

Friday, March 31, 2017

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

Too many unknowns regarding Saskatchewan's decision to eliminate the majority of publicly-funded audiology services.

SAC urges the provincial government to consult with audiologists immediately.

The Government of Saskatchewan announced last week that it will be shutting down the Hearing Aid Plan (HAP) as well as eliminating many publicly-funded audiology positions effective July 1. Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC) is concerned that the government does not have an implementation plan that takes into account the extent of audiology services currently being provided through the public health system and in particular, the services being provided to children through HAP. The association is urging the government to consult with both public and private practice audiologists immediately.

SAC has [long voiced concerns](#) about the state of hearing health services in the province of Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan has one of the [worst grades in Canada](#) for their lack of a comprehensive Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program.

Audiologists in Saskatchewan are united in their call for a strong, province-wide pediatric audiology system that is consistent and standardized. Implementing a comprehensive EHDI program is an essential first step. However, this type of program requires planning, consultation, funding and commitment. It's time for the provincial government to reach out to audiologists to share their plan and to work together to build a better hearing health system for the people of Saskatchewan.

About SAC

Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC) is a member-driven organization that supports and promotes the professions of more than 6,200 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.

Media Inquiries:

Emily Banzet

Email: emily@sac-oac.ca

Tel: 613-567-9968 x251