



SAC MANAGEMENT REPORT SUMMARY

Aligned with the 2016-2021 Strategic and Operational Plan

This report encompasses activities from July 1 to September 30, 2020.

Strategy 1: Promote communication as a basic human right by advocating for access to optimal communication health services and supports across the lifespan

Tactic 1: Influence federal and provincial government decision-makers to implement change that will serve the best interests of SAC's members and associates and the patients and clients they serve. SAC will choose specific target audiences on a year-by-year basis.

- SAC worked with members in Alberta to advocate about recent layoffs of S-LPs and speech-language pathology assistants in the province. SAC shared a [fact sheet](#) and prepared an advocacy plan for members.
- In August 2020, SAC submitted its Federal pre-budget submission. The [submission](#) focused on new federal measures needed to provide financial support to address the impact of COVID-19 on speech-language pathology and audiology private practices.

Strategy 2: Champion professional excellence and quality in service delivery.

Tactic 1: Develop resources that best serve the professional needs of members, associates and stakeholders. Identify relevant and timely topics to inform the development of position papers, official statements, guidelines, information sheets, etc.

- SAC updated its Official Statement on Speech-Language Pathology Services in Healthcare Settings during the COVID-19 Pandemic in July, and again in August.
- SAC released a new Official Statement on Speech-Language Pathology Services in Schools during the COVID-19 Pandemic in August.
- SAC developed a [new info sheet](#) on the impact of masks on communication.
- SAC is developing a new info sheet to highlight the increased risk of developing voice disorders in the COVID-19 workplace, which is to be released in October.
- SAC is developing an official statement on transparent masks to be released in October.
- Two new SAC Official Statements were released focused S-LPs working in healthcare and education as well as an official statement on transparent masks.
- Two new information sheets have been developed on the use masks and the impact of masks on voice health.

Tactic 5: Based on an analysis of current programs, offer awards, grants and scholarships that best meet the needs of members and associates.

- SAC launched Cycle one of the 2020-2021 scholarship program. There are 22 scholarships (\$24,000.00) available to student associates in the final year of their Master's program. Due to the unprecedented circumstances of COVID-19 the \$2000

KIDSPEECH scholarship, funded by KIDSPEECH™ & Family Rehabilitation was cancelled this year. The staff and scholarship committee have also worked to accommodate changes to the application requirements due to the pandemic. The deadline is Oct. 30.

Tactic 6: Administer and adapt SAC's Clinical Certification Program and explore other opportunities for credentialing and advanced competencies.

- Preparations continue to launch Provisional Certification, which will run concurrently to the SAC membership renewal.

Strategy 3: Establish Speech-Language and Audiology Canada as the central hub for communication health in Canada.

Tactic 1: Research, develop and launch Communities of Practice, which will allow members and associates to discuss professional issues and share professional resources.

- The Community of Practice for COVID-19 front-line workers continues to be offered to members but has limited participation.

Tactic 4: Maintain SAC's current mentorship opportunities and develop new methods for members, associates and stakeholders to connect and support one another.

- 2019-2020 SAC career development program was launched in July. The formal mentorship period began on October 1. SAC has formed 82 pairs this year compared to 62 in 2019, 52 in 2018 and 40 in 2017.

Strategy 4: Ensure a resilient and sustainable Speech-Language and Audiology Canada.

Tactic 1: Ongoing engagement with CAASPR regarding their entry-to-practice exam plans and the opportunities it presents for SAC.

- The first sitting of the CETP Exams – AUD/SLP is on Saturday, November 21, 2020.

Tactic 2: Identify ongoing initiatives to increase member and associate recruitment and retention.

- SAC's renewal rate has increased to 91.02% from 89.5% in April and we currently have 6065 members and associates (excluding students).
- SAC recruited over 400 new members and associates in 2020 (including students)

Tactic 3: Develop ongoing initiatives to increase student associate recruitment and conversion rates.

- The remaining Student presentations are currently being planned and will be underway starting at the end of October.