



Speech-Language &
Audiology Canada
Communicating care

2022

Annual Report



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Speech-Language &
Audiology Canada
Communicating care

Introduction

SAC is the only national organization supporting and representing speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and communication health assistants inclusively. Through this support, we champion the needs of people with communication disorders.

Vision

The unified national voice of speech-language pathology and audiology.

Mission

Advancing the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology and empowering members and associates to optimize communication, health, and education outcomes for all.

Values



Accountable: Board decisions are fiscally responsible and transparent.



Evidence-based: Decisions based on the best available information and research.



Inclusive: The diversity of members' and associates' cultures, locations, and practices are considered.



Member-driven: Decisions reflect the priorities of members and associates.



Responsive: The strategic plan allows flexibility to respond to new opportunities and to minimize the impact of external challenges.



Visionary: Decisions are guided by the long-term needs of members, associates, and the public and are informed by social and political forecasts and trends.

A Message from the SAC Board Chair

The year 2022 was one of immense growth and success for SAC. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with a strong and conscientious board of directors and a passionate and enthusiastic staff. We focused on how best to support the professions of speech-language pathology (S-LP) and audiology using member feedback. I am proud to say that SAC is a strong and impactful voice for our professions.

During my term as chair, SAC has completed many impressive projects and initiatives. The highlight for me is the work SAC has done in establishing provincial representation in the provinces of Alberta (SAC-Alberta), Ontario (SAC-Ontario-OSLA), and Saskatchewan (SAC-Saskatchewan). Forming these branches of SAC has been pivotal in ensuring that the provinces have a strong voice for advocacy with the support of voices across the country. Many members are excited about the work in these provinces. We have just started our journey in this regard, and I have no doubt there is much potential as SAC continues to support S-LPs and audiologists across Canada and provincially.

Our 2022 – 2025 strategic plan includes many forward-thinking initiatives including a commitment to achieving the highest level of equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI). SAC has formed an EDI committee with diverse members who have lived experience. Our goal is to embed this work in all that we do at SAC.

SAC continues to exist thanks to the commitment from you, our valued members, and associates. Our accomplishments from the past year and our continued success in the future are because of your support.

It is because of the efforts of our Executive committee, Board of Directors, Committee Members, Members, and SAC staff that we were able to complete all that we have over the past year. It was truly an honor to serve you, the members, as Chair of SAC.

With sincere gratitude,



Loredana Cuglietta, R.SLP., S-LP(C)
Board Chair



Loredana Cuglietta, R.SLP., S-LP(C)
Board Chair

A Message from our CEO

2022 was an exceptional year, and serving as CEO of Speech-Language & Audiology Canada continued to be a privilege. Despite the strains and challenges placed on our healthcare system, SAC members and associates continued to display true resilience as you supported the communication health of many people in multiple settings across the country. I am proud to have the opportunity to represent such passionate and dedicated professionals, and I remain committed to raising the profile of the professions.

As this was the first year of the new 2022–2025 Strategic Plan, much of our work focused on advancing the plan's three key objectives – Advocate, Inform, and Engage. Alongside these key objectives, we are committed to enhancing the level of support our members and associates can access while working towards achieving growth in equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI). For the first time, we formed a new committee focused on this, and we collected data on EDI during our membership renewal period. This data will allow us to better understand who our members are and make decisions in a way that includes our membership as a whole.

Throughout the year, SAC continued to grow and evolve alongside the professions. Much of this year focused on system changes to better serve you and remain a sustainable organization. We launched a new database to improve the renewal process and overall member experience, as well as dedicated resources to developing better internal infrastructure, which has allowed SAC to become more efficient and our management team to focus on developing resources.

I continue to be proud of the steps we have taken to support both federal and provincial advocacy. 2022 marked the first full year with the position of Manager of Government Relations, which has helped



Dawn Wilson, CAE
SAC Chief Executive Officer

A Message from our CEO

us significantly increase our advocacy presence across the country. We participated in many meetings with government officials in support of our advocacy objectives. In the sections below, we have highlighted some of this work, as well as new professional resources to support members and associates in their own advocacy efforts.

