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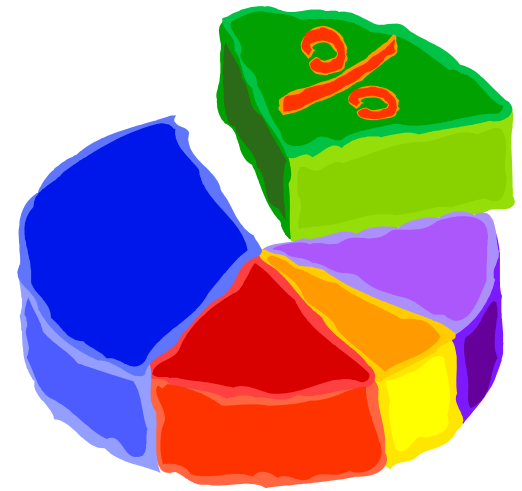
# Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Services for Seniors in Canada



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**According to Statistics  
Canada seniors represent  
the fastest growing  
segment of the population  
in Canada.**

**This segment is expected to  
make up  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the population  
(9.2 million Canadians) by 2041.**



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# Communication Disorders and Aging

- 1 in 10 Canadians have a speech, language or hearing problem
  - Hearing loss is the third most prevalent chronic disability among older adults
  - 20% of adults over 65, 40% over 75 and 80% of nursing home residents have a significant hearing problem.
  - 6-12% of seniors experience speech, language or voice difficulties.
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# The goal of speech-language pathologists (S-LPs) and audiologists in Canada is to maximize the communication potential of all Canadians.

- This goal is supported by their national association, the Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (CASLPA)
- CASLPA supports the professional needs of its members in this endeavour and promotes improved access to the services of S-LPs and Audiologists



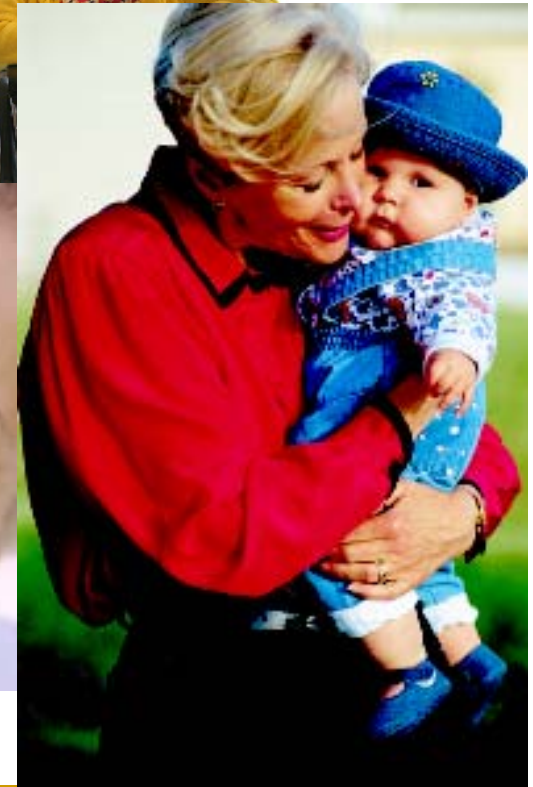
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# Why are our Services Important to Seniors?



# Our services help seniors to optimize:

- Communications
- Health
- Independence
- Quality of life
- Safety
- Socialization



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# Why are we undertaking a Seniors Services Awareness Campaign?

- To increase awareness of the services that speech-language pathologists and audiologists can provide to seniors.
  - To increase seniors access to our services.
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# What Services do Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Provide to Seniors?



