

FACT SHEET



The national voice of professionals who help Canadians communicate.

With over 5,400 members, CASLPA is the only national body that supports and represents the professional needs of speech-language pathologists, audiologists and supportive personnel inclusively within one organization. Through this support, CASLPA champions the needs of people with communications disorders.

This mission was defined in its early beginnings, when the association was launched in 1964 under the name of the Canadian Speech and Hearing Association (CSHA). The professions were starting to evolve in Canada, and were beginning to define and validate their place within the realm of medical science, health, and education. A handful of visionaries including the founder and first president of CSHA, Isabel Richard, had the foresight to push for a national organization that could unify and empower the professions. She affirmed that a united professional body “with clear vision and well-defined objectives can give stature to the professions in this country.” Powered by founders who were proactive from the start, the association we now know as CASLPA has helped direct and lead the development of the two professions.

Today CASLPA embraces members from all provinces and territories, and ensures that they are well represented in the association’s board, committees, and task forces. CASLPA’s staff, based in Ottawa, ensures the quality and timeliness of bilingual publications, proactive public and media awareness activities, and effective government relations, along with the accuracy of budget and membership information. In addition, a number of member benefits are telling indicators of an association that has come of age together with the professions. Such benefits include current career ads, insurance plans, legal advice, and enhanced communications through a North America-wide toll free phone number, regular membership surveys, and a lively web site.

Expanded membership categories

Membership has consistently grown in CASLPA from its humble beginnings to a current membership of over 5,000 professionals. Today CASLPA offers nine membership categories, including full member, reduced hours, international, student, retired, supportive personnel, supportive personnel student, affiliate and research/allied professional.

Recognized national professional standards

Milestones include the achievement of high national standards of practice in speech-language pathology and audiology through certification for CASLPA members and a continuing education equivalent (CEE) program.

In 1998 CASLPA expanded recognition of these professional standards through reciprocity of the respective certification programs with the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). As of May 1, 2009, this reciprocity agreement applies to S-LPs only.

Annual awards and scholarship program

Another milestone is the association’s highly-regarded annual awards program including the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award and the Isabel Richard Student Paper Award. CASLPA also offers four scholarship programs comprised of 17 annual scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500.

Over →

An advocate for improved services and training

True to its proactive origins, CASLPA is currently an active member in the National Health Forum, the Health Action Lobby Group, and the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation.

Maintaining ethics and integrity

Through the years, CASLPA has developed and enhanced a Code of Ethics and has established by-laws and guidelines that recognize the growing scopes of practice of speech-language pathology and audiology.

Alliances and partnerships with provincial and territorial groups

CASLPA continues its strong tradition of collaborating with the provincial and territorial associations, and ongoing communications with international associations. A mutual recognition agreement for speech-language pathologists with Speech Pathology Australia, the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT) and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) came into effect in 2005.

Building a bank of benefits

The association offers competitive group insurance coverage and discount packages.

Advancing careers and employment

Ensuring access to career opportunities is a vital part of CASLPA's activities. Career ads are published regularly in the association's newsletter *Communiqué* and, recognizing that time is of the essence, CASLPA provides immediate access to employment opportunities through our web site www.caslpa.ca.

Enhancing professional knowledge

Members stay tuned to current clinical guidelines, position papers, and research through the *Journal of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology*, Canada's only journal dedicated to communication disorders. Members can keep up to date on professional, legislative, and clinical trends through the other CASLPA publications, including the web site, and through networking opportunities and workshops, including CASLPA's annual conference.

Staying relevant

CASLPA continues to explore and develop new services to ensure members have access to the most current information on trends, opportunities and the latest news in their profession. Among our ever-expanding projects is a new media centre on the web site, a monthly electronic newsletter delivered to members each month, a new membership category for supportive personnel, online capabilities to update CEEs and a national PSA campaign designed to increase awareness of the professions to the public.

From the beginning, CASLPA has been at the heart of efforts to shape change and advance speech-language pathology and audiology. The association's extensive list of achievements marks the milestones of that growth.

Early detection is vital! If you suspect a problem consult your yellow pages or visit our website to find a Speech-Language Pathologist or Audiologist near you.

www.caslpa.ca