

May 3, 2018

## OFFICIAL STATEMENT FROM SPEECH-LANGUAGE & AUDIOLOGY CANADA (SAC)

### SAC to Administer New Canadian Entry-to-Practice Exam for Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists

Speech-Language & Audiology Canada (SAC) is proud to announce that it has reached an agreement with the Canadian Alliance of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Regulators (CAASPR) to develop and administer Canada's first entry-to-practice exam for speech-language pathologists and audiologists.

For several years, CAASPR has been working on a Centralization and Capacity Building project to harmonize the assessment of speech-language pathologists and audiologists working across regulated jurisdictions in Canada. A key component of this project is the implementation of a national, standardized, competency-based entry-to-practice exam for each profession. The Centralization and Capacity Building project will move the assessment process under a single body, resulting in standardized outcomes, enhanced public safety and improved labour mobility.

SAC is ideally positioned to develop and administer the new Canadian Entry-to-Practice (CETP) Exam. For over 30 years, the association has administered professional exams as part of its clinical certification program. In awarding the exam contract to SAC, CAASPR is ensuring a smooth and successful transition to the new CETP Exam.

The first CETP Exam is scheduled for fall 2020 and over the coming year, SAC and CAASPR will be providing more information about the application process in the lead up to the first exam sitting.

As the national professional association of speech-language pathologists, audiologists and communication health assistants, SAC welcomes the establishment of national professional standards in Canada and is pleased to support the professions by administering the CETP Exam.

#### SAC's Clinical Certification Program and Exams

Clinical certification is SAC's highest standard of excellence in the professions and the credential is highly regarded throughout Canada and abroad. **SAC's Clinical Certification Program is focused on career-long professional development. The introduction of the new CETP Exam will not change the core purpose of the clinical certification program.**

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Students who are interested in becoming clinically certified or who require successful completion of the SAC Exam to practice in a province/territory are still required to write the SAC Clinical Certification Exam. However, once the CETP Exam is introduced in 2020, SAC will no longer be administering an additional clinical certification exam. The eligibility criteria for SAC Clinical Certification will be adjusted to fit the new professional environment.

In the coming months, SAC will engage and consult with stakeholders to discuss how the SAC Clinical Certification Program can continue to best serve the professions. SAC is committed to maintaining, adapting and modernizing the clinical certification program to meet the evolving needs of the professions.

### About SAC

**Speech-Language & Audiology Canada (SAC)** is a member-driven organization that supports and promotes the professions of more than 6,400 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](http://www.sac-oac.ca) to learn more.

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