In the spring, we successfully merged the Ontario Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (OSLA) into SAC to unify and strengthen the professions in Canada and help us to more effectively achieve the vision and mission of both organizations. In conjunction with this merger, the SAC Board of Directors gave the mandate to address advocacy gaps in provinces that were lacking their own provincial associations. This led to the creation of the advocacy staffing roles that were added to form SAC-Alberta and SAC-Saskatchewan.

While the ongoing pandemic forced us to make the difficult decision to transition our in-person Speech-Language Pathology Conference to a fully virtual event, I still had the opportunity to connect with so many members directly and discuss creative solutions to support you in your practices. I continue to be passionate about the work that we do, and I remain committed to supporting members and associates through our collective work.

Sincerely,



Dawn Wilson, CAE
SAC Chief Executive Officer

Objectives

Activities in 2022 were driven by our
[2022–2025 Strategic Plan](#) >

ADVOCATE

Speech-language pathologists (S-LPs), audiologists, and communication health assistants will be recognized and valued for the crucial services they provide to the people of Canada.

INFORM

SAC will be the leading provider of professional development, resources, and current research for S-LPs, audiologists, and communication health assistants in Canada.

ENGAGE

SAC will engage S-LPs, audiologists, and communication health assistants with a focus on attracting and retaining members and associates while supporting the needs of diverse groups.

1



Advocate

Speech-language pathologists (S-LPs), audiologists, and communication health assistants will be recognized and valued for the crucial services they provide to the people of Canada.

2022 Advocacy Objectives:

Development of a national approach to speech-language pathology services for children.

Participation in the development of national standards for long-term care.

Development of a national approach to audiology services across the lifespan.

Raising awareness of the need for speech-language pathology and audiology services in a variety of practice settings.

SAC continues to raise the profile of the professions through a united voice by bringing evidence-based advocacy efforts to key decision makers and stakeholders. In 2022, we held several meetings with top government officials to advance our advocacy objectives, including meetings with:

- Office of the **Minister of Health**
- Office of the **Minister of Seniors**
- Federal Secretariat on **Early Learning and Child Care**

Advocacy Coalitions

SAC continued to advocate with [HEAL](#) and the Extended Health Professionals Coalition (EHPC) on joint-issues such as retention and recruitment, expansion of primary care, and health human resources data collection. Through our work, HEAL and EHPC SAC met with the following key decision makers:

- Federal Minister of Health, **Jean-Yves Duclos**
- Minister of Mental Health in Addiction, **Carolyn Bennett**
- Chair of federal standing committee of Health

SAC's CEO made two witness appearances in front of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health for the following studies:

Canada's Health Workforce ➤

Children's Health ➤

SAC brought forward the voice of our professions by participating in the following federal submissions:

- **Pre-budget submission to the Standing Committee on Finance** focused on improving access to audiology and speech-language pathology services across Canada.
- **Submission to the consultation on the expansion of the Canada Student Loan Program.** SAC is pushing to have speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and communication health assistants included in the Canada Student Loan Forgiveness Program.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA



SAC-Alberta, SAC - Ontario-OSLA, and SAC-Saskatchewan

The provincial advocacy teams were formed in the Spring of 2022. They met for the first time in Ottawa to create advocacy plans based on the input of the regional advocacy committees and direct feedback from our members. These plans highlight the key priority areas of our members in the respective provinces. Since then, they have been securing key meetings with members of the legislative assembly, staff of Minister offices, and allied stakeholders.

SAC-Alberta

- Ongoing communication and meeting with the office of the Minister of Education and Department of Education surrounding the issue of improvements to the Regional Collaborative Service Delivery.
- Built relationships with members of the official opposition, and stakeholders in the areas of education, Alberta Health Services, and allied health professionals.



