



Speech-Language & Audiology Canada
Orthophonie et Audiologie Canada
Communicating care | La communication à cœur

SAC Student Scholarship Impact Report

2022-2023



Thank You!

We are delighted to present the recipients of the 2022-2023 SAC Scholarships. These exceptional students have been awarded the opportunity to prioritize their studies without financial burden.

These students have demonstrated a passion for communication health, clinical excellence and have proven themselves to be exceptional young leaders and role models.

Many thanks to Elks of Canada, the Beach Family and KIDSPEECH for their long-standing and generous support of students pursuing careers as speech-language pathologists, audiologists and communication health assistants.

Their impact has made significant impact on the lives of these future professionals.



Elks of Canada Scholarships

Elks & Royal Purple
Fund for Children



The Elks & Royal Purple Fund for Children is a grassroots charity that embodies the proud tradition of the dedicated members of the Elks of Canada lodges. This Fund plays a vital role in offering financial assistance to children who are facing speech and hearing disorders, ensuring they receive the necessary medical support they require.

Moreover, the Fund goes above and beyond by supporting students who are pursuing a master's degree in the fields of speech-language pathology and audiology. By doing so, it actively encourages and empowers the next generation of professionals in these specialized areas, contributing to the advancement of research, treatment, and care for individuals with communication challenges.



Lindsay Kroes, McMaster University

Speech-Language Pathology

Gordon Leslie Memorial Scholarship

“Thank you for supporting my education with this scholarship. I feel so lucky to be able to pursue the unique, challenging, and deeply meaningful work of speech-language pathology. Your scholarship helps alleviate some of the financial burdens associated with graduate school. Perhaps more importantly, it gives me encouragement to keep pushing myself to become the best SLP I can be, to serve my clients to the best of my ability and advance our profession. As I embark on my career, I will strive to pay this act of generosity forward and invest in my community as you have done.”

Gordon Leslie Memorial Scholarship

Olivia Ellard, University of British Columbia
Speech-Language Pathology

Quinlyn Johnson, University of Alberta
Speech-Language Pathology

Héloïse Lessard-Dostie, University of Ottawa
Audiology

Julia Montgomery, University of British Columbia
Speech-Language Pathology

Olivia Musat, Dalhousie University
Audiology

Isabel Schneider, University of Toronto
Speech-Language Pathology

Emma Van Lieshout, Western University
Audiology

Mia Vardouniotis, University of Toronto
Speech-Language Pathology



Chris Plimmer, Western University
Audiology

Elks & Royal Purple Fund for Children



Anusha Khepar, University of Alberta
Speech-Language Pathology
Deborah Kully Scholarship



Leen Al-Fayez, University of Toronto
Speech-Language Pathology
Susan Lane Scholarship

"Once again, I express my sincerest gratitude for your generosity and support. It is a privilege to receive this award and I am grateful for the opportunities it provides me and other students with a future in Speech Language Pathology."

- Leen Al-Fayez

KIDSPEECH™ Scholarships



KIDSPEECH™ has been serving both children and adults since 1988. The founder, Maria Scaringi, is a registered Speech-Language Pathologist who has worked with thousands of clients over the past three decades.

With the support of KIDSPEECH Scholarships, these students are poised to become the future leaders and advocates for individuals with communication disorders. Their dedication and expertise will undoubtedly enhance the quality of care and support available to those in need, ultimately transforming lives and shaping the landscape of speech-language pathology for years to come.



Karlee Appel, Western University

Speech-Language Pathology

KIDSPEECH Leadership Scholarship

"My name is Karlee Appel, and I am the recipient of the 2022-2023 KIDSPEECH Leadership Scholarship. I would like to start off by sincerely thanking you for presenting me with this award. I have been working tirelessly to become a Speech-Language Pathologist since I was 15 years old, so it is an enormous milestone for me to have received this recognition. I have always made it a priority to become involved with my community and act as an agent for social change. In addition to prioritizing my grades, I knew I needed to fuel my passion for leadership by getting involved in an array of extra-curricular activities to grow as an individual and gain experience to become a well-rounded clinician. At times, I felt extremely overwhelmed and entered a very dark period of my life, but extra-curriculars were always an outlet that allowed me to keep pushing through and working towards my goals. With that, it is an absolute honour to have my hard work acknowledged through this scholarship. This award has made me feel a tremendous amount of support, while also reminding me that all my hard work was worth it, and that I need to continue my involvement in extra-curricular activities to excel in all avenues of my life.

