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Vibrations

September 2016

► PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you! Thank you for continuing to read Vibrations. Thank you for participating in your professional association. This has been an amazing year. It's my fourth year serving on BCASLPA provincial council, and my first year as president. The year has been full for me. Amidst the joys of catching my fourth daughter, Beatrix, and the sorrows of family illness, cancer, mental health, and dementia, I have been working with a team of the most amazing women to run your association.

This year, BCASLPA has been working with YOU! Incredible teams of professionals from across the province, inspired to volunteer for your association. Remember, this year I asked you, again and again, to come out and join us. AND YOU DID! This year we have had many individuals giving their time, energy, and creativity to achieve the goals laid out in our strategic plan.

BCASLPA continuously strives to bring cutting edge professional development to its members, and to advocate for SLPs and Audiologists by responding to relevant current events, and raising the profile of our professions through public awareness campaigns. This year you joined professionals from across Canada in a national May Month campaign initiated by the Pan Canadian Alliance; many of you sent in videos of clients telling Canadians how you have changed their lives.

This is my last message in Vibrations as President. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the individuals who believed in me. I am a young man-a #noob, if you will-but I have been encouraged and supported by some amazing individuals along the way. Thank you for your TRUST, and please BELIEVE ME, I could not have done it without you. I specifically would like to thank Karen Derry, for inspiring me to run as president.

I look forward to next year as Past President. If I did one good thing this past year, it was enticing the incomparable Kate Chase into being your next president. Kate is the founder of the non-profit [Nurture Learning & Development](#). Think for a moment, and IMAGINE, what someone like Kate could do with 1200 members and your help! Be inspired! JOIN US in October at our conference in Burnaby and RUN FOR A POSITION on provincial council or join a committee. YOU WILL not be disappointed!

Nathan Hoffart,
President



▶ WALK FOR CHILDREN WITH CAS OFFERS HOPE AND SUPPORT

Childhood apraxia of speech (CAS), for many SLPs, is the disorder most fraught with question marks and uncertainty. Sometimes said to be over-identified, other times said to be too-frequently “missed”, it is estimated that CAS affects 1-2 out of every 1000 people, and only 3-4% of clients with speech sound disorders. Many professionals will only encounter CAS a few times in their careers. While there is no checklist of symptoms that definitively identify CAS, experts in the area agree on three key features pointing to the motor-planning disorder: a) inconsistent errors on vowels and consonants in repeated productions of words; b) lengthened and disrupted coarticulatory transitions; and, c) inappropriate prosody. These three symptoms themselves are, however, not enough to diagnose CAS with certainty – other signs must be present. For more information on this refer to ASHA’s position statement on [Childhood Apraxia of Speech](#).

Receiving a diagnosis of CAS has a tremendous impact on families. It is, for many children, a lifelong disorder, and even those who are deemed “resolved” often find they struggle later in life when their systems are taxed. Just think about the motor plan required to say “eukaryotic organism”, a grade 11 biology term. The recommended amount of therapy for children with CAS is 3-5 times per week, which is daunting, if not impossible, for many families. Not only are children with CAS dealing with being highly unintelligible or non-verbal, despite good language comprehension and social skills, their parents and caregivers also deal with daily frustration, the process of implementing alternative and augmentative communication (AAC), and social isolation.

[The Childhood Apraxia of Speech Association of North America \(CASANA\)](#) which was founded by a parent of a child with CAS, is a non-profit organization based in Pittsburgh, PA. CASANA’s mission is to strengthen the support systems of children with CAS to help give them the best opportunity to develop speech and communication. CASANA serves as a resource for families through their website and online groups. They help fund research into CAS, offer webinars and conferences, and have an iPads for Apraxia donation program. They also train SLPs from around North America to develop expertise in the assessment and treatment of CAS, (including two from BC!).

On September 17th, the second annual Vancouver Area Walk for Children with Apraxia of Speech will take place in Richmond. The walk serves not just as a fundraiser for CASANA, but as an opportunity for families to come together to meet others in similar situations and to celebrate all they and their children – their Apraxia Stars – have accomplished. The children are honoured, their hard work is acknowledged, and they learn that they are not the only ones who are struggling to find their voices.

More information about the walk can be found at apraxiawalk.org/walk-locations. Registration is open now. Families can create teams in honour of their Apraxia Stars, and there is also an SLP team for professionals who want to walk. Volunteers are always welcome as well!

Jessica Folk-Farber, M.SLP, RSLP(C)

CASANA-Recognized for Advanced Training and Clinical Expertise in Childhood Apraxia of Speech

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**DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER ISSUE SUBMISSIONS: NOVEMBER 10
TO SUBMIT, EMAIL MARIANNE.BULLIED@GMAIL.COM**



ADULTS \$20*

2016

KIDS \$10*

WALK *for* CHILDREN

with APRAXIA *of* SPEECH

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2016
at 10AM (9AM CHECK-IN)

at **THE FRIDGE**
AT FRASERVIEW CHURCH
 11295 MELLIS DRIVE • RICHMOND, BC V6X 1L8

Register online at casana.apraxia-kids.org/VancouverWalk before **August 14th** to receive a free t-shirt! Walk-up registration at the event is always welcome! For more information, please contact Jessica Folk-Farber at umbrellaslp@gmail.com.



