

## SAC UPDATE – SPEECH AND HEARING BC 2019

### Strategy 1: Promote communication as a basic human right

#### Tactic 1: Influence federal and provincial government decision-makers to implement change.

- The Canadian Infant Hearing Task Force (a collaboration between SAC and CAA) released the 2019 Early Hearing Detection Initiative Report Card during a press conference on Parliament Hill on April 2.
- SAC has supported members in advocating for services in various provinces and provided data and information to MP Bob Nault to support his Private Members Motion that called for a study by the Standing Committee on Health on rural health care.
- SAC had a federal election advocacy campaign to push communication health issues to the forefront. While we know there are many challenges facing communication health in Canada, for this campaign we identified three key issues in need of leadership at a federal level, highlighting the lack of access to speech-language pathology and audiology services in Canada.

Our Vote Communication Health Campaign has three key issues:



ISSUE 1

All children in Canada deserve access to timely and high-quality hearing health services.

ISSUE 2

Canada's seniors need improved access to community-based speech-language pathology and audiology services.

ISSUE 3

Canada needs a national approach to the delivery of speech-language pathology services for children and adolescents.

**ASK:** That the federal government establish national hearing health guidelines for children.

**ASK:** That the federal government expand Canada’s publicly funded healthcare system to include access to community-based speech-language pathology and audiology services.

**ASK:** That the federal government initiate a national study to better understand — and ultimately improve — the delivery of speech-language pathology services available to children and adolescents.

[Click here to learn more.](#) [Click here to learn more.](#) [Click here to learn more.](#)

**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.

- The role of Audiologists and S-LPs in Concussion Management ad hoc committees presented their draft position statement to the Board last month.
- SAC took out advertisements on Facebook and in a print publication targeting school administrators and teachers regarding the importance of S-LPs as part of the educational team.

**Tactic 3:** Promote the month of May as Speech and Hearing Month in Canada.

- The 2019 focus areas were the role of S-LPs in schools and impacts of noise-induced hearing loss. A poster on the role of S-LPs in schools and a brochure on noise-induced hearing loss were developed.

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**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.

- An Official Statement on Childhood Language Disorder was launched in December 2018.
- The Role of S-LPs in Schools Position Statement was launched on April 16.

- SAC launched a position paper on Classroom Acoustics in May 2019 along with a resource page on the topic.
- SAC sent out a call for volunteers in June for a position paper on Unilateral Hearing Loss.
- A communication health assistant info sheet will be launched in January 2020.
- The SLP Service Delivery Models in Schools Position Paper is awaiting board approval in early November.
- SAC sent out a call for volunteers to develop a position statement on Supporting Diversity in SLP and Audiology Services.

**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.

- SAC received a letter of invitation to join the Hearing Health Alliance of Canada in May 2019 and accepted the invitation in June 2019.

**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.

- SAC offers free webinars to all SAC members and associates.
- The 2020 S-LP Conference will be held in May 7-9 in Ottawa.
- The Audiology Event will return in spring 2021.
- Additionally, SAC negotiated a 10% discount on the AudiologyOnline.com and SpeechPathology.com subscription fee. The subscription is for a year, so if you sign up now with your promo code, for example, you can bridge both 2019 and 2020 CEE years.

**Tactic 6:** Administer and adapt SAC's Clinical Certification Program and explore other opportunities for credentialing and advanced competencies.

- SAC's new certification program has been released. SAC is proud to be a member-driven organization, which is why two aspects of the program were changed mid-September. Certified members received an email with full details in a message from our Chair Linda Rammage dated September 25 or visit the website. In short:
  - As always, you need 45 CEEs each 3-year cycle.

- CEEs can be earned in any of the revised and expanded CEE activity categories – there are no minimum or maximums – and the professional contributions requirement has been removed. We are hoping this makes it easier for certified members to achieve their CEEs.
  - You can choose to pursue a Professional Interest, which is an additional 20 CEEs in a specific area of your choice.
  - Passing the SAC Clinical Certification Exam will no longer be required as it will cease to exist given that CAASPR is introducing a required national entry-to-practice exam as part of the regulatory registration process.
  - SAC is developing a Canadian Entry-to-Practice (CETP) Exam for CAASPR, which is to be used as one element of being deemed eligible to work in regulated provinces.
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### **Strategy 3: Establish Speech-Language and Audiology Canada as the central hub for communication health in Canada.**

#### **Tactic 1: Research, develop and launch Communities of Practice.**

- SAC launched the pilot Medical Assistance in Dying Community of Practice in December 2018 and it now counts 38 members.

#### **Tactic 3: Continue to improve the functionality and accessibility of SAC's website to best serve the needs of members, associates and the public.**

- SAC's website has new online resource pages focused on stroke, voice disorders, childhood language disorder, and the 2019 EHDI Report Cards. Also, the webcast library was updated to allow members and associates free on-demand access to all SAC webcasts.

#### **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 2018-2019 Career Development Program officially concluded on March 30 and the 2019-2020 program is underway. Many certified members are enjoying this different way of mentoring, which equates 4 CEEs, and the mentees are appreciating the program too!

## IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT SAC MEMBERSHIP

- 1. You do not need to be certified to be a member of SAC.**
- 2. All** of our online professional development events (e.g. webinars, webcasts) are free for members and associates.
- Your membership gives you **free access** to a journal database with hundreds of publications including ASHA Leader, Journal of Speech, Language and Hearing Research and American Journal of Audiology as well as reduced rates to speechpathology.com and audiologyonline.com.
- Only SAC members and associates can purchase \$5 million in professional liability insurance for \$50 per year through our partnership with BMS. **This coverage can cost up to \$700 a year for non-SAC members and associates.**
- Two years ago we introduced a new virtual mentorship program for certified members to connect with new graduates. The program has been very well-received.
- The final SAC Clinical Certification Exam will take place on March 7, 2020.
- CAASPR has contracted SAC to develop, administer, and deliver the national entry-to-practice exam based on our association's 30-year history of administering exams. It is important to note that the CAASPR exam will be a new exam based on CAASPR's national competency profiles.
- The regulatory bodies in each province are responsible for establishing **all** regulatory requirements – including the introduction of CAASPR's national entry-to-practice exam.
- Regulatory bodies are established by provincial governments to *protect the public*, whereas SAC is your national professional association. Our purpose has remained unchanged since 1964: to *serve, promote and advocate for your profession*.