# Speech-language pathologists provide assessment, treatment and follow-up for:

- Difficulties speaking or understanding (expressive and receptive language problems and motor speech disorders)
- Voice problems
- Thinking and memory problems (Cognitive)
- Swallowing difficulties



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# Communication, speech, language and swallowing problems experienced by seniors can be caused by:

- Stroke (a “brain” attack; interruption of blood supply to brain)
  - Head injury
  - Neurological diseases (e.g., Parkinsons, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis/ALS)
  - Tumours
  - Respiratory illnesses
  - Effects of medications
  - Alzheimers disease and related dementias or delirium
  - Psychiatric disorders
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# A speech-language pathologist could recommend:

- Direct treatment
  - Further instrumental examination (e.g., videofluoroscopy)
  - Referrals for further investigations (i.e. ENT, occupational therapist, audiologist or other appropriate health care professionals)
  - Diet/texture modification and/or safe feeding strategies
  - Compensatory communications strategies
  - Use of alternative and/or augmentative devices to assist with communication (e.g., computer systems)
  - Client/family counselling
  - Establishing links to community resources – day centres, long-term support groups/programs
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# Audiologists provide assessment, treatment and follow-up regarding:

- Hearing loss
- Balance problems
- Tinnitus (noises or ringing in the ears or head when no external sound is present)
- Related disorders



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# Hearing related disorders in seniors can be caused by:

- Aging process
  - Noise exposure
  - Heredity
  - Middle ear dysfunction
  - Medications that affect hearing (Drugs that are toxic to ears)
  - Neurological diseases (e.g., stroke)
  - Head injury
  - Tumours
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# An audiologist could recommend:

- Use of hearing aids or other assistive listening devices
  - Aural rehabilitation (Implementation of compensatory communication strategies.)
  - Consideration of cochlear implants
  - Client/family counselling
  - Combination of these and other supportive strategies
  - Consultation with an otolaryngologist (Ear-Nose-Throat/ENT physician)
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# The services we provide can be:

- Consultative
- Direct/Indirect
- Individual/Group
- Intensive
- Long-term support groups/programs
- Short term/intermittent



# Our work settings include:

- Ambulatory/outpatient facilities
- Clinics
- Home care
- Hospitals
- Long-term care facilities
- Private practice
- Rehabilitation centres
- Access centres
- Health units



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## Speech-language pathologists and audiologists collaborate with:

- Dietitians
  - Home care providers
  - Nurses
  - Occupational therapists
  - Pastoral care providers\
  - Physicians and surgeons
  - Physiotherapists
  - Psychologists
  - Recreation therapists
  - Respiratory therapists
  - Social workers
  - Vocational counselors
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**What type of training and qualifications do speech-language pathologists and audiologists hold?**



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## Consumers should seek the services of a qualified professional.

- Speech-language pathologists and audiologists in Canada must hold a minimum of a Masters degree in Speech-Language Pathology or Audiology or equivalent.
  - In some provinces S-LPs and audiologists are regulated and must hold a license. In others, they should be a member of their provincial/territorial and/or national professional association.
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# CASLPA also grants national certification to speech-language pathologists and audiologists who:

- Hold full membership in CASLPA
- Meet clinical training requirements.
- Successfully pass CASLPA's certification exam.



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# The services of a speech-language pathologist or audiologist can be found:

- In the listings of your local/regional health authority, speech and hearing centre or other publicly funded agency.
  - In the yellow pages under Audiologists, Hearing, Hearing Aids, Speech or Speech-Language Pathologists (Private Practice listings)
  - On the CASLPA Find a Practitioner search engine at: [www.caslpa.ca/english/profession/find.asp](http://www.caslpa.ca/english/profession/find.asp)
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# Remember...

- Speech-language pathologists and audiologists are important collaborative partners in the primary health care system, working to maximize communication and, in turn, participation in the community.
- Using the services of a speech-language pathologist or audiologist helps ensure seniors can continue to enjoy engaging, productive and rewarding lives.



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# For Further Information Contact:

- Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (CASLPA)  
**#920- 1 Nicholas Street**  
**Ottawa, ON K1N 7B7**  
**[www.caslpa.ca](http://www.caslpa.ca)**  
**[caslpa@caslpa.ca](mailto:caslpa@caslpa.ca)**  
**1(800)259-8519 (toll free)**
  - Provincial associations of speech-language pathology and audiology  
  
**[www.caslpa.ca/english/contact/province2.asp](http://www.caslpa.ca/english/contact/province2.asp)**
  - Canadian licensing bodies  
**<http://www.caslpa.ca/english/profession/licensing.asp>**
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