.

"When you walk into a typical classroom these days, you see a lot of interaction, children helping each other, assistants moving around, children are not sitting still in their chair," said Linda Rammage, association president.



JEAN LEVAC, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

Romeo Dallaire wrote about the slaughter in Rwanda in a book titled *Shake Hands With the Devil*.

## Dallaire to testify for 'context' at Rwandan war crimes trial

### Retired general traumatized by experience there

BY SUE MONTGOMERY

MONTREAL • Senator Romeo Dallaire is such a hero in Rwanda that parents have named their newborn babies after him.

But the 61-year-old retired general remains haunted by the failed United Nations mission he led in the Central African country, which found itself impotent in the face of genocide. It was a period so traumatic for him, he later attempted suicide.

Mr. Dallaire will have to dredge up the ghosts of the past again as he testifies today at the trial of Désiré Munyaneza, a Rwandan on trial for his alleged participation in the mass killings and rapes in 1994.

Although Mr. Dallaire hadn't heard of Mr. Munyaneza while in Rwanda, he's been called by the Crown as a "context" witness to talk about the extermination of the minority Tutsi ethnic group by the majority Hutus.

"We need to establish the actions or intentions of the accused at the time (of the alleged crimes)," said Alexis Gauthier, one of three Crown prosecutors on the case. "But these intentions aren't crimes in themselves, so we need to establish the context in which the crime took place."

Mr. Munyaneza, a 40-year-old failed refugee claimant, came to Canada in 1996. After a six-year RCMP investigation, he was arrested and became the first person charged under Canada's war crimes and crimes against humanity law, passed in 2000. His trial in Quebec Superior Court began in March.

Mr. Dallaire has testified at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Tanzania. He has also written a book about the slaughter, in which an estimated 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed by extremist Hutus. His book, *Shake Hands With the Devil*, was just released as a film, starring Quebec actor Roy Dupuis as Mr. Dallaire.

Mr. Dallaire arrived in Rwanda in 1993, months before the slaughter began, to command the UN force brought in to observe the fragile peace between the Hutu government and the rebels, who were mostly Tutsi.

When the Rwandan president's plane was shot down in 1994, the extremists began their killings, which lasted 100 days. Mr. Dallaire pleaded with the UN to send him additional troops, but the UN said no.

THE MONTREAL GAZETTE

### NATIONAL

#### Retailer removes made-in-China

A made-in-China clock lamp is being removed from store shelves after it was found to be defective. The product had been approved for sale in Canada, but the CBC reported yesterday that the lamp's design was flawed. The retailer, who had sold the 82 Hart stores in Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland, is now removing the product from its shelves. The Canadian Association of Retailers says the product's box may not have been authorized, the report says.

### ALBERTA

#### Suspect charged in pickaxe killing

Police have arrested a suspect in the killing of a teenager at a house party late Saturday. The suspect, Matt McKay, 17, was charged with the murder of a 17-year-old girl at a raucous party in Calgary. The victim was found with a pickaxe wound to the head. The Office of the Chief Coroner reported that the teen died of a head injury. The suspect, who has been charged with second-degree murder, was arrested after a search of the house. The party had been held in a basement room. The suspect was charged with the murder of the victim, who was 17 years old. The suspect was charged with the murder of the victim, who was 17 years old. The suspect was charged with the murder of the victim, who was 17 years old.

### QUEBEC

#### Carbon tax to pay for emissions

Quebec has adopted its first designated carbon tax to help fight global warming. The tax is based on the amount of carbon dioxide emitted by businesses and individuals. The tax is expected to raise \$1.5 billion a year to help finance the province's green energy program. The tax is expected to raise \$1.5 billion a year to help finance the province's green energy program. The tax is expected to raise \$1.5 billion a year to help finance the province's green energy program. The tax is expected to raise \$1.5 billion a year to help finance the province's green energy program.

## Acquittal: Hemophilia society shocked by verdict

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1987.

At the time of the alleged offences, Dr. Perrault was the director of the Canadian Red Cross blood transfusion service. Dr. Boucher and Dr. Furesz were top officials at the Bureau of Biologics, a Health Canada agency that regulated blood products.

The Crown alleged that the defendants were aware of the potential risks from the product and did not take the necessary steps to protect hemophiliacs before the HT Factorate was recalled by Armour in December

Judge Benotto described the tainted blood infections as a tragedy, although she rejected the Crown theory that the defendants did not act properly in assessing health risks for hemophiliacs receiving the blood products.

"The conduct examined in detail for over one and a half years confirms reasonable, responsible and professional actions and responses during a difficult time," said the judge.

As the judge read out the acquittals, there were audible

sighs of disbelief from representatives of the Canadian Hemophilia Society.

"We are shocked," said John Plater of the society. "We don't know how she could say their conduct was professional or reasonable. She really thought they did a good job." Mr. Plater referred to Judge Benotto's decision as "ludicrous" and urged the Crown to appeal.

The Krever report issued in 1997 referred to the tainted blood scandal as a "national public health disaster," and found that the Red Cross "re-

coiled from responsibility," although no individuals were singled out.

The findings of Justice Horace Krever could not be used in the criminal prosecution, but the RCMP spent millions of dollars in its own five-year independent investigation before filing charges.

As well, senior provincial prosecutor Michael Bernstein led a team of seven Crown attorneys throughout the trial.

Edward Greenspan, who represented Dr. Perrault, rejected a suggestion by the hemophilia

society that the defence had a legal "dream team" that was able to outmatch the Crown during the trial.

"The prosecution had untold money to spend," he said. "The bottom line is there was no criminal conduct."

Dr. Rodell, who is retired and lives near Philadelphia, said after the verdict that the ruling supports his actions more than 20 years ago. "We went with the information we had at our disposal at the time. We instituted programs to minimize — we couldn't eliminate — the risks."

"I have to feel in my heart it was a political situation. Justice Benotto is astute enough, diligent, knew the law and that politics ruled the day. It came to a decision (charges)," said Dr. Rodell. A second trial for the case is scheduled to begin in late 2001. The charges related to the case are expected to be heard in the next few months. The Red Cross officials failed to take necessary steps to screen the blood. Greenspan said he was confident the Crown will stay the case. The findings of Justice Benotto are expected to be a landmark case in Canadian law.

THE NATIONAL POST, WITH PETER BRIEGER AND JACQUELINE...