

MEDIA RELEASE

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CASLPA Helps Break Down Communication Barriers

December 3 is International Day of Persons with Disabilities

December 3, 2011 (Ottawa) – According to the World Health Organization (WHO) 650 million people, approximately 10 per cent of the world’s population, live with a disability and this percentage increases steadily with age. Integration within ones community can present challenges as persons with disabilities may encounter many disadvantages in society and are often subjected to stigma and discrimination.

“Effective communication enables people to participate in the social, political, economic and cultural aspects of their community,” says CASLPA president Gillian Barnes. “Communication is vital to community participation and inclusivity. Disabilities in communication can lead to social exclusion for a child who stutters, lower grades in high school for a teenager with reading difficulties and social isolation for people with untreated hearing loss.”

Speech-language pathologists, audiologists and support personnel are represented nationally within one organization by the Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (CASLPA). These professionals work individually or on interprofessional teams to assess, treat, and support individuals with speech, language, swallowing, hearing and balance disorders.

“The extensive scope of practice of CASLPA members enables them to give each individual the specific assistance they need,” says Gillian. “Our members use their experience and specialized skills to develop strategies which help their clients attain the highest level of communication outcomes.”

International Day of Persons with Disabilities strives to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with these disabilities. It also seeks to increase awareness of how the inclusion of persons with disabilities benefits everyone.

If you or someone you know has a communication problem or limitation, CASLPA recommends contacting a speech-language pathologist or audiologist. CASLPA represents the professional needs of more than 5,900 professionals. For more information about the role these professionals play in the identification, assessment and treatment of communication disorders or to find a speech-language pathologist or audiologist in your area, visit CASLPA’s website at www.speechandhearing.ca.

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