

Notes on Regional Terms

The video materials on the companion CDs were all filmed in Vancouver, British Columbia. Because of that, you will encounter a number of spoken English and ASL references with which you may not be familiar. These notes are provided to “fill in the gaps,” as it were, and so you can make better sense of the comments made.

GEOGRAPHIC TERMS

TERM	SIGN
ALBERTA — province in Canada	“A” on the dominant hand moved on the back of the non-dominant closed fist/palm down
○ Calgary — town in Alberta	3 signs are used: (a) “C” shaking side to side (b) crooked-3 on dominant hand bounced on the elbow of the non-dominant arm (c) “shooting guns” (similar to “cowboy”)
○ Edmonton — city in Alberta	“E-D”
BRITISH COLUMBIA — province in Canada	“B-C”
○ Burnaby — city in metro-Vancouver; location of current provincial school for the Deaf	“B” moved in circle, palm turned inward toward signer
○ Nanaimo — city on Vancouver Island	“N” on dominant hand tapped on “S” hand shape on non-dominant hand turned sideways
○ Okanagan — Region in BC	Fingerspelled
○ Port Alberni — city on Vancouver Island	Fingerspelled
○ Prince George — city in northern BC	“P-G” in middle of chest
○ Surrey — city in metro-Vancouver	Fingerspelled or “S” shaking side to side
○ Vancouver — city in BC	“V” shaking side to side
○ Vancouver Island — Region in BC	“V” shaking side to side + “Island” or simply index-“Island”
○ Victoria — capitol of BC, located on Vancouver Island	“V” moved downward in a wavy line
○ White Rock — city in metro-Vancouver	Fingerspelled

TERM	SIGN
MANITOBA — province in Canada	“M” In shape of a cross over the heart
○ Winnipeg — city in Manitoba; home of Manitoba School for the Deaf	“W” in circle, palm turned inward toward signer
QUEBEC — province in Canada	“Q” in a circle
ONTARIO — province in Canada	“O” in a circle, palm turned inward toward signer
○ Toronto - Large city in Ontario	“T” from shoulder to shoulder or right angle hand shape, fingers touching shoulder to shoulder
○ Bellville — Location of one residential school for the Deaf on Ontario	“B” on dominant hand touching top of “O” hand shape on non-dominant hand (turned sideways) then dropped off (movement similar to “complete”)
SASKATCHEWAN — province in Canada	“S-A-S-K”
○ Saskatoon	Fingerspelled
Non-Canadian Cities Mentioned	
○ Seattle, WA	“S” shaking from side to side
○ Hong Kong	Palm facing face, fingers pop out twice toward nose/eyes

AGENCIES/INSTITUTIONS

TERM	SIGN
Burnaby South — Location of Provincial School for the Deaf high school	Burnaby (“B” in circle, palm turned inward) + South
Canadian Hearing Society — Primary agency providing services to the Deaf in Ontario	C-H-S
Deaf Children’s Society — Preschool and family education center in BC	D-C-S
Douglas College — Location of the provincial interpreter training program	D-C - movement like “College” (D-“D” in palm changing to “C” as sign moves upward)
Jericho Hill School for the Deaf and Blind (JHS) — Name of the original provincial school for the	J-H-S

Deaf	
Kitsilano — Name of an area in Vancouver near JHS; name of a hearing high school into which some Deaf students were mainstreamed	Fingerspelled
Kits Beach — beach near JHS	“KITS” – Fingerspelled plus “beach”
Mountain Secondary School — Name of regional high school program for Deaf students	M-S-S
South Slope — Name of current provincial school for the deaf elementary school	“South” + “slope”
Uplands Elementary — Name of regional elementary program for Deaf students near Vancouver	Fingerspelled
UBC — University of British Columbia	U-B-C
Vancouver Oral Center (VOC) — Private oral education program	V-O-C
Westcoast Association of Visual Language Interpreters for the Deaf — Provincial organization for Sign Language Interpreters	W-A-V-L-I
Western Institute of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing — Agency providing services to the Deaf in metro-Vancouver	W-I-D-H-H

REGIONAL SIGNS

TERM	SIGN
Test	“1” hand shape on both hands, palms turned inward toward signer, moved up and down alternately
Tutoring	“1” hand shape on both hands, palms of each hand facing/touching, slight movement toward signer and away from signer