

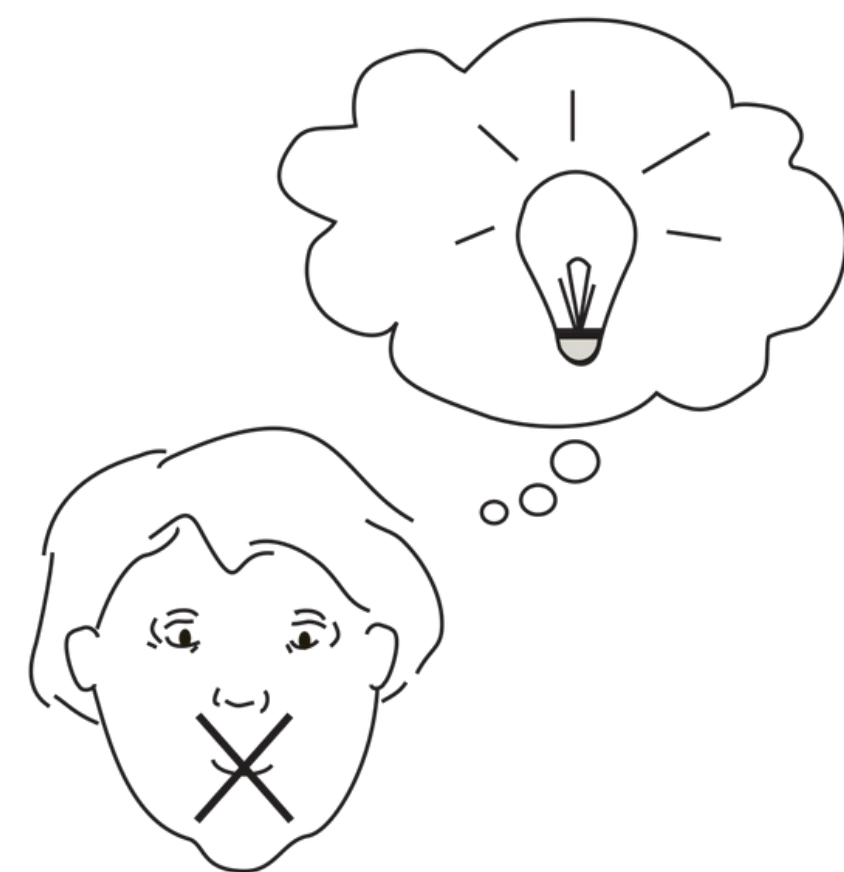
Improving Social Participation for People with Aphasia

To **learn** how **aphasia** affects people's **ability to take part in social activities**, a **research study** was conducted at **Trent University**, with help from **March of Dimes Canada**.

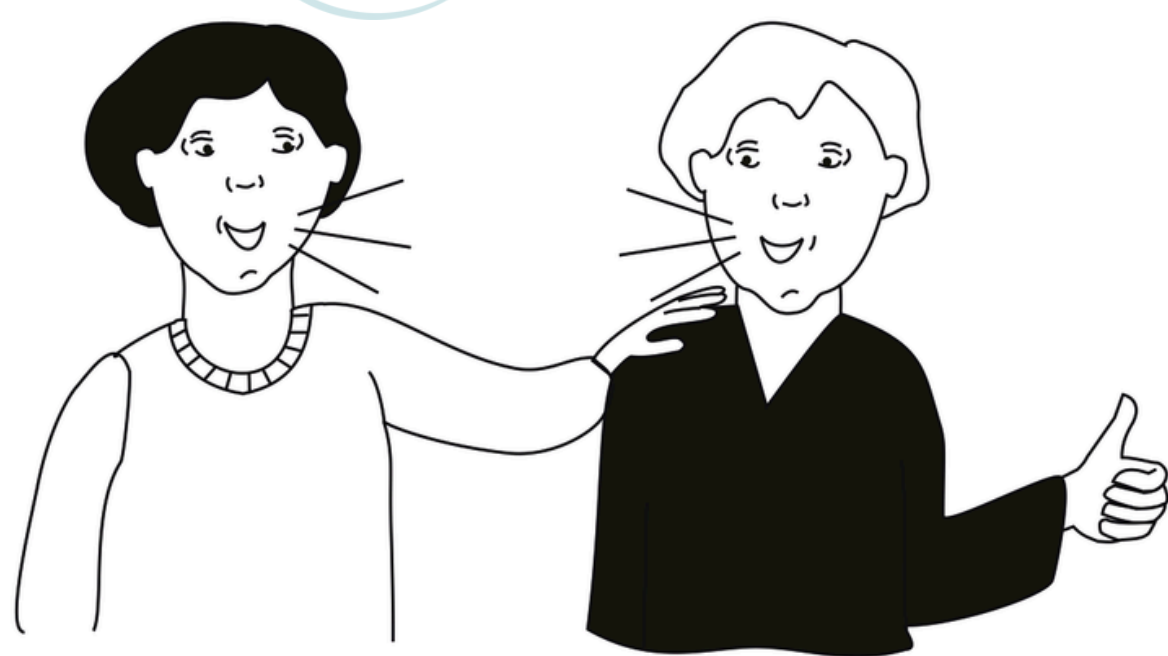
Researchers found that we can help **improve social participation** for people with aphasia by focusing on **three important goals**:

1. Increasing public aphasia awareness

- **Increase knowledge** of aphasia, especially in settings where people with aphasia **access services** (e.g., government offices, medical settings, stroke recovery programs)
- **Include and center people with aphasia** in **aphasia awareness initiatives**
- **Promote the message** that aphasia masks competence (**speech does not equal intelligence**)



2. Improving social interactions for people with aphasia



- Prioritize **communicative access** through **policies, procedures, and planning**
- Make **training and workshop opportunities** (e.g., [SCA training](#)) broadly **available** and **accessible** (e.g., at local libraries, public institutions, online)
- **Speak** in a **normal tone of voice** and **be flexible** when communicating
- Use **supportive communication strategies** if you are able
- **Ask** people with aphasia **how they would like to be supported**

3. Creating and maintaining accessible community spaces

- **Provide** both **in-person** and **remote options** for participation in community groups, programs, and activities
- **Deliver** and promote **aphasia-friendly programs** where people with aphasia can interact meaningfully with others, meet people, and form social connections
- **Improve the accessibility** of community spaces through **visuals, labeling, and sensory-friendly settings**

