

# The Signal

Newsletter of the Newfoundland & Labrador Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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Happy Spring Everyone! It's been so nice to see the sunshine. But boy has it been busy!

It was great to connect with everyone at the General Teleconference. We had productive conversations surrounding several topics including the May media campaign, advocacy for school-based SLPs, the survey probing member satisfaction with the name of our association, and beyond. These conversations were instrumental in helping provide direction as I move forward into government meetings and other initiatives. Thank you to everyone who could attend the General Teleconference, and I will be sure to revisit key topics when we all get together again this September at the AMM.

As I write this, Spring meetings have been lined up with government officials from the Departments of Health & Community Services and

Education. I have consulted with our Liaisons for both areas to ensure that topics covered are those top-of-mind for members. I'm also working closely with media contacts and volunteers as our May media campaign draws nearer - by the time I read this edition of the Signal, the campaign should be underway and we'll be able to see how it all came together - and that is certainly

something I look forward to!

Like many of our members, I was excited to hear of the new initiative brought forward by our Education Committee: Awards for SLP of the Year and Audiologist of the Year. What a great way to highlight some of the tremendous work taking place every day by our talented colleagues.

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

*...by the time I read this  
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underway...*

**Susan Lawlor**

Nomination guidelines can be found here in The Signal, in your Broadcast emails and on social media as well. Winners will be announced at the AMM in September.

Thank you to everyone who has worked to make the 2025 May Baby Basket initiative a success! We appreciate each volunteer who offered to take some time to help us welcome the first baby born in May at birthing centres across the province.

As always, I encourage anyone interested in joining a NLASLPA committee to do so - a little time could make such a huge difference. Low volunteerism can restrict the types of initiatives NLASLPA can take on - and I would love to see us work towards raising the profile of our association.

The NLASLPA executive held its in-person meeting in early April - it was great to meet with everyone face to face! An early April meeting was well-timed to

allow for May month discussions while avoiding the worst of the winter snow for those traveling. Discussions included the hard work of our Conference Planning Committee - things are well-underway for another engaging NLASLPA conference. I look forward to seeing everyone in person again this year, and don't forget to think about which fellow members you might want to nominate for President-Elect and Director-At-Large at this year's AMM!

Between now and then, I wish everyone a joyful spring and a sunshine-filled summer.

Susan Lawlor  
NLASLPA President

[president.nlaslpa@gmail.com](mailto:president.nlaslpa@gmail.com)

## A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Hello NLASLPA members! And Happy May Month! With so many awareness days, it's sometimes hard to keep our Speech and Hearing Month in focus. Our executive has been hard at work to increase public awareness of the work we do during Speech and Hearing Month. From newscast interviews to radio and television ads, May is a great time to get the word out that "Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists: Doing More than You Think".

Assembling and editing The Signal is definitely a labour of love, and this edition is no different. I enjoy taking the time to put together information about our associ-

ation, our profession and our members. While many people focus on social media and online communications, I know some members still enjoy a good read. If you are one of them, is there something you'd like to see in an upcoming issue? Drop me a line and let me know! We love feedback!

As always I wish you Happy Reading!

*We welcome your feedback. Any comments, ideas or submissions may be forwarded to:*

*[lisa.payne@nlhealthservices.ca](mailto:lisa.payne@nlhealthservices.ca) and follow me on Twitter @eargirl1975 or @eargirl.1975.bsky.social on Bluesky!*

## MAY IS SPEECH AND HEARING MONTH!



Since 1927, May has been designated as the month to celebrate the professions of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. Initially known as Better Speech and Hearing Month, May has become a time to raise awareness about the importance of communication health and the essential work of speech-language pathologist and audiologists. The theme adopted by SAC for this year is 'S-LPs & Audiologists: Doing More Than You Think'. SAC has developed some resources to help get the word out about the broad scope of work we do each and every day to improve lives. Pin up the posters, share on social media and spread the word by using hashtags #SpeechandHearingMonth or #DoingMoreThanYouThink or tag Speech-Language & Audiology Canada on Facebook & Instagram, sac-oac.bsky.social on Bluesky or Speech-Language & Audiology Canada on LinkedIn.



### THE SIGNAL

*is a newsletter for NLASLPA members and produced by the Communications Committee. Current members of the committee include: Katelyn Mayo, Lisa Payne, Nancy Scott and Julia Vincent.*

## NLHS COMMUNICATION ACCESS INITIATIVE (CAI)

Communication Disabilities Access Canada describes communication access as policies and practices “that ensure that people understand what is said or written and can communicate what they want to convey in all interactions.” As many are aware, Supported Conversation for Adults with Aphasia (SCA™) is a training protocol designed by the Aphasia Institute in Toronto, Canada and recommended for all healthcare providers working in stroke care in Canadian Stroke Best Practice Recommendations. This training teaches evidence-based strategies to healthcare employees to improve communication with people with aphasia. The strategies are also relevant for use with people with dementia, hearing loss, English as a second language, and language impairments from other neurological conditions.

