Speech-Language and Audiology Canada

2023 ONTARIO ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

1) Pursue expanded scope of practice.

The 2015 Scope of Practice submissions will be validated and updated via member working groups for each profession so that SAC-OSLA can advocate to the government for expanded scope of practice for both professions.

Outcomes

- Creation of Scope of Practice working groups, comprised of Ontario members, and led by the SAC-OSLA team. The SAC Clinical Directors will play a supporting role in this work by participating in the working group (as appropriate) along with members.
- Development of issue-specific plans with rigorous adherence to the Ontario standardized advocacy process for S-LPs and Audiologists.
- Scope of practice submission documents updated for both professions.
- Submission to Ontario Government Pre-Budget consultation in Winter 2023 that supports expanded scope of practice for S-LPs and Audiologists.
- Delivery of advocacy proposals to key decision-makers.
- Evidence that enables decision-makers to better understand how expanding the scope of practice for S-LPs and Audiologists can help improve healthcare service delivery and patient experience.
- A plan that outlines membership engagement in advocacy efforts to expand scope of practice for both professions.
2) Promote the role/scope of practice of S-LPs and Audiologists to other professions.

In concert with the SAC Clinical Directors, the SAC OSLA team will support the development and implementation of grassroots advocacy tools that members can use to promote the role and scope of practice of their professions. The audience of these advocacy tools will include workplace leadership, related health care professionals, and other relevant decision-makers.

Outcomes

- Presentations completed to other professionals who influence, or are influenced by, S-LPs and Audiologists.
- Presentations on smaller, more specific issues, such as an ‘ABI to Social Workers’ presentation, developed as a subset of the advocacy objective.
- Resources and support provided for members to engage in grassroots advocacy.
- Engagement with the Early Childhood Educator/early learning community to support the implementation of Federal Daycare deals.

3) Pursue increased public funding for existing services.

From the Assistive Devices Program (ADP), Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB), Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), Home and Community Care (H&CC), Long-Term Care (LTC), Pre-School Speech and Language Program (PSL) to hospital and school-based services, the SAC OSLA team will develop unique plans for each funding stream, using the standardized Ontario advocacy process, to pursue increased public funding for existing services.

Outcomes

- Completion of issues analysis and action plans for ADP, WSIB, LTC, PSL, School Services, and others.
- Compilation of evidence that supports increased funding for Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists.
- Delivery of advocacy proposals to decision makers within each defined Ministry.
- Submission to Ontario Government Pre-Budget consultation in Winter 2023 that supports increased funding for select services.
- Completion of updated ‘Recommended Fee Guides’ for both professions.
- Support for Federal ‘Aging in Place’ strategy.
4) Address Health Human Resources Issues (HHR).

Health Human Resources is an active issue at both the Federal and Provincial levels. The SAC-OSLA team, and the SAC Federal Advocacy Manager, will each have responsibility for the HHR work being done at their level and will regularly share information to find synergy and opportunities to amplify our voices.

Outcomes

• A report to the Ontario government that includes relevant data on the professions of S-LP and Audiology.
• Identification of missing data to guide research efforts and advocacy messages.
• Submission to Ontario Government Pre-Budget consultation in Winter 2023 that supports increased funding for S-LP and Audiology HHR needs.
• Collaboration between provincial and national advocacy workers to identify opportunities to amplify our positions.