*Prices shown are advanced registration costs and are in US dollars. Day of event registration will be slightly higher on site. CASANA is a public charity. All donations for the Walk for Apraxia are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. The Childhood Apraxia of Speech Association Federal EIN: 25-1858159.

▶ 2016 BCASLPA CONFERENCE: INTER-PROFESSIONAL COLLABORATION FOCUS

BCASLPA's 59th annual conference on October 21 and 22 at the [Hilton Vancouver Metrotown](#) in Burnaby is fast approaching! Be sure to [register](#) by September 16 to receive the early bird rate.

Audiologists

As the World Congress of Audiology is this September in Vancouver, there is no Audiology stream at the 2016 BCASLPA Conference. BCASLPA is providing dues-paying members a \$50 rebate. To apply, click [here](#) for the Rebate Form.

We hope Audiologists will attend the CSHHPBC AGM on October 20 at 6:45 pm and the BCASLPA AGM on October 22 at 12:00 pm at the Hilton Metrotown. To confirm your attendance, please [email](#) Janet Campbell. Free refreshments and lunch are provided to members!

College of Speech and Hearing Health Professionals of BC AGM and Reception

We welcome back the CSHHPBC to our annual conference and encourage you to attend the College's AGM and Reception on Thursday, October 20th, at the Hilton Metrotown. Doors open at 6:45 pm.

For more information on any of the above, please visit [BCASLPAConference.ca](#).

2016 BCASLPA Conference Planning Committee
Working together to support communication growth

▶ MAY IS SPEECH & HEARING MONTH: SOUTH COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE SLPS

The SLPs at the South Community Health Centre, Vancouver Coastal Health, put on a creative and informative May Month activity. In addition to the information board posted in the hallway, they provided a lunch and learn event. Each SLP picked a book and provided food related to the book and discussed ways to promote literacy skill development with the other staff. They also shared a speech and language development quiz with a prize for highest score. Way to go, South SLPs!



From Left to right: Sandy Bains, Tina Saxon, Pamela Lau, and Sheryl Grossman at South Community Health Centre.

Books included in the May Month Presentation: *The Apple Pie Tree*, *The Hungry Caterpillar*, *Spot's Special Days*, *Dog's Colourful Day*, and *If You Give a Cat a Cupcake*.



▶ **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO PROVINCIAL COUNCIL: 2016 BCASLPA AGM**

The following positions are vacant. Nominees are invited to express interest for election at the October 22, 2016 BCASLPA AGM:

Vice-President

Treasurer

Director Public Education

Director Speech Language Pathology Private Practice

Director School Services Speech Language Pathology Practice

Director Audiology Public Practice

Director Audiology Private Practice

Fraser Valley Area Representative

Thompson/Okanagan Area Representative

Vancouver Island and Gulf Islands Area Representative

Some great benefits of joining Provincial Council:

- BCASLPA Conference Registration Fee paid if you attend at least 75% PC meetings
- Earn up to 5 CEU's per year for being involved
- Free Travel and accommodation expenses to Vancouver for 2 Provincial Council Planning meetings
- Experience being involved with an enthusiastic, dynamic organization; network with other professionals
- Chance to help steward your professional organization
- Acquire skills in leadership and management

No experience necessary!

Some Comments from Past PC Members about Joining

Provincial Council members have noted many benefits from their experience on the Council:

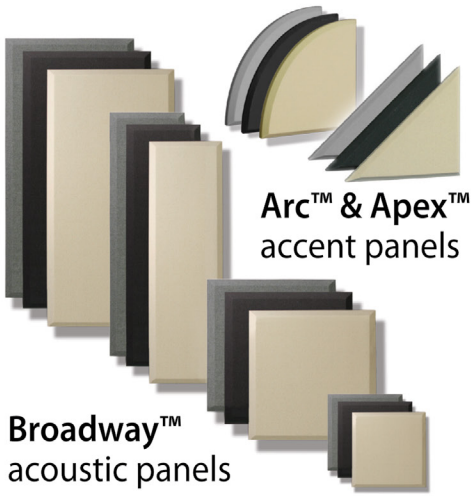
- Making professional and personal connections around the province
- Being part of a community of practice
- Boost to my career
- Hearing from professionals in other settings
- Creating ideas for change and being part of that change
- Energizing and stimulating
- Complimentary conference registration
- Free trip to Vancouver and to the conference.

Join Provincial Council!

If you would like to stand for election or wish more information please contact Janet Campbell at the [BCASLPA Office](mailto:contact@bcaslpa.ca) (contact@bcaslpa.ca • 604-420-2222 • toll free: 1-877-BCASLPA).

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