The NLHS Communication Access Initiative was created and is led by S-LP, Alyson King. It involves: 1) Specializing SLPs to train others, 2) Training frontline staff across the continuum of care in SCA™ strategies, 3) Providing increased access to communication resources in healthcare facilities, and 4) Working with leadership to promote communication access.

Through the NLHS Communication Access Initiative, we now have 10 specialized S-LPs across the province and over 500 staff have been trained since April 2024. Through funding received from a HIROC Safety Inspire Grant, we are able to

increase access to communication resources for staff across the province. 12 provincial category A hospitals will receive “Communication Stations” over the coming weeks. Communication Stations are designed as a part of the Communication Access Project to be set up on units to educate patients, families, and staff and to help facilitate health-related conversations. Ideally, these stations are paired with SCA™ staff training. All resources were printed by a Newfoundland-based company, Quikprint, on washable paper to promote longevity and ensure infection prevention and control (IPAC) compliance.

Please reach out to Alyson King at [Alyson.king@nlhealthservices.ca](mailto:Alyson.king@nlhealthservices.ca) with any questions about the Communication Access Initiative and check out the Aphasia Institute at [www.aphasia.ca](http://www.aphasia.ca) for more information about aphasia, training, and resources!



*To the left member Alyson King and Paul Currie (Quikprint) with newly printed materials for communication stations, funded through HIROC Grant.*

*Above is a Communication Station on 2South Inpatient Rehabilitation Stroke Unit at Dr. L.A. Miller Centre.*





## NLHS INTEGRATION UPDATES

With amalgamation of the 4 health authorities, audiology and speech-language pathology staff in the four health zones across NL Health Services are seeing many changes. We'll try to share those changes in each in issue.

Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services (NLHS) continues to move along as a single, integrated health authority with initiatives and collaborations taking place in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (SLP). One such collaboration is the development of a provincial SLP Professional Practice Council (PPC), chaired by Rhonda Halfyard, Provincial Professional Practice Consultant for Speech-Language Pathology and Manager of Audiology (Eastern Zones).

The inaugural meeting of the SLP Provincial Council was held in February 2025 and another was held in April. Meetings have been well attended with wide provincial and program representation. The aim of the newly formed council is to bring together provincial SLPs in health to understand and support existing or newly established zonal/local PPCs, as well as to collaborate and coordinate shared areas of practice such as clinical documentation (EPIC), diet texture modifications and limits of



## NL Health Services

confidentiality to name a few. Work is ongoing to develop Terms of Reference. Within the larger professional practice framework work is also ongoing to standardize the Professional Practice Model across the province.

## BABY BASKETS FOR SPEECH AND HEARING MONTH

To celebrate Speech and Hearing month, NLASLPA provides a speech and hearing themed baby basket to the first baby born in the month of May at participating birthing sites across the province. This year, Burin, Carbonear, Clarenville, Corner Brook, Gander, Grand-Falls Windsor, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Labrador City and St. John's distributed baskets. Many thanks are extended to the NLASLPA volunteers at each of the birthing sites listed. And the best part? The baby pics!



*Top left: Baby Aime in Labrador City, Centre: Corner Brook's May baby  
Right: Baby McGrath from Heart's Desire*



*To the left: Baby Jacob born in Burin,  
Bottom left: Proud parents and sister of  
Baby Finn in Happy Valley-Goose Bay  
To the Right: Twin Babies Bobbi and Kai  
born in Gander*





## COLLEAGUES CORNER

*In this issue, we catch up with the Audiology Department with the Central Zone of NLHS. The Central Zone is seen on the right in yellow, from Charlottetown in the east, Fogo Island in the north, Harbour Breton in the south to Baie Verte in the west. Thanks to staff in the Central Zone for participating.*

### Facility Name and Location:

Central Newfoundland Regional Health Centre (CNRHC), Grand Falls-Windsor  
James Paton Memorial Regional Health Centre (JPM), Gander

### Staff Names and Titles:

Taylor Robinson, Registered Audiologist  
Jennifer Rice, Registered Audiologist  
Kelsey Piercey, Audiology Technician (Currently on Maternity Leave)

Sean Kinden, Audiology Clinical Lead  
Kayla MacDonald, Audiologist  
Jennifer Foley, Audiology Technician

### Population Serves and Areas of Specialty:

Population Served: 0-100+ (our record is 102)

Areas of Specialty: Diagnostic assessment, Hearing aids, Electrophysiological testing, and EMDI.