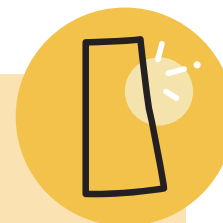
SAC-Ontario-OSLA

- Ran an election advocacy campaign that included social media and a letter-writing campaign to MPPs on the role of speech-language pathology and audiology, and the importance of supporting the work of our profession.
- Conducted a member survey on the implications of the proposed changes of Assisted Devices Program (ADP) and presented those findings to ADP.
- Produced updated Fee Guides for S-LPs and Audiologists.
- Continued to collaborate with a wide range of stakeholders and advocacy coalitions on issues important to our members.



SAC-Saskatchewan

- Met with Lisa Lambert, MLA Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood and Assistant Deputy Minister of Education Susan Nedelkov-Anderson's office regarding how SAC can support Saskatchewan's early childhood learning goals.
- Met with MLA's Vicki Mowat (Saskatoon-Fairview) and Erika Ritchie (Saskatoon-Nutana) regarding how SAC and our member base can support best practices in long-term care, including optimizing communication, hearing, balance, and swallowing.
- Met with the University of Saskatchewan to discuss retention, recruitment, and training issues for our professions in the province.



2



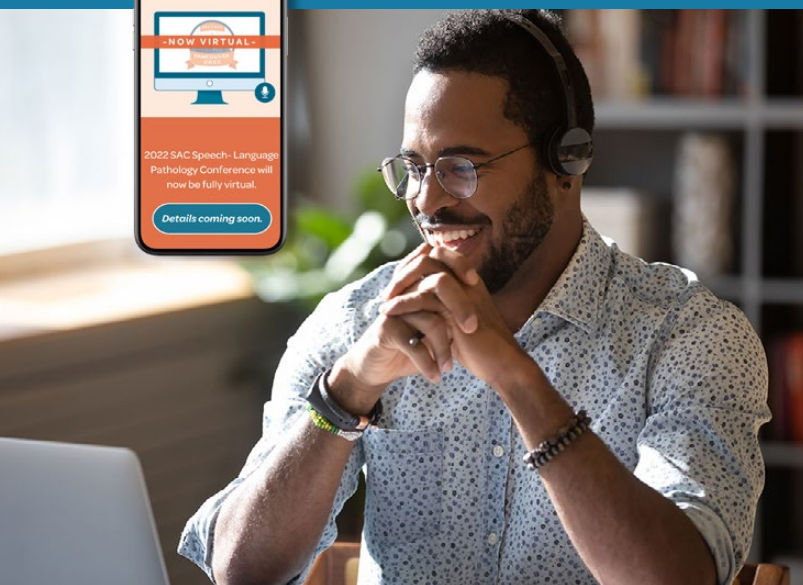
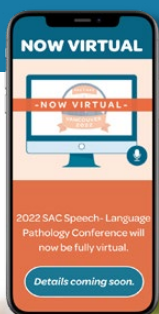
Inform

SAC will be the leading provider of professional development resources and current research for S-LPs, audiologists, and communication health assistants.



Virtual Speech- Language Pathology Conference

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, SAC had to make the unfortunate decision in February to convert the three-day **2022 Speech-Language Pathology Conference** in Vancouver, BC into a three-day virtual event.



868

Registered participants



3,686

Views of recorded sessions



20

Speaker sessions



27

Speakers



23

Contributed paper sessions



37

Contributed paper presenters

"Overall, it was an incredibly educational and well-organized conference. The quality of the presentations and speakers was excellent and the material was relevant and interesting. Thank you for all the hard work and planning that went into it."

Webinars and Webcasts



Trauma & Speech-Language Pathology: The What, the Why & The How

presented by Anna Rupert



Cognitive Screening: Importance, Implementation and Clinical Value Within Your Practice

presented by Regina Presley



12

Webinars hosted



4,339

Webcast views



1,677

Registered participants for SAC online professional development events

"The webinars are one of my favourite features of SAC membership."

"I love these webinars and am so grateful I re-joined SAC."

