



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

**Broadcast from the Conference Room, CASLPM Office
Unit – 1, 333 Vaughan Street, Winnipeg MB**

**Wednesday 23rd MAY 2018
4:30 to 5:30 p.m.**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Shelley Irvine Day, President

Good Afternoon,

I'm honoured to be speaking with you today as the President, of the College of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists and thank you for joining us for our 5th Annual Meeting as a College.

The role of the College is to protect and serve the public by regulating and ensuring competent, safe, ethical practice of audiologists and speech-language pathologists in Manitoba.

The theme of my message as the College President is "Involvement". Every regulated Audiologist and Speech-Language Pathologist has the opportunity to participate in our College to shape and form the standards and codes of ethics through consultation processes or by volunteering for council or committees and have input into policy development.

We are fortunate to be a self-regulating body that includes the involvement of its professionals and public representatives. However, our College has struggled over the last few years to find volunteers from our professions. For those of you who don't know me, I am a speech-language pathologist and this profession is dear to my heart despite being out of direct practice for several years. It has been an honour and great pleasure to be more involved again over this last year and a half first on Council and as of December as the President, particularly at this pivotal time in our profession's journey.

Many of you, like me will remember MSHA. MSHA's role was dual, professional advocacy as well as licensure. MSHA was able to host education events and promote our profession's role. These are some of the functions that many of us miss having as part of our provincial body. However, as we all know in 2014, our profession's transitioned to a regulatory College under the Regulated Health Professions Act. This has forever changed the landscape for practicing as an Audiologist and Speech-Language Pathologist in Manitoba. And in fact, over time, the processes that lead to regulation will become even more standardized nationally. While we lost the advocacy aspect that MSHA used to provide, we have gained a great deal in terms processes for protecting and serving the public that needs our services and recognition of our scopes of practice. And this in turn, advances our professions to higher standards nationally and indeed internationally.

Regulation is the government's method of protecting the public. Not all professional groups are self-regulated, but we are, and this is a privilege that can be taken from us if not nurtured and held vigilant. As a fellow professional, I urge you to recognize the privilege we have to be self-regulated, which allows us as professionals to contribute to our own regulation. If you have not already done so, please consider becoming

involved in our College. It disheartens me to know that since the advent of our College there has only been one true election for Council.

Being involved can be as little or big as you would like it. It can be asking questions, volunteering for committees or letting your name stand for an elected position on Council. But most of all, we should all be an advocate for our College. It is indeed a privilege for our professions to be trusted by the government to be self-regulated. Foundational to continued self-regulation is that the government and the public trust that the College will hold the public interest as the College's top priority. This depends on the establishment of professional values and Standards of Practice and enforcing their adherence. Who better to be involved in this than public representatives working alongside audiologists and speech-language pathologists?

Our College is still relatively new. There is still much work to be done. Our Council needs active and engaged participants who are committed to furthering the work of the College as efficiently and effectively as possible. The College is non-profit, funded primarily through our profession's licensing fees. The Council engages a registrar who runs the office. Revenue from licensure fees contribute to hiring the staff and paying for the resources required to fulfil the three primary regulatory functions of the College:

1. Regulation of professionals
2. Continuing Competency program
3. Receiving and managing complaints

In all decisions, the College is accountable first to the public and the Council is ultimately responsible for the effective operation of CASLPM.

Across Canada, our two professions are at various stages of establishing a College for self-regulation. This was never more apparent to me than when earlier this spring, as the President I had the distinct honour of attending my first board meeting with our Registrar, Lori McKietiuik of the Canadian Alliance of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Regulators (CAASPR).

The mandate of CAASPR is to address common regulator issues on a national level to advance the practice of our professions in Canada. CAASPR's Mission is to work together to protect the public by setting standards and procedures for regulation. CAASPR members work to establish an efficient, harmonized national framework of professional regulation. The work of CAASPR is possible because of national government funding through a Contribution Agreement with the Government of Canada as part of their Foreign Credential Recognition Program.

At the Board meeting this spring, the essential competency and sub-competency profiles of our professions were approved. These will form the blue print for the new Entry to Practice Examination that, as was recently announced, will be developed and provided by Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Canada (SAC) and is anticipated to begin in the fall of 2020.

In 2020, our professions, will join the ranks of other professions, and new registrants will require successful completion of a national entry-to practice examination as a necessary, non-exemptible condition of licensure.

This is a significant milestone for our professions and the new national entry to practice examination will also ultimately change the processes of our provincial office in registration to practice and the competency profiles recently approved are also an important first step to adding components to the continuing competency program for all registrants of the College.

At the beginning of this year, Council was fortunate to hold a strategic planning session to identify key areas for improvement for our College. One of the most significant areas for improvement identified is the need to improve registrant information and understanding of regulation and the activity of the College in order to facilitate compliance to meet the Registered Health Professions Act obligations.

Therefore, our commitment to you as your Council this year, is to develop new methods to improve the communication, information and resources required by our professionals to facilitate compliance and

understanding of the regulations and practice directions and hopefully to also spark your interest and awareness of how to be involved. Council knows that our professionals take great pride in their careers and the value that they bring to their clients and patient's lives; therefore, the College's activities should be symbiotic with the important work that audiologists and speech-language pathologists do every day and with strong professional involvement this can happen.

In closing, my challenge to you today, is to become involved. As you can see, there is still much work and change coming for CASLPM and it is only possible to achieve with an active an engaged Council and contributing professional volunteerism on Committees. Volunteers receive stipends for participation on both committees and Council, but I assure you, the professional pride and rewards of participation are far greater as you will have an opportunity to directly contribute to protecting the public who receive our services by shaping and forming the standards and processes that form the regulation of the professions. Council involvement is also key to ensuring that the limited financial resources are aligned with the College priorities and administered in as effective and efficient manner as possible in doing so.

I would like to thank Council, committees and the office staff for their support and for all of the hard work that has occurred to date.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shelley Irvine Day