### Unique or Interesting Services or Programs that your service offers:

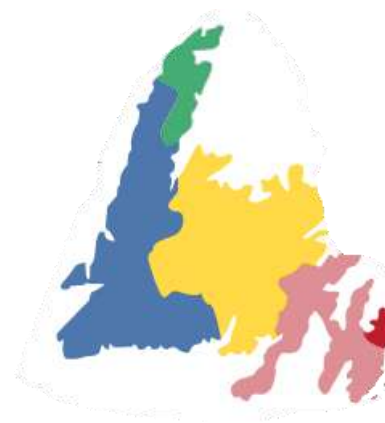
Thanks to the South and Central Health Foundation we recently received a new Digital VRA system! We are excited to upgrade from our old (and some would say terrifying) reinforcers. We hope this will make testing pediatric and specifically neurodivergent populations a little easier!

### Something that is exciting to your staff these days:

After many years of extremely long waitlists in GFW, our waitlists (with the exception of hearing aids) are back to manageable levels! It's nice to be able to help patients with their communication problems when they really need it!

### Something that is frustrating to your staff these days:

We miss our technician, Kelsey, dearly! Counting down the days until November when she comes back to us (we hope lol).



*Pictured top staff at CNRHC. Bottom : Jenifer Rice on the left , Taylor Robinson in front and Kelsey Piercey in the back.*

*Staff from JPM are pictured left to right: Sean Kinden, Jennifer Foley and Kayla MacDonald*



### **NLASLPA's Address**

NLASLPA  
P.O. Box 21212  
St. John's, NF A1A 5B2

### **NLASLPA Executive:**

President:	Susan Lawlor	president.nlaslpa@gmail.ca
President Elect:	Terri Kennedy	presidentelect.nlaslpa@gmail.ca
Past President:	Taylor Burt	pastpresident.nlaslpa@gmail.ca
Treasurer:	Katherine Moffatt	treasurer.nlaslpa@gmail.ca
Secretary:	Caitlin Mullaley	secretary.nlaslpa@gmail.ca
Director at Large:	Oriana Pittman Caines	directoratlarge.nlaslpa@gmail.ca

### **Submissions/Enquiries**

Letters to the Editor, commentaries and other submissions (including photos) are welcome. The Editorial Committee reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Please forward your submissions to:

*Lisa Payne, Communications Committee Co-chair*  
*Audiologist*  
*NL Health Services*  
*127 Montana Drive*  
*Stephenville, NL A2N 2T4*  
*Phone: (709) 643-8694*  
*Fax: (709) 643-3944*  
*Email: lisa.payne@nlhealthservices.ca*

### **Publishing Information**

**NLASLPA's Signal** is a publication of the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists. **NLASLPA's Signal** is published two times yearly—spring and fall (with submission dates approximately one month prior). The newsletter is a benefit of membership distributed to all NLASLPA members. A yearly subscription may be purchased by non-members.

### **ADVERTISING IN NLASLPA'S SIGNAL**

Employment and business advertisements will be published according to the fee schedule below. Seminars, conferences and workshops are advertised free of charge. For more information please contact Newsletter Committee Chair.

#### **Advertising Procedure:**

1. Advertisers will be charged as follows:  
Business Card: \$20.00  
Quarter Page: \$25.00  
Half Page: \$50.00  
Full Page: \$75.00
2. Fees must be received prior to publication. A copy of the newsletter containing the advertisement will be sent to the advertising agency at their request.
3. Employment advertisements should contain position title, duties, qualifications, salary and contact information.
4. All advertising submissions may be edited to conform to space purchased.
5. Cheques should be made payable to:  
NLASLPA  
P.O. Box 21212  
St. John's, NF A1A 5B2
6. Advertising requests can be forwarded to:  
(1) NLASLPA (see above) or  
(2) Care of the Newsletter Editor.

## COMING EVENTS

### **Speech Sound Disorders Conference**

**WHEN:** Sept 25-26, 2025

**WHERE:** Edmonton, AB

**WHAT:** Two day speech workshop focused on Articulation, Phonology and Childhood Apraxia of Speech.

Gain 12 hours of professional development and transform your assessment and treatment strategies.

**FEE:** \$485

### **Respiratory Muscle Strength Training (RMST): Does it Work?**

**WHEN:** Ongoing

**WHERE:** Webcast at SAC

**WHAT:** This webcast provides an overview of an RMST clinical guideline created to provide clinicians with a summary of the clinical literature, principles underlying RMST and criteria to determine candidacy.

**FEE:** Free for SAC members

### **Fostering Person-Centred, Adaptable Care through Virtual Hearing Services**

**WHEN:** Ongoing

**WHERE:** Webcast at SAC

**WHAT:** This presentation explores the evolving landscape of virtual hearing care, emphasizing the dynamic relationships between clients, families, and providers in these new service models. Participants will be introduced to various service models and delivery channels, providing a comprehensive understanding of how technology is being leveraged to enhance client outcomes.

### **Stuttering Support Group—NL Stuttering Association**

**WHEN:** Third Thursday of each month 7-8:30pm

**WHERE:** Virtual online meeting

More information: [nlstuttering.ca](mailto:nlstuttering.ca) or [ourvoice.nlsa@gmail.com](mailto:ourvoice.nlsa@gmail.com)