

MEDIA RELEASE

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CASLPA Celebrates Sounds, Syllables and Flow of Speech

October 22, 2011 is International Stuttering Awareness Day

Last year's highly acclaimed film, *The King's Speech*, focused on King George VI's struggle with stuttering and the importance of speech therapy to treat his speech disorder. Stuttering is a chronic communication disorder that involves disruption in the normal flow of rhythm of speech and according to The Speech and Stuttering Institute, affects approximately 1 in 100 people of all ages.

On International Stuttering Awareness Day, the Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (CASLPA) celebrates the important work of speech-language pathologists (S-LPs) who help people that stutter. Characteristics of stuttering can include repetition of sounds, syllables, words or phrases, hesitations, prolongations or interjections.

Anyone concerned about fluency issues should contact a S-LP as soon as possible to get advice. A professional can determine whether an individual is stuttering or is at risk for stuttering and if monitoring or a full assessment is required.

Dr. Marilyn Langevin, who is the director of research at the Institute of Stuttering Treatment and Research and a CASLPA speech-language pathologist member, stresses that early intervention is key to effective results. "Although research shows that some preschoolers will naturally recover from stuttering," she says, "we don't yet have the means to predict which children will or will not outgrow stuttering. Early assessment and treatment is critical. Our aim is to prevent the potentially lifelong debilitating effects of stuttering."

Speech-language pathologists play an important role in the prevention, assessment, and treatment of stuttering and other communication disorders. Represented by CASLPA, S-LPs work in communities across Canada in schools, hospitals, rehabilitation centres, health clinics, and in private practice.

If you or someone you know has a suspected communication disorder such as stuttering, CASLPA recommends contacting a speech-language pathologist. CASLPA represents the professional needs of more than 5,500 speech-language pathologists, audiologists and supportive personnel.

For more information on stuttering, please visit the Stuttering Homepage at www.mnsu.edu/comdis/kuster/. For more information on the role speech-language pathologists play in the management of communication disorders, or to find a speech-language pathologist in your area, please visit www.speechandhearing.ca.

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