

MEDIA RELEASE

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CASLPA President Signs Landmark Document

Ottawa, ON – An 18-month study of interdisciplinary collaboration in primary health care was released on April 25, 2006 in Ottawa. It proclaimed that the teamwork trend must become entrenched if Canada hopes to address future health challenges and support the sustainability of our national health system. Linda Rammage, CASLPA president, along with presidents of ten leading health organizations, signed the Principles and Framework document that will guide health organizations, governments, regulators, educators and the health professions themselves as they nurture and practice more interdisciplinary collaboration.

The *EICP Principles and Framework* reflect wide-ranging consultations and research involving the public, health professionals (including many speech-language pathologists and audiologists), health organizations, governments, academics, regulators and educators from coast to coast to coast. The Initiative concluded that collaboration is a key component of primary health care renewal because it co-ordinates health professionals so they can better meet the needs of their patients and clients. Collaboration gives Canadians better access to the right professional, at the right time and in the right place.

The professions of speech-language pathology and audiology were well represented in this project. In addition to CASLPA's membership on the steering committee, the provincial professional associations of BC, Ontario, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Saskatchewan, as well as the College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario were all recognized on the list of EICP supporters. CASLPA president Linda Rammage notes participation in the project proves "we are recognized as well educated professionals with a unique knowledge base and skill set that allows us to empower millions of Canadians".

The Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists is the national voice of over 4,800 professionals. A not-for-profit association, CASLPA supports the professional needs of its members, champions the interests of those who require speech, language, and hearing services and promotes awareness of how speech-language pathologists and audiologists contribute to the well-being of Canadians living with communication disorders. The *EICP Principles and Framework* can be found at <http://www.caslpa.ca/english/profession/eicp.asp>

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