Professional Resources



Info Sheet

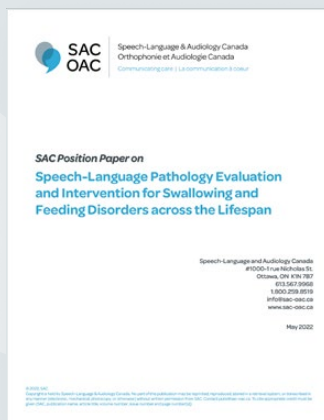
Collaborating with Teachers in the Classroom ②



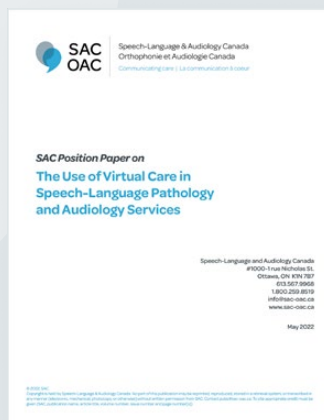
Info Sheet

Checklist for Supporting Students in Dual Language Contexts ②

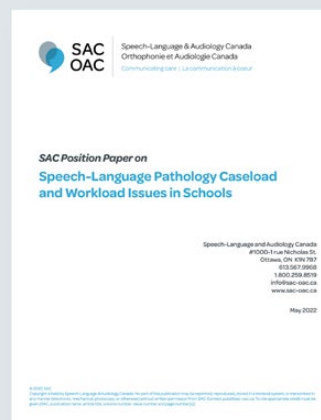
Position Papers



Speech-Language Pathology Evaluation and Intervention for Swallowing and Feeding Disorders Across the Lifespan ②



The Use of Virtual Care in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Services ②



Speech-Language Pathology Caseload and Workload Issues in Schools ②



Position Statement on Universal Congenital Cytomegalovirus Screening in Canadian Newborns ②

Speech & Hearing Month Resources



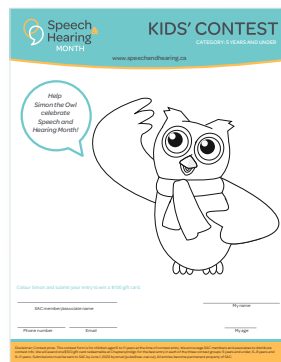
10,000+

Page visits to speechandhearing.ca/resources



118

Submissions to the Kids' Contest



Each year, SAC dedicates the month of May to raising public awareness about **communication health**. This year, we focused on access to audiology and speech-language pathology services in **long-term care homes**.

Info Sheets



Speech-Language Pathologists, Supporting You ①



Audiologists, Supporting You ①



A Vital Member of Your Long-Term Care Team ①

SAC Profiles: Living With Aphasia

Aphasia is a communication disorder that results when one or more areas of the brain that control language are damaged. It does not impair intelligence.

The most common cause of aphasia is stroke, however, some people have a progressive disorder called primary progressive aphasia (PPA). People with aphasia may have difficulties talking, listening, reading, and writing.

Over 100,000 Canadians live with aphasia, yet the disorder is not widely known. Speech-language pathologists and communication health assistants work with people with aphasia to develop strategies to help them communicate. This support may be provided through individual and/or group sessions.

To help raise public awareness about aphasia and the importance of speech-language pathology services in assisting individuals with aphasia, Speech-Language & Audiology (SAC) has partnered with the Aphasia Centre of Ottawa to profile four clients of the Centre.

Two Profiles from Our Website



Christina was diagnosed with aphasia following a stroke 10 years ago. Like many people, Christina had not heard of aphasia before her stroke suddenly left her unable to speak.

When asked how aphasia has impacted her life, Christina tries to focus on the positive but admits it is not always easy.



Joan was diagnosed with aphasia following a stroke three years ago. The mother of two adult children had just returned home from a church event when her husband noticed a change in her speech and took her to hospital.

