

Improving hearing health for infants and children in Saskatchewan



Saskatchewan lags behind many other provinces in publicly funded hearing assessments, hearing aids, and hearing health services for children. Most provinces provide some combination of full or partial coverage. Every child in Saskatchewan deserves timely access to hearing assessment, follow-up, and support. Hearing is essential for language development, learning, social participation, and school readiness.

Why Early Hearing Care Matters

When hearing concerns are identified and addressed early, children have a better opportunity to develop communication skills, succeed in school, and fully participate in their communities. Delays in assessment or follow-up can have lasting impacts on speech, language, learning, and overall development. Families should be able to access the care they need without facing unnecessary barriers or long travel distances.



The Access Gap Facing Saskatchewan Families

While newborn hearing screening is available in Saskatchewan, access to follow-up services, diagnostic assessments, and pediatric audiology care remains inconsistent across the province. Families in rural, remote, and northern communities often face additional challenges accessing timely care, creating inequities in outcomes for children.

A Better Path Forward

Saskatchewan can strengthen children's hearing health by establishing a coordinated provincial pathway that ensures timely access to assessment, follow-up services, and intervention. A more connected system would help children receive the right care at the right time, regardless of their postal code.

Why This is a Smart Investment

Supporting earlier access to hearing care leads to better developmental and educational outcomes for children. It can also reduce pressure on other health, education, and social support systems by addressing concerns before they become more complex. Investing in hearing health helps ensure children are ready to learn, communicate, and thrive.



SAC is calling on the Government of Saskatchewan to invest in a coordinated children's hearing pathway that improves timely access to assessment and follow-up for families across the province.

To learn about SAC-Saskatchewan's advocacy efforts visit
www.sac-oac.ca/advocacy/sac-saskatchewan

Read SAC's Proposal for [Improving Hearing Health Outcomes in Saskatchewan now.](#)