

UPDATE FROM Speech-Language & Audiology Canada (SAC)



Speech-Language &
Audiology Canada

Orthophonie et
Audiologie Canada

2018 is shaping up to be a successful and productive year for your national professional association. Here are some key highlights!

ADVOCACY

In January, SAC met with key decision-makers at the Public Health Agency of Canada. Our discussions focused on the role of S-LPs and audiologists in dementia care as the government is in the process of developing a national dementia strategy. SAC also nominated members to be invited to the National Dementia Strategy Conference and was pleased to receive five invitations to participate in the May conference (2 S-LPs and 3 audiologists).

At the time of writing this update, SAC has also met with the following Members of Parliament and Senators: Rachel Blaney, Mike Lake, Terry Mercer, Marc Serré and Karen Vecchio. In early May, MP Serré gave a statement in the House of Commons and Senator Mercer gave a statement in the Senate recognizing Speech and Hearing Month.

SAC is also working with our MRA partners to develop a report to demonstrate the need to address communication disability as part of any effort to achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES

SAC is continually developing important resources for our members and associates on key professional issues. So far this year we have released the following:

- Position Statement: [The Role of S-LPs and Audiologists in Dementia Care](#)
- Position Statement: [The Role of Audiologists in Autism Spectrum Disorder](#)
- Position Statement: [The Role of S-LPs in Autism Spectrum Disorder](#)
- Position Statement: [Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Services for First Nations](#)
- Position Paper: [Cochlear Implants in Children](#)
- [Official Statement on Facilitated Communication](#)

In September we released our [2018 Salary & Benefits Survey Reports](#). These reports provide members and associates with a comprehensive overview of current salary and benefit trends within the professions.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SAC was pleased to host a very successful national conference in May. Close to 700 S-LPs, audiologists and communication health assistants joined us in Edmonton for four days of top-notch professional development!

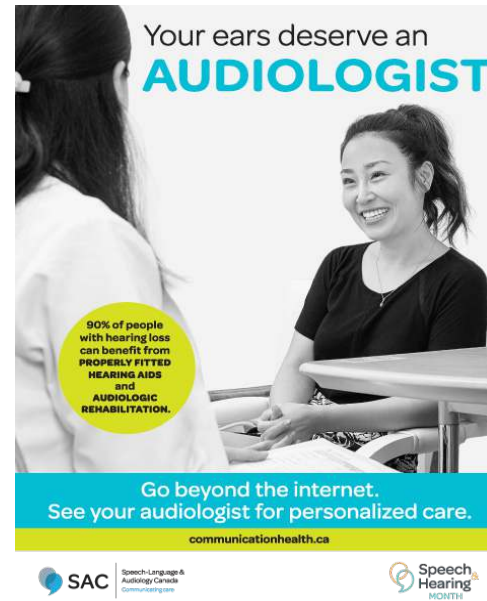
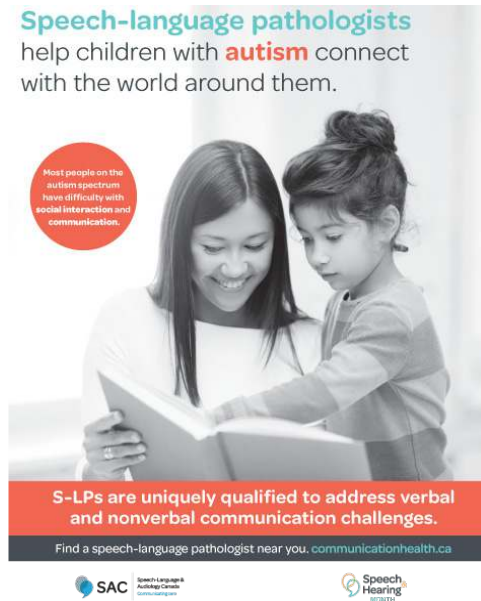
We are gearing-up to hold our first-ever SAC Audiology Event in Montreal in May 2019. Over the summer, the Event working group has been putting together an incredible program that will inspire delegates to explore the future of their profession.

In addition, SAC has held several online webinars throughout the year. Upcoming webinar topics include: an overview of the 2018 Salary & Benefits Survey Reports, the role of S-LPs and audiologists in medical assistance in dying and the steps involved in developing a clinical research study.

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PROMOTION

The 2018 Speech and Hearing Month campaign engaged members and associates and helped build a national conversation about communication health. Your association was very active on all of its social media channels and produced new promotional resources on two key topics:



SAC's Facebook ads highlighted the role of the professions in dysphagia, vestibular disorders and autism spectrum disorder, as well as the role of the audiologist in addressing hearing issues.

CLINICAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

SAC is committed to maintaining, adapting and modernizing the clinical certification program to meet the evolving needs of the professions. SAC has established a working group, which has been meeting throughout the summer to discuss improvements to the program in light of the upcoming Canadian Entry-to-Practice (CETP) Exam. The working group will be presenting its recommendations to SAC's Board of Directors in November.

CANADIAN ENTRY-TO-PRACTICE EXAM (CETP Exam)

In May, SAC announced that it has reached an agreement with the Canadian Alliance of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Regulators (CAASPR) to develop and administer Canada's first entry-to-practice exam for S-LPs and audiologists. As the national professional association, SAC welcomes the establishment of national professional standards in Canada and is pleased to support the professions by administering the CETP Exam.

The introduction of the new CETP Exam will not change the core purpose of the clinical certification program. Students who are interested in becoming clinically certified or who require successful completion of the SAC Exam to practice in a province/territory are still required to write the SAC Clinical Certification Exam. However, once the CETP Exam is introduced in fall 2020, SAC will no longer be administering an additional clinical certification exam. The eligibility criteria for SAC Clinical Certification will be adjusted to fit the new professional environment.

We encourage members and associates who have questions about SAC's Clinical Certification Program and the CETP Exam to [read our detailed FAQ](#).

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A FEW MORE UPDATES!

SAC's inaugural [Career Development Program](#) concluded in March 2018 and the feedback from mentors and mentees was overwhelmingly positive. The next mentorship cycle started in June and we have over 50 mentorships pairings for this term.

The 2018-2019 [SAC Scholarship Program](#) launched in August and SAC was pleased to add three new scholarships to the program - bringing the number of scholarships up to 28, with a total value of \$36,000!

In August, SAC announced the Awards & Recognition Committee had conducted a thorough analysis of the [Awards & Recognition](#) Program and had put forward a number of important changes to streamline the program and encourage more submissions. The most significant changes are:

- Merging the Lifetime Achievement Award with the Eve Kassier Award into the new Eve Kassirer Award for Lifetime Achievement
- Eliminating the Student Excellence Awards
- Changing the Isabel Richard Paper Awards into three student scholarships (valued at \$1,000 each)