I sincerely thank you once again for selecting me for this scholarship. It is truly an honour, and one of my proudest accomplishments to date."

KIDSPEECH Scholarships



Christine Muscat, University of Toronto
Speech-Language Pathology
KIDSPEECH Doctoral Scholarship



Hailey Brien, Dalhousie University
Speech-Language Pathology
KIDSPEECH Travelling Scholarship

"Since beginning my undergraduate degree at Mount Allison University, I knew I wanted to be a speech-language pathologist. Now, after completing my second of third year of the Dalhousie SLP program, I have no doubt that I chose the right career path"

- Hailey Brien

Beach Family Scholarships

The Beach Family Scholarships were created in 2017 in the loving memory of a family member who graduated from a Master's speech-language pathology program and who was especially passionate about geriatric and pediatric speech-language pathology. The family created these scholarships with the goal of improving communication health services for adults and children across Canada. These scholarships will provide financial support to qualified and passionate individuals wishing to pursue a career as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist.



Beach Graduate Scholarships



Lauren Denusik, Western University
Speech-Language Pathology



Alyssa DiMarco, McMaster University
Speech-Language Pathology

"I am incredibly thankful to be one of two recipients of this year's Beach Family Scholarship Awards. It is a great honour to receive this distinction, especially among such qualified candidates. Your generosity will provide me with financial ease as I take the step to launch my SLP career when I graduate this summer."

I discovered the remarkable field of SLP while singing in an opera in Italy! Since starting my studies, I have fallen in love with this profession, which has broadened my perception of who I am and the impact I am capable of making on the lives of others."

- Alyssa DiMarco

SAC Student Scholarships



SAC Student Scholarships



Megan Moore, Western University
Audiology
Audiology Leadership Scholarship



Simon Pawlowski, Dalhousie University
Audiology
SAC Research Scholarship

“Thank you for funding and awarding the SAC Research Scholarship. I am so thrilled to have been recognized through this award and join the students before me whose research has enriched their learning and our field. Your generous scholarship will help me continue my education and focus on my research and studies. I firmly believe that through the support of people and organizations like you, we students are able to become the best clinicians and researchers we can be and continue to advance the important field of audiology.”

- Simon Pawlowski



Matthieu Martin, Dalhousie University

Speech-Language Pathology

SAC Research Scholarship

"In my undergraduate career, many of my friends and cross-country skiing and running teammates were majors in the outdoor education program. After the extraordinary outdoor experiences dog-sledding in the North or paddling to the Arctic ocean, the word they often used to describe these trips was "ineffable." Merriam-Webster defines ineffable as "incapable of being expressed in words."

It may well be true that a list of words synonymous with "thank you" would suffice to convey my gratitude. However, I think how I feel to receive the honor of this scholarship may better be described as ineffable.

As I commit to my studies full-time, and my wife stays at home with our two children, tuition is covered solely through student loans. I could have found a full-time job last summer to lessen the financial burden. Instead, in addition to some casual hours at the Oral Health and Swallowing Research Lab here at Dal, I committed the vast majority of the summer to the very research project you are supporting. You can therefore imagine how immensely glad I am to feel your care and support as this year's recipient of the SAC Research Scholarship.

This April, I will be starting a full-time placement in the school setting with a francophone school board (CSAP). Since my research project focuses on exploring the potential future role of school-based speech-language pathologists in oral healthcare, I am particularly enthusiastic to see how this experience better informs and shapes my project! Thank you! Merci!"

SAC Student Scholarships



Emerald Schreier, University of Alberta
Speech-Language Pathology
Isabel Richard Scholarship

“Graduate studies at the University of Alberta, especially in my program, are intense and challenging so the idea of having to take additional part-time jobs while studying – in order to save for the next semester’s tuition was something I knew would be daunting. Being awarded this scholarship has alleviated some of my stresses regarding next semester’s tuition and allows me to continue volunteering and giving back – which is something that I am very passionate about and to which I am deeply committed.”

