



**SAC
OAC**

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

September 2020 Update

We know that COVID-19 has had a profound effect on our members and associates. Since the pandemic was declared in March, SAC has focused a significant amount of time and energy on providing resources to support our membership during this challenging time and advocating for the importance of access to communication health services.

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

ADVOCACY

COVID-19

In addition to serving on the Health Action Lobby (HEAL)'s COVID-19 Taskforce, SAC has been meeting regularly with our fellow health organizations to discuss issues of mutual concern related to COVID-19.

SAC staff have been in contact directly with the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) on issues such as aerosol generating procedures and the use of transparent masks. SAC is also a regular participant in the PHAC's weekly teleconference with health care stakeholders.

In support of Communication Disabilities Access Canada's (CDAC) advocacy efforts to ensure individuals with communication disabilities have access to the support they need during the COVID-19 Pandemic, SAC also wrote to the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion advocating for communication as a basic human right, particularly given the communication challenges facing those with COVID-19.

S-LPs in Schools

SAC's Speech-Language Pathology Services in Schools Working Group has developed an [advocacy proposal](#) to promote the importance of speech-language pathology services in schools. Over the next few years SAC will be developing new resources to assist members and associates working in the education sector in advocating for their professions.

PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES

In addition to our ongoing COVID-19 newsletters and [dedicated resource page](#), SAC has developed a number of professional resources, including:

- [Official Statement on Speech-Language Pathology Services in Healthcare Settings During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Official Statement on Speech-Language Pathology Services in Schools During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Information Sheet on the impact of masks on communication](#)
- [S-LP Focused Telepractice Resources](#)
- [Audiology Focused Telepractice Resources](#)

SAC has also launched so far in 2020:

- [Updated Disability Tax Credit Tip Sheets](#)
- [Information Sheet on the role of communication health assistants](#)
- [Position Paper on Speech-Language Pathology Service Delivery Models in Schools](#)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

When it became clear that the 2020 SAC S-LP Conference would have to be canceled due to COVID-19, SAC staff quickly pivoted to create our [S-LP Conference Webinar Series](#).

In response to the needs of our members and associates SAC's Professional Development Team also created an additional webinar series focused on [Telepractice](#). Both series are available in our Webcast Library (FREE for members and associates).

These new webinars are in addition to the PD we already had planned for 2020 including upcoming webinars on:

- [Checking your Bias at the Door + Incorporating Transformative Language in Clinical Practice](#)
- [Jordan's Principle](#)
- [Recreational Noise Exposure and Noise-Induced Hearing Loss](#)
- [Intervention for Adolescents and Adults with Cognitive-Communication Disorders after Acquired Brain Injury](#)

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. Some of the biggest changes include, expanded CEE categories and the option to add a Professional Interest as an additional level of SAC Certification. We have also removed the maximum CEEs allowed per category to give members more options in the type of professional development they undertake.

The new SAC Certification Program no longer requires applicants to write an exam but instead includes a one-year provisional certification period. S-LPs and audiologists wishing to pursue certification will be able to enter the program in November 2020.

PROMOTION

The 2020 Speech and Hearing Month campaign engaged members and associates and helped build a national conversation about communication health. SAC was very active on all of its social media channels and produced new promotional resources on the role of the professions in concussion management.

It's more than just a headache...
Concussions can affect both hearing and balance, which can significantly affect your daily life.

Approximately **20%** of adults and children with concussions experience persistent problems that interfere with their return to daily life or regular activities.

Hearing and balance difficulties can include:

- Trouble hearing conversations in quiet environments
- Difficulty following conversations in background noise
- Hoarseness
- Visual impairments
- Dizziness or vertigo
- Hyperacusis (increased sensitivity to everyday sounds)
- Misophonia (excess sensitivity to certain sounds)
- Tinnitus (ringing or buzzing in the ears)

Audiologists can help.
Find an audiologist near you.



Communication can be challenging after a concussion.

Most people recover from a concussion, however, about **20%** of adults and children experience prolonged post-concussion symptoms.

Post-concussion symptoms can include difficulties with:

- Talking
- Reading
- Understanding conversations
- Written expression
- Social interaction

Speech-language pathologists (S-LPs) can provide practical strategies, education, guidance and interventions to help you return to work, school and everyday life.

Find an S-LP near you.
communicationhealth.ca