Her group program through the Aphasia Centre of Ottawa has also played an important role in Joan adjusting to life with aphasia. She finds it helpful to work on her speech with other people who understand the challenges she is facing.

Read all four profiles on sac-oac.ca

Canadian Journal of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

The Canadian Journal of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (CJSPA) is a peer-reviewed, online journal of clinical practice for audiologists, S-LPs, and researchers. It is the only bilingual journal of its kind globally. Its publication is made possible by SAC.



Published
in 2022 ➞



4 Issues



CANADIAN JOURNAL OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE
PATHOLOGY & AUDIOLOGY | CJSLPA

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REVUE CANADIENNE D'ORTHOPHONIE ET
D'AUDIOLOGIE | RCOA

Volume 46, No. 4, 2022



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

A Scoping Review of the Role of Speech-Language Pathologists in
Youth Justice with Application to Canada
EMILY ANDERSON, KRISTEN LEONG, KATIE LYUBCHENKO, JULIA YOUNG,
CATHERINE WISEMAN-HAKES, LYN S. TURKSTRA

A Critical Appraisal of Nonconformity of New Hearing Aids with American National Standards
Institute Standards
MOHSIN AHMED SHAIKH, NADEEM N. JAMAL

Indicateurs normatifs du développement du langage en français québécois à 54, 60 et 66 mois :
résultats du projet ELLAN
AUDETTE SYLVESTRE, MÉLISSA DI SANTÉ, CATHERINE JULIEN, CAROLINE BOUCHARD,
VINCENT MARTEL-SAUVAGEAU, JEAN LEBLOND

Early Information and Clear Recommendations to Parents Positively Influence the Use of Bone



**Field of
Practice**

16 Speech-language pathology
5 Audiology



**21
Articles**

16 Research articles
2 Research notes
1 Clinical focus article



In 2022 SAC launched the “Shining Lights: School S-LP Podcast”, where host Dr. Lisa Archibald from Western University is joined by expert guests to discuss innovation in school-based speech-language pathology. SAC is grateful to Dr. Archibald for her partnership in developing the Shining Lights Podcast and supporting this initiative.



Episode 1: Carolyn Hovey-Johnson ➔

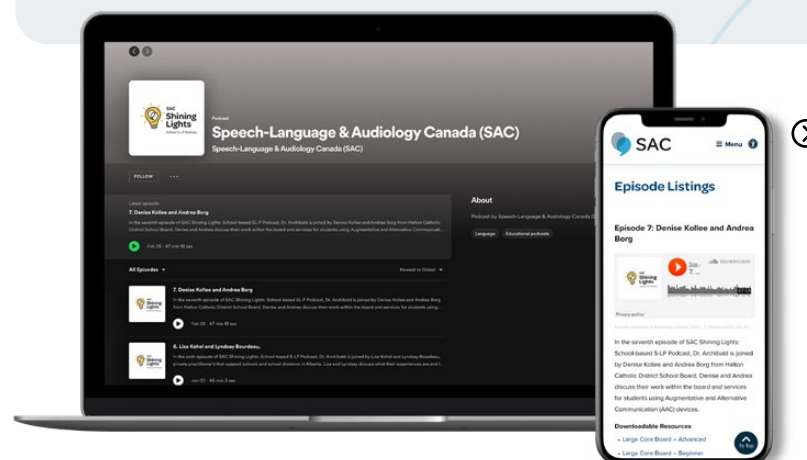
Episode 2: Melinda Hinch ➔

Episode 3: MaryAnn Schouten ➔

Episode 4: Debbie Maund ➔

Episode Topics

- Working with interdisciplinary teams
- Factors that shape how S-LP services are delivered in schools
- Language intervention programs (LITES)
- Delivery models



Certification



4,862

Certified members

65% of SAC members are certified



259

Members enrolled in provisional certification

37% of members are certified with at least one professional interest area (e.g. speech, language and literacy development, adult swallowing, tinnitus, implantable hearing devices, etc.).

