

Strategy 1: Promote communication as a basic human right by advocating for access to optimal communication health services and supports across the lifespan

Tactic 1: Influence federal and provincial government decision-makers to implement change that will serve the best interests of SAC's members and associates and the patients and clients they serve. SAC will choose specific target audiences on a year-by-year basis.

- SAC met with five MPs and senior government officials from Health Canada this quarter
- As a stakeholder, SAC sent the Alliance for an Inclusive and Accessible Canada a letter advocating for inclusion of the needs of people with communication disorders in the proposed federal accessibility law.
- SAC wrote to the Canadian Dysphagia Industry Group regarding support for IDDSI at the request of PCA.
- SAC prepared and submitted a Pre-Federal Budget Submission and completed survey and provided written submission to National Poverty Reduction Strategy consultation.
- The September News bulletin from the International Communication Project can be found [here](#).
- SAC is chairing the ICP Policy Group. The Policy Group is to identify existing evidence about communication and swallowing disorders in order to construct a core narrative to support the key messages of the International Communication Project related to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.
- SAC met with the Federal Healthcare Partnership to review audiology benefits and policies.
- SAC attended in-person consultations related to the accessibility legislation being drafted by the Federal government.
- The CEO participated in the Health Action Lobby (HEAL) meeting, the CPH21 meeting and the Extended Healthcare Professions Coalition (EHPC) (formerly referred to as G8) meeting.

Tactic 2: Raise awareness in Canada about communication health and the work of communication health professionals by marketing the skill-sets and roles of S-LPs, audiologists and communication health assistants to other professionals.

- Role of S-LPs in Autism Spectrum Disorder Position Statement Ad Hoc Committee completed the draft of the position statement and submitted it for Board review.
- S-LP Service Delivery Models in Schools Position Paper Ad Hoc Committee was established.
- Communication Health Assistant Ad Hoc Committee call for volunteers closed on October 12.

Strategy 2: Champion professional excellence and quality in service delivery.

Tactic 1: Develop resources that best serve the professional needs of members, associates and stakeholders. Identify relevant and timely topics to inform the development of position papers, official statements, guidelines, information sheets, etc.

- The Cochlear Implants in Children Position Paper Review Ad Hoc Committee has completed a draft of their position paper and submitted it for Board review.
- The draft position statements re: the role of S-LPs and the role of audiologists in Autism Spectrum Disorders have been completed and submitted for Board review.
- The draft position statement on the roles of S-LPs and audiologists in Dementia was completed and submitted for Board review.
- Following consultation with the Senior Policy Analyst, Assembly of First Nations Health Unit, the revised Terms of Reference for the S-LP and Audiology Services for Indigenous Peoples Position Statement Ad Hoc Committee was approved.
- SAC released a joint official statement with the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT) and the Canadian Physiotherapy Association (CPA) regarding cuts to outpatient services in Winnipeg.

Tactic 2: Continue to collaborate with key stakeholders as well as develop new alliances, partnerships and agreements to advance and elevate professional excellence in the health and education sectors.

- MRA revisions were completed and approved by the Board. The agreement will be ratified and signed at the ASHA conference in November.
- SAC representatives participated in a 2-day Expert Panel meeting hosted by CAASPR to continue the work on the Competencies project.

Tactic 4: Provide members and associates with a variety of accessible, affordable and high-quality learning opportunities that address their evolving professional needs, through the SAC Professional Development Program.

- 2018 Conference –the new conference website has launched: <http://www.sac-oac.ca/welcome>. Registration opens in December.
- In addition to the national conference, SAC will be hosting other PD events in 2018 and the 2018 educational program is nearly finalized.

Tactic 5: Based on an analysis of current programs, offer awards, grants and scholarships that best meet the needs of members and associates.

- Six new scholarships valued at \$10,000 were added this year by the Beach Foundation (total of 25 scholarships worth \$33,000).
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Strategy 3: Establish Speech-Language and Audiology Canada as the central hub for communication health in Canada.

Tactic 4: Maintain SAC's current mentorship opportunities and develop new methods for members, associates and stakeholders to connect and support one another.

- SAC's new Career Development Program (mentorship program) is currently underway and initial feedback has been very positive.
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Strategy 4: Ensure a resilient and sustainable Speech-Language and Audiology Canada.

Tactic 1: Ongoing engagement with CAASPR regarding their entry-to-practice exam plans and the opportunities it presents for SAC.

- A meeting was coordinated with the CAASPR working group members in Winnipeg, in mid-August.

Tactic 2: Identify ongoing initiatives to increase member and associate recruitment and retention.

- SAC has hired a consulting firm to develop the members and associates Salary & Benefits Survey.

Tactic 6: Maintain effective association management by ensuring operational efficiencies, including human and financial resources.

- SAC will be launching a new membership database in October. SAC's database was in need of updating as the system hadn't been updated in nearly 20 years.
- Gina's unanticipated departure led to SAC hiring Lisa Brooks as the CEO's new Executive Assistant.
- An RFP was issued to 10 audit firms and the CFO and CEO evaluated the 5 submissions and after reference checks were completed, they determined which firms would be interviewed by the Executive Committee.