- Emerald Schreier

Carole Hiew, University of Alberta
Speech-Language Pathology
Isabel Richard Scholarship

Maissie Hillman, University of Alberta
Speech-Language Pathology
Isabel Richard Scholarship

Chloe Korade, University of Alberta
Speech-Language Pathology
Student Achievement Award

Ashley Harvey, Georgian College
Communication Health Assistant
Student Achievement Award

Rebecca De Santo
Communication Health Assistant Scholarship



Kelsi Fry, Dalhousie University
Audiology

SAC Student Scholarship

Grace Margaret Harris Scholarship

The Grace Margaret Harris Scholarship is a prestigious award given to students who display exceptional potential as future clinicians. The scholarship is awarded to a student who demonstrates a strong, outstanding leadership skills, creativity, and a genuine passion for helping others. The Scholarship Committee received several submissions, and among them, Kelsi Fry's *"Do you call Labrador Home?"* stood out for its originality and effective communication.

Many people are not aware of the level of sound being created by the machines they use. When people in the community think of dangerous levels of noise exposure, they often think of industrial noise. They think of people working long days in a factory. Going for a ride on snowmobile with your friends then cutting a load of wood with a chainsaw would not usually set off alarm bells when thinking about dangerous levels of noise. However, these machines emit significant sound levels. Snowmobiles can emit up to 110 dB SPL of sound depending on modifications, speed, and helmet use, and operating a chainsaw exposes a person to similar levels of 109 dB SPL or more. This means a fun weekend tradition can have consequences later in life. Providing sound levels and safe exposure time in the brochure is simple yet effective in making someone question what they exposure their ears to.

CHAINSAW

The average chainsaw emits a sound level of 109 dB. The safe exposure time for this level is as little as 2 minutes. Some may even be as loud as 120 dB cutting safe exposure time down to less than 1 minute.⁴

NEXT STEPS

Start wearing a form of hearing protection when participating in hobbies that involve excessive noise!

Book a hearing test! Visit an Audiologist to talk about any hearing concerns and discuss hearing protection options.

DO YOU CALL LABRADOR HOME?

SPENDING TIME OUTDOORS IS
IMPORTANT TO OUR CULTURE,
LIFESTYLE, AND WELLBEING.

Are your hobbies damaging your
hearing?

BE PROACTIVE IN
YOUR HEARING
HEALTHCARE!



HEARING HEALTH

Studies show that untreated hearing loss can increase the risk of future cognitive decline and dementia.¹ Be proactive by protecting your hearing when engaging in noisy outdoor hobbies such as shooting a gun, driving recreational vehicles, or using a chainsaw.

SHOOTING

Whether for sport or food, guns such as rifles and shotguns can produce a sound level greater than 150 dB and some pistols can reach levels of 175 dB.²

The risk of eardrum rupture is high with noise exposures of this level and the amount of time needed to cause a permanent hearing loss when exposed is less than a minute. While some hunters raise concerns that wearing hearing protection will make them miss subtle sounds, protecting your hearing should be the priority.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

This includes snowmobiles, quads, motorcycles, and boats with a motor. A snowmobile can emit sound levels between 88 dB and 110 dB depending on if a helmet is worn.³ The safe exposure time for this level of sound is between 4 hours and 2 minutes and affects both the driver and any passengers.

References:

- 1 <https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/wellness-and-prevention/the-hidden-risks-of-hearing-loss#:~:text=In%20a%20study%20that%20tracked,more%20likely%20to%20develop%20dementia.>
- 2 <https://www.asha.org/public/hearing/recreational-firearm-noise-exposure/>
- 3 <https://digscholarship.unco.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1002&context=capstones>
- 4 <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2007-175/pdfs/2007-175.pdf>



THAT WAS
AN AMAZINGLY



THING YOU DID.

It is generosity like yours that allow us students to focus on our education, which in turn allows us to better serve our communities. With the cost of education and the cost of living steadily increasing, this scholarship is such a blessing. I can't thank you enough for your continued investment in students. It was such an honour to be named this year's Grace Margaret Harris scholarship recipient. She was a trailblazer! Thank you again. Sincerely, Kelsi Fries



Speech-Language & Audiology Canada
Orthophonie et Audiologie Canada
Communicating care | La communication à cœur



Speech-Language & Audiology Canada
Orthophonie et Audiologie Canada
Communicating care | La communication à cœur

Thank you

