



Speech-Language & Audiology Canada
Orthophonie et Audiologie Canada
Communicating care | La communication à coeur

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OFFICIAL STATEMENT FROM SPEECH-LANGUAGE AND AUDIOLOGY CANADA (SAC)

Saskatoon Health Region cuts to audiology and speech-language pathology positions will negatively affect patient care

Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC) is deeply concerned about the [recent cuts](#) to audiology and speech-language pathology positions made by the Saskatoon Health Region. Tens of thousands of people of all ages will be negatively affected by these cuts, particularly those who are living in areas north of Saskatoon and in remote communities, where services and access are already very limited.

SAC disputes the [Saskatoon Health Region's statement](#) that the cuts will only have a *minimal impact* on patient care.

The audiology position that was eliminated in Prince Albert **was the only publicly-funded audiology position in the area**. Moreover, the loss of a second audiology position in Saskatoon will further lengthen already long wait times and lead to an increased shortage of much-needed audiology services in the region. As is often the case with these types of cuts, marginalized populations will be those most affected by the decrease in services.

Similar to the audiology positions, the speech-language pathology position that was eliminated provided service to vulnerable communities in the Saskatoon area.

These cuts represent a step backwards for the province of Saskatchewan with regards to communication health.

SAC is urging the Saskatoon Health Region to reinstate these audiology and speech-language pathology positions immediately. Failure to do so will not only compromise patient care today, but will also negatively impact generations to come.

SAC is also urging the government of Saskatchewan to modify its provincial health plan to cover audiology services obtained through private audiology clinics. Expanding coverage would reduce wait times and improve patient care.

About SAC

Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC) is a member-driven organization that supports and promotes the professions of more than 6,300 members and associates. We are the only national organization passionately supporting and representing speech-language pathologists, audiologists and communication health assistants inclusively. Through this support, we champion the needs of people with communication disorders. Visit www.sac-oac.ca to learn more.

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