



Speech and Hearing BC  
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# Vibrations

September 2018

## IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message

Lessons Learned from  
the VSRA Speech  
Communication Group

### Announcements:

Sensory-Motor Aging  
Research and Implications  
for Practice and Policy

Speech and Hearing BC's  
New Journal Club

Conference Reminder

Conference Website Notice

Join Provincial Council

### Advocacy Updates

Lynne Patrick  
Sherri Zelazny

## President's Message

Back to the grind! I hope you all had an enjoyable summer and this edition of Vibrations finds you well. Speech and Hearing BC is looking forward to new public education campaigns, creation of an advocacy plan, improving media relations, and increasing our visibility in BC. We are also looking forward to our annual conference in Victoria, BC. If you haven't checked out the conference program and registered, you can do both at the [conference website](#).


Towards our advocacy initiatives, we were very pleased and grateful to receive support from SAC this past June. SAC has been working with Impact [Public Affairs](#) for their public education, and advocacy initiatives and has been supporting Provincial Council with education and access to their resources. SAC supported one day of education between Speech and Hearing BC and [Christian von Donat](#). A small group of us; me, Becca Yu, Lynne Patrick, Alyssa Dixon, and Janet Campbell, spent the day with Christian in June. He has started us off with invaluable education on the importance of a media presence, press releases, position statements, coalitions, collaborations, government mandate letters, summer job grants for help in the office,

and our first goals of increased visibility of Speech and Hearing BC in the Province, motivating member involvement, and creating an advocacy plan. We will kick off a member survey to help form the advocacy plan, and a member "meet your MLA" challenge in October at our annual conference.



Meeting with Christian Von Donat from Impact Public Affairs along with Lynne Patrick, Alyssa Dixon (in blue), Janet Campbell (in white), Becca Yu, and Sherri Zelazny

Stepping into advocacy and public education initiatives can be daunting. (That is why we are glad to have help from Impact!) Taking part as a member of Speech and Hearing BC does not have to mean speaking to Parliament! Offering an in-service in your workplace, being a resource to your team, patients, clients, family, members, physicians, etc., meeting your MLA as a constituent, all help with increasing the visibility and knowledge of our professions. Helping to educate others in our role is part of our responsibilities as a speech and hearing health professional. And...let us know what you are doing in your community to increase the visibility of speech-language pathologists and audiologists. You can email the office, post on social media, share your story in Vibrations, and be part of the great momentum of our public education campaigns.



Sherri K Zelazny, MA/RSLP, CCC-SLP  
Speech and Hearing BC President

# Lessons Learned from the VSRA Speech Communication Group

Mackenzie Marshall, SLP Student

This past year I volunteered weekly with the Victoria Stroke Recovery Association ([VSRA](#)) speech communication group through Susan Edwards. I helped create materials for group sessions, facilitate and assist sessions, and lend a helping hand to the group. I began volunteering with Susan because I hoped to become a Speech-Language Pathologist and I wanted an experience working with adults. Each week, I was humbled by the diverse group of individuals I got to join. Everyone had an important story to share and a lifetime of wisdom to pass along. Importantly, I learned many different techniques to communicate with people who have aphasia, such as using various technologies, writing things down, or simply giving somebody with aphasia as much time as they need to explain themselves. I also saw that aphasia affects everyone differently, and that no two people with aphasia will have the same experience. Despite the impact of their language, their personalities and intelligence certainly are not. I most enjoyed getting to laugh and learn alongside this group and build relationships in an accepting community with this group. This experience solidified my interest in becoming an SLP and steered me towards working with an adult population. I am happy to be attending graduate school at McGill University for Speech Language Pathology in the fall of 2018 and I will be using the lessons I learned from this experience in my future practice.

# Announcements:

## Sensory-Motor Aging Research and Implications for Practice and Policy

The Canadian Association on Gerontology Annual Conference will be hosting a special workshop entitled “Sensory-Motor Aging Research and Implications for Practice and Policy”. This preconference workshop will be held on **Thursday October 18th** at the Sheridan Wall Centre Hotel. The fee for the preconference workshop is only \$20 (to cover the cost of the coffee break). For more information please visit <http://cag2018.ca/program/preconference/sensorymotor>.

## Speech and Hearing BC’s New Journal Club

**Do you work in sole-practice, private practice or love to keep up to date on the latest research? The Speech and Hearing BC Journal Club might be the club for you!**

We are looking for members that would be interested in meeting on a regular basis via teleconference or videoconference to discuss a journal article, new research and share clinical ideas. This will also be an opportunity for you to connect with other members and get to know some of your colleagues across the province. As well, this type of group can help to fulfill your CCC requirements with CSHHPBC.

