



## Speak, Hear and Be Heard

*May is Speech and Hearing Month in Canada*

**OTTAWA, ON (May 5, 2014)** — Speak well, hear well, live well: six simple words that many of us take for granted. Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC) and its more than 6,000 members are asking people across Canada to recognize the importance of communication health this month.

Every year, SAC recognizes May as [Speech and Hearing Month](#), a nationwide awareness campaign that encourages adults and children in education and health-care centres to learn more about speech, language, hearing and auditory disorders and the professionals who can help.

“Imagine if you could no longer share a funny story, hear a child’s cry for help or tell your family how much you love them,” says SAC president Judy Meintzer. “It could, and does, happen to people across Canada every day. You never know when you or a loved one could lose the ability to communicate, which is why it’s so important that people of all ages and backgrounds have access to adequate communication health services and programs.”

SAC’s Speech and Hearing Month activities are largely centered on its [Early Identification Campaign](#), which aims to promote awareness of communication disorders and inform the Canadian public about the importance of identifying potential disorders early on. SAC launched the inaugural Early Identification Campaign in 2013 and released several new [resources](#) this year, such as a [poster](#) that educates teenagers and young adults about the danger of listening to music at a high volume.

This Speech and Hearing Month coincides with the “Month of Action” for the [International Communication Project \(ICP\) 2014](#), a global initiative that calls for worldwide recognition of communication as a basic human right.

“Communication health is crucial, from the moment of birth through our retirement years,” continues Meintzer. “Countries all over the world have made great strides over the past few decades in recognizing, supporting and accommodating people with disabilities that affect their mobility or mental health. It’s time for decision-makers to recognize that people with communication disorders are deserving of the same attention and action.”

Additional activities overlapping with Speech and Hearing Month this year include SAC’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference (May 7-10 in Ottawa, Ontario) and a major spring advertising campaign (**#aweandjoy**) that highlights the meaningful ways that communication health professionals — speech-language pathologists, audiologists and supportive personnel — make a difference in the lives of their patients and clients.

For more information about Speech and Hearing month, including ideas for how to get involved, please visit [www.maymonth.ca](http://www.maymonth.ca).

To learn more about the International Communication Project, please visit [www.communication2014.com](http://www.communication2014.com).

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*We are **Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC)**, a member-driven organization that supports, promotes and elevates the professions of our members. We are the only national organization passionately supporting and representing speech-language pathologists, audiologists and supportive personnel inclusively. Visit SAC at [www.sac-oac.ca](http://www.sac-oac.ca) to learn more.*

**For more information:**

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