

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



CASLPA “Remembering” Speech, Language and Hearing Health of Canada’s Veterans on November 11

Veterans’ Week, November 5-11 - Every year in November, Canadians express their appreciation and support for the nearly 600,000 Canadian Forces (CF) veterans. Providing health care services to these veterans, Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) works in partnership with health care authorities and providers to deliver a range of health care services including speech-language pathology and audiology.

Speech-language pathology and audiology professionals help to optimize veterans’ speech and language abilities, independence, socialization and overall quality of life. They provide assessment, treatment and management of communication problems in many settings, including hospitals, outpatient and long-term care facilities, clinics, home care, private practice and rehabilitation centres. With veterans averaging between 55 and 87 years of age (CF veterans, 55, Korean War veterans, 79 and Second World War veterans, 87), age-related communication issues are increasingly prevalent.

The war in Afghanistan and other deployments exposed many members of the Canadian Forces to the concussive effects of combat, which can cause hearing injuries. “We’re seeing a growing concern among young veterans returning with hearing impairment as a result of repeated exposure to gunfire and explosive blasts,” says CASLPA member audiologist Zofia Wald-Mroz, who works in an Ottawa-area veteran’s health care centre. “Significant damage can be done to the inner ear as a result of repeated exposure to loud noise resulting in a permanent hearing impairment.

“In addition to disabilities acquired during duty, aging veterans can also have communication disorders or swallowing difficulties caused by stroke, head injury, Parkinson’s, effects of medication, dementia or psychiatric disorders,” says CASLPA member Gail Poole, speech-language pathologist specializing in adult and geriatric populations.

The Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (CASLPA) serves as a liaison between its members and VAC. CASLPA further facilitates collaboration between the provincial/territorial speech and hearing associations across Canada and Veterans Affairs. More than 85,000 participating service providers work with VAC, and audiologists and speech-language pathologists play a key role in meeting the speech, language and hearing needs of veterans.

If a veteran in your life has a communication, swallowing or hearing difficulty they may be eligible for VAC benefits and CASLPA suggests contacting [Veterans Affairs Canada](#) for additional information.

With more than 5,500 members, CASLPA is the only national body that supports and represents the professional needs of speech-language pathologists, audiologists and supportive personnel. For more information about the role these professionals play in the treatment of communication disorders or to find a speech-language pathologist or audiologist in your area, visit CASLPA’s website at www.speechandhearing.ca.

-30-

For more information, please contact:
Angie D’Aoust, director of communications
1-800-259-8519, or by email pubs@caslpa.ca

www.speechandhearing.ca · www.caslpa.ca · tinyurl.com/caslpaonfacebook · twitter.com/CASLPA