If you are interested in joining the Speech and Hearing BC Journal Club, please [email me](#).

Alyssa Dixon  
Director, Professional Education

# Reminder:

## 2018 Speech and Hearing BC Conference

### OCTOBER 19TH AND 20TH

Don't forget [to register](#) for the 2018 Speech and Hearing BC Conference being held at the [Delta Ocean Pointe Resort](#) in Victoria on October 19th and 20th. **The early bird registration deadline ends September 10th.**

This year's Conference will bring together Speech Language Pathologists, Audiologists, educators, support personnel, and allied health professionals from around the province. The Conference provides the latest evidence based research, resulting in improved clinical skills and enhanced professional abilities. To register, plan your conference and learn about the fabulous speakers and topics, please visit [our conference website](#).

To obtain the special room rate, click on Speech and Hearing BC's conference hotel [reservation portal](#). The published rate is \$159 but when you go to pay your hotel bill, the rate will be reduced by \$25 per night. **You will only pay \$134 + tax** per night. **Please book your room by September 20th** to ensure you receive the special Speech and Hearing BC Conference room rate.

#### New This Year

Join us for the **Awards Luncheon on Friday, October 19th**, to honour and celebrate the accomplishments of your colleagues.

We have **expanded the Forums offering** to include: **Adult SLP Practice, Audiology Practice, Preschool SLP Practice, Private Practice, and Schools SLP Practice**. Forums take place **at 4:45 pm on the Friday of the Conference**. You can select the Forum you are interested in attending as part of your registration schedule. Refreshments will be provided to Forum attendees. It's a great time to network and discuss issues relevant to your practice.

Looking forward to seeing you at the conference in beautiful Victoria!

## THE CONFERENCE WEBSITE

You may have noticed the conference website URL is still [bcaslpaconference.ca](#). We are in transition to a new URL to reflect our recent rebranding to Speech and Hearing BC. The transition over the next few weeks will not affect conference registration or conference information. Stay tuned and thank you for your patience!







# Join Provincial Council!

## Positions Available

We hope to fill the vacant positions below before the 2018 AGM. Please consider supporting Speech and Hearing BC by joining Provincial Council:

**Vice-President**

**Director, Public Education**

**Director, Social Media**

**Fraser Valley Area Rep**

Some Benefits of Being on Provincial Council are:

- Experience being involved with a dynamic organization
- Expanding your professional network and relationships
- The chance to steward your professional association
- Advocacy/public education opportunities
- Earning up to 5 CEEs per year for being involved
- Learning about province wide initiatives
- Service to your profession
- Free Conference for attending the requisite PC meetings
- Travel expenses to the annual conference to attend the Sunday PC Meeting
- Travel expenses to Vancouver for Annual Strategic Planning

Plus being on PC is also fun!

**Please email Janet at the [Speech and Hearing BC Office](#) if you would like more information on any of the vacant Provincial Council positions or wish **to put your name forward**.**

# Advocacy Updates:

## Lynne Patrick and Sherri Zelazny

**Lynne Patrick**, Director of Early Intervention Services, has been busy since May:

- She met with the Therapies Manager for the Ministry of Children and Family Development to open discussions on the state of speech-language service delivery to toddlers and preschoolers in our province.
- She met with Jason Gordon, Provincial Advocate for the Association of Child Development and Intervention, along with the provincial representatives for both the Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy associations.
- She Attended a MLA appreciation luncheon, and spoke with two MLAs informally about speech services in their ridings.
- She met with her own MLA, Michelle Stilwell, to explore her awareness of speech-language services to very young children and to enlist her help in navigating government systems to obtain information.
- She connected with two project coordinators at UBC's Human Early Learning Partnership who are interested in a dialogue regarding speech-language services to very young children in the province.

Join Lynne at the Preschool Speech Services Forum at the Speech and Hearing BC conference in October for more information!

**Sherri K Zelazny**, Speech and Hearing BC President wrote to the journalists responsible for the Vancouver Sun 7 part series on Senior's Health (June 2018) outlining the worst in the nation FTE for Speech-Language Pathologists in residential care, and the high risk of swallowing disorders in the elderly with dementia in residential care.

**Have you communicated with media in your area regarding communication health? Let us know.**

# Submit Your Story

**Next deadline: November 10, 2018**

Please contact Janet Campbell, at [janet@speechandhearingbc.ca](mailto:janet@speechandhearingbc.ca), or Marianne Bullied, at [marianne.bullied@gmail.com](mailto:marianne.bullied@gmail.com), to inquire about submissions.

## Contributors

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*The information and views set out in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of Speech and Hearing BC.*



Speech and Hearing BC