Top professional interest areas for S-LPs

1. Speech, language and literacy development
2. Adult swallowing
3. Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC)

Top professional interest areas for audiologists

1. Amplification and assistive listening devices
2. Adult hearing
3. Pediatric hearing



3



Engage

SAC will engage S-LPs, audiologists, and communication health assistants with a focus on attracting and retaining members and associates while supporting the needs of diverse groups.

Membership

The membership team supports SAC members and associates by delivering important programs such as scholarships, mentorships, discounts, and professional liability insurance (PLI).



7,500

SAC members and associates



229

Student graduates became SAC members or associates



62

Mentorship Program Pairings

58 S-LP Pairs | 4 Audiology pairs

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

To begin developing solutions to support SAC members and associates in Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), we formed the EDI committee. Their mandate was to consider the HRx Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Report and begin advancing our work in this area.

"I have been tremendously enjoying our communication with [my mentor]. She has a magical way to make me feel more comfortable and confident anytime we have a chat. I feel so lucky to have an audiologist with rich experience!"

Mentee

Scholarships and Awards



27

Scholarships awarded



\$36,250

Total scholarship amounts awarded

Scholarship Funders



Elks & Royal Purple
Fund for Children



The Beach Family



André Lafargue Mentorship Award

Maureen Penko, M.Sc. reg. S-LP



Communication Health Assistant Award of Excellence

Andrea Little



CJSIPA Editor's Award Recipients

Janis Oram Cardy, PhD, S-LP(C),
BJ Cunningham, PhD, SLP(C),
Olivia Daub, PhD, S-LP



Clinical Research Grant Recipients

Carolyn Knoechel
Cassandra Kerr
Shannan Love

Media and Social Media



1 Official Statement

on over-the-counter hearing aids in Canada ⓘ



16 CBC Radio Syndication Interviews

on over-the-counter hearing aids in Canada ⓘ



Letter to the *Globe & Mail* Editor

on over-the-counter hearing aids in Canada ⓘ

Top Facebook Post



Top Tweet



Top LinkedIn Post



Top Instagram Post



Thank You

Throughout 2022, SAC had several ad-hoc committees and standing committees, comprised of members who generously gave their time to help SAC support our membership community. These groups are integral to the resources that SAC produces, and without their commitment, expertise, and insight our work would not be possible.

- SAC Appeals Committee
- SAC Awards and Recognition Committee
- SAC Clinical Research Grants Committee
- SAC Education Committee
- SAC Nominations Committee
- SAC Scholarships Committee
- Position paper: Role of S-LP in LTC
- Audiology Event Advisory Group
- Providing School-Based S-LP Services in the Context of Multilingualism Ad Hoc Committee
- S-LP Caseload and Workload Issues in Schools Ad Hoc Committee
- Evaluation and Intervention for Swallowing and Feeding Disorders Across the Lifespan Ad Hoc Committee
- The Use of Virtual Care in S-LP and AUD Services Ad Hoc Committee
- Universal Congenital Cytomegalovirus Screening in Canadian Newborns Ad Hoc Committee



Board of Directors

Thank you to our 2022-2023 Board of Directors for their leadership over this past year.



Chair

Loredana Cuglietta,
R.SLP, S-LP(C)



1st Vice-Chair

Andrea Bull, M.Sc., RAUD,
RHIP, Aud(C)



2nd Vice-Chair

Susan J. Wagner, BSc (SPA),
MSc (CD), Reg. CASLPO, S-LP(C)



Director

Shari Linde, M.Sc., RSLP



Director

Kelly Root, S-LP(C) (QC)



Director

Darin Quinn, BSc., MSc.
S-LP



Director

Ozi Jones, S-LP(C) (ON)



Director

Christine Santilli, M.Sc.,
Aud – Reg, Aud(C)



Director –
Communication Health
Assistant

Gillian Purdy, BA, CDA



Director

Patty Matsuo,
S-LP(C) (ON)



Director-Student

Danielle Busayong, S-LP
Student (BC)