

Dear [NAME OF CANDIDATE],

As a resident of [INSERT RIDING], I am writing to you today to highlight the need to make the communication health of Canadian children a priority in the 2015 federal election.

I am specifically concerned with the lack of **speech and language services for school-aged children in Canada**. Large-scale research studies have demonstrated a strong connection between students with speech-language delays and later social, academic, behavioural and literacy difficulties.

Children with speech-language disorders require specialized therapy services in order to reach their full potential. Unfortunately, there are not enough school-based speech-language pathologists to meet the needs of children with communication disorders. This has put an increased burden on Canadian families, as they struggle to pay for speech-language therapy services out of pocket.

Please consider my position that **the federal government should increase transfer funds to provincial and territorial education systems to expand speech and language services in Canadian schools**.

The increased transfer funds would be a worthwhile investment. According to the Canadian Public Health Association, every \$1 spent on early childhood health and development saves up to \$9 in future health, social and justice services. This represents an 800% return on investment.

It's time for the federal government to invest in our children's communication health.

My concerns regarding this issue are fully supported by Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC) and its more than 6,000 members and associates from across the country. SAC is the only national organization supporting and representing speech-language pathologists, audiologists and communication health assistants inclusively. The association works tirelessly to advocate for the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology and to champion the needs of people with communication disorders.

I trust that, upon reading this letter, you will give this issue the attention it deserves and consider making it an important focus of your campaign moving forward.

Signed,

[INSERT NAME]

For more information regarding SAC, please visit www.sac-oac.ca. You can also join the discussion online and share where YOU stand on the importance of communication health by using the #CommunicationHealth hashtag and following [@SAC OAC](https://twitter.com/SAC_OAC) on Twitter.