

## Speech-Language & Audiology Canada Announces Judy Schmidbauer as New Chair

**OTTAWA, ON (June 5, 2015)** — Judy Schmidbauer, MA, S-LP(C), CCC-SLP, a practicing speech-language pathologist from Halifax, Nova Scotia has been elected as the new Chair of Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC).

Judy has been on the SAC Board for over three years and has served as First Vice-Chair since fall 2014. During her time on the Board, Judy has seen SAC through a number of historic milestones including the introduction of a new governance model, its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations as well as the association's 2014 rebrand project.

*"The past three years have been absolutely amazing. I'm very excited to lead the Board and for the opportunity to build on the momentum that's been growing over the last few years,"* says Judy. *"I'm extremely passionate about promoting our professions and the importance of communication health in Canada."*

In her position at Nova Scotia Speech and Hearing Centres, Judy works in a tertiary care centre specializing in adult voice disorders, head and neck oncology and dysphagia. Judy also supervises and teaches graduate students at the school of human communication disorders at Dalhousie University. Throughout her 30-year career, Judy has always highlighted the importance of teamwork.

*"I have always worked as part of a group and I strongly believe in a team-centered approach when it comes to patient care. The same is true for my role on the Board. We are so much stronger when we work together,"* Judy explains. *"As the Chair of SAC I am in a leadership position, however I recognize that every individual on the SAC team, which includes Board Directors as well as staff, is equally instrumental in guiding this association from one success to the next."*

When asked why speech-language pathologists, audiologists and communication health associates should belong to their professional association, Judy cuts right to the chase: *"Communication health professionals need to understand that there is strength in numbers. When we put our voices together to advocate for our professions, we become much stronger and much harder to ignore. I'm extremely proud to be a member of SAC and I know that the more members and associates we have, the more we can do: more advocacy, more promotion, more public awareness and more resources."*

Judy's term commenced after the Annual Meeting of Members on June 4, 2015. Her term as Chair will run until the end of April 2016. You can email Judy at [chair@sac-oac.ca](mailto:chair@sac-oac.ca).

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**Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC)** is a member-driven organization that supports, promotes and elevates the professions of our 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 us at [www.sac-oac.ca](http://www.sac-oac.ca) to learn more.

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