



Speech-Language & Audiology Canada
Orthophonie et Audiologie Canada
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Honourable Everett Hindley
Minister of Education
Government of Saskatchewan
Room 361, 2405 Legislative Drive,
Regina, SK,
S4S 0B3

May 13, 2025

Dear Minister Hindley,

Thank you for meeting with Speech-Language & Audiology Canada (SAC) on February 3, 2025. We appreciated the opportunity to share our recommendations to strengthen student success through improved speech, language, and hearing supports in Saskatchewan schools.

I'm writing to follow up on the key asks we discussed, and to offer advice on how these initiatives could help advance the priorities announced in the 2025-2026 Saskatchewan Provincial Budget – particularly the investment of an additional \$2 million to improve kindergarten to Grade 3 reading levels across the province. We would also appreciate learning whether the expertise of speech-language pathologists is currently being engaged in support of this important initiative.

Speech-language pathologists (S-LPs) and educational audiologists are uniquely qualified to support literacy, academic achievement, and mental health outcomes. We respectfully encourage the ministry to consider the following actions:

Increase the Number of S-LPs in Saskatchewan Schools

Implement a provincial hiring strategy to ensure every school division has access to S-LP services. Since 2016-17, the student population has grown by over 15,000 (8.8%) students, while school-based S-LP staffing has declined by 23.5%.

Implement a Systematic Speech, Language, and Hearing Screening Program

Establish mandatory speech, language, and hearing screening for all Kindergarten students to ensure early identification and intervention for communication challenges, a critical foundation for literacy development.

Enhance S-LP Support for Literacy and Learning

Integrate S-LPs into evidence-based literacy programs to support students with language-related learning difficulties, improving reading and academic outcomes.

Fund Educational Audiologist Positions in Urban Centres

Create and fund dedicated audiologist positions to support students with hearing and listening challenges, ensuring equitable access to learning opportunities.



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Speech, language, and hearing are fundamental to students' ability to read, write, learn, and engage socially. Investing in these areas will be critical to the success of your literacy strategy and broader education initiatives.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet again with you or a member of your team to discuss how SAC can support the implementation of these recommendations. Please reach out to our Provincial Advocacy Manager, Jennifer Cameron-Turley, to set up a meeting or to request further information. In addition, we are pleased to share our recent Position Paper on the Role of the Speech-Language Pathologist in School-Based Literacy, as a resource to support these efforts.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nechita' followed by a stylized flourish.

Luciana Nechita
CEO, Speech-Language & Audiology Canada