



**SAC  
OAC**

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

## Fall 2021 Update

We know that COVID-19 continues to have a profound effect on our members and associates. Since the pandemic was declared in March 2020, SAC has focused a significant amount of time and energy on providing resources to support our membership during this challenging time. We have set up a [COVID-19 resource page](#) to share our SAC resources as well as the latest information from the federal government and other resources relevant to the professions.

This is in addition to our ongoing work to support the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology in Canada.

## ADVOCACY

Our members and associates look to SAC to advocate for the professions on a federal level. SAC's [2021 Government Relations Plan](#) focuses on three specific issues of importance to our members and associates.

### Long-term Care

In the 2020 Throne Speech, the federal government committed to working with provinces and territories to develop new, national standards for long-term care.

SAC has formed a Speech-Language Pathology Services in Long-term Care Working Group led by our Speech-Language Pathology Advisor – Long-Term Care and is in the process of forming an Audiology Services in Long-term Care Working Group led by one of our two new Audiology Advisors.

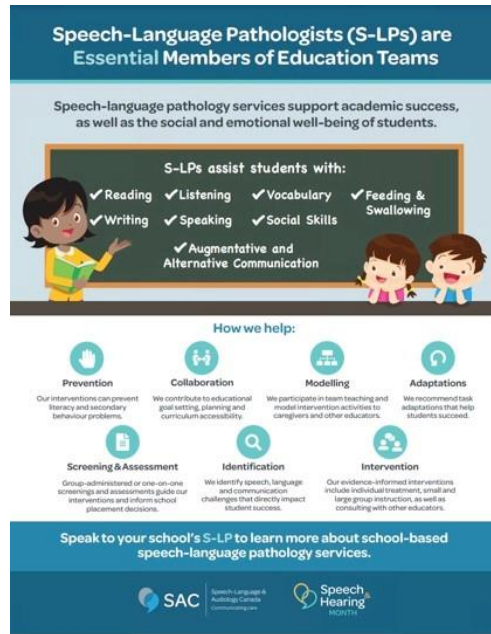
SAC has developed a [technical brief](#) to support ongoing advocacy in this area and is the process of finalizing plans for an advocacy toolkit that will include:

- Evidence informed fact sheets targeting LTC decisionmakers as well as residents and their families.
- A position statement on the important role of S-LPs, audiologists and communication health assistants in long-term care settings.

## Speech-Language Pathology Services for Young Children

Building on the work of our Speech-Language Pathology Services in Schools Working Group, SAC has hired a dedicated Speech-Language Pathology Advisor-School Services to assist us in supporting members and associates working in schools.

For Speech and Hearing Month 2021 we launched a [new infographic](#) focused on school-based speech-language pathology services.



SAC is also working on an advocacy toolkit for members and associates working in schools, including:

- Evidence-informed fact sheets on the benefits of speech-language pathology services in schools, including best practices and social media resources.
- A position paper on speech-language pathology caseload and workload issues in schools.
- A resource for S-LPs and students about working in an education model. This web-based resource will include information about speech-language pathology service delivery models, multi-tiered approaches to instruction and universal design for learning (UDL).

## Raising the Profile of SAC Members and Associates

SAC meets regularly with representatives from the federal government to promote the importance of access to speech-language and audiology services.

Over the past few months SAC has met with the Public Health Agency of Canada to advocate for the role of S-LPs in early learning and the need for speech-language pathology services to be included in the government's early learning and childcare strategy. As well as with Canada Revenue Agency to discussion changes to the audiology section of the Disability Tax Credit.

SAC also recently met with the federal Minister of Health's Office, the federal Ministers of Seniors Office, and the Health Standards Organization to highlight the importance of including speech-language pathology and audiology services in the new national standards for long-term care.

We will also continue to look for opportunities to highlight the work of our member professions, such as our recent pre-budget submission and submission to the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences Assessment on Autism Spectrum Disorder.

## RESPONDING TO MEMBERSHIP NEEDS

As a membership driven association we are continually examining how best to meet the needs of our members and associates.

**Membership Survey**-This spring we conducted our first membership survey in a number of years. The results of the survey are helping to shape the strategic direction of the association and the projects we undertake on your behalf.

**Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**-Based on feedback we have received from members and associates, SAC has been working closely with a consultant to develop a Diversity Equity and Inclusion Strategy for the association. Elements of this strategy will be incorporated into our 2022-2025 Strategic Plan and advocacy planning.

We also have several upcoming PD events on focused on diversity, equity and inclusion:

- [Talking About Racism: The Skill and Practice of Being Anti-Racist](#) (Oct. 13)
- [Racism in Adverse Childhood Experiences](#) (Oct. 27)
- [Culturally Responsive Practices for S-LPs Working with Trans\\*/GNC Patients, Clients & Students Across Settings](#) (Dec. 7)

**New Strat Plan**-We are currently finalizing our 2022-2025 Strategic Plan. Guided by consultations with the membership and the findings for our Membership and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion surveys, the plan is centred around three key themes, Inform, Engage and Advocate.

**New Initiatives this Fall**- We have a number of exciting new projects launching this fall including a **new SAC website**, designed to help you easily locate the professional resources you need, including easier access to our SAC Webcast Library. We will also be launching **SAC Connects**, an online platform allowing you to connect with S-LPs and audiologists right across the country. This week we sent out the first issue of **SAC Insider**, our new monthly newsletter designed to provide an easy to read overview of our work as an association.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In addition to our webinar series focused on diversity, equity and inclusion, we have a number of profession specific webinars planned for fall 2021 including.

- [The Speech-Language Pathologist's Evolving Role in MAID: New Federal Legislation and its Impact on Speech-Language Pathology Practice](#) (Oct. 20)
- [Exploring Clinical Management Parameters for Children who have Unilateral Hearing Loss](#) (Oct. 7)
- [Practical and Meaningful Assessment of Vocal Function for the Non-Specialist Speech-Language Pathologist](#) (Oct. 6)



We would also love to have you join us at our SAC S-LP Conference April 28-30 in Vancouver.

## SAC CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

SAC's new certification program officially began on January 1, 2020 for SAC Certified members, replacing the previous SAC Clinical Certification Program.

The new SAC Certification Program no longer requires applicants to write an exam but instead includes a one-year provisional certification period.

One of the biggest changes to the program is the option to add a Professional Interest as an additional level of SAC Certification. Members are able to declare a Professional Interest at the end of each 3-year cycle.

<b>There are 10 SAC Professional Interests available to S-LPs</b>
Speech, language and literacy development
Acquired communication disorders
Pediatric feeding and swallowing
Adult swallowing
Voice and resonance
Fluency
Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC)
Leadership
Education and research
Clinical education

<b>There are 13 SAC Professional Interests available to audiologists.</b>
Vestibular and balance assessment and intervention
Tinnitus
Implantable hearing devices
Amplification and assistive listening devices
Pediatric hearing
Adult hearing
Audiologic rehabilitation
Hearing conservation
Auditory processing disorders
Cerumen management
Leadership
Education and research
Clinical education

We have also expanded the number of CEE categories and removed the maximum CEEs allowed per category to give members more options in the type of professional development they undertake.

## CETP EXAM

In addition to serving as a national professional association, SAC is the administrator for the national entry to practice exam for speech-language pathologists and audiologists on behalf of the regulatory bodies. We have had two cohorts of students write the exam with high pass rates for Canadian program graduates and are looking forward to working with additional provincial regulators to institute the exam across Canada.