

Welcome

It is a great privilege to welcome you to this year's AGM and I thank you for taking the time to attend.

This year celebrates CASLPM's 10th anniversary. The College has certainly come a long way over the past 10 years. This is also Speech and Hearing Month, and I feel it appropriate to thank you for all you do for your patients, clients, students, their families and our professions.

While we are not mandated in advocacy, the College is always reviewing what it means to protect and serve the public, which is front and center in every decision that is made.

Council has been busy over the past year, working on bylaw and policy reviews and updates along with committee work. We are beginning the work to follow up on the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action* in the upcoming year. As a first step towards our commitment to reconciliation, we will begin our work on developing a land acknowledgement to be used broadly by the college, council, and committees. We wish to retain and consult with Indigenous groups to ensure we are not being performative, but making a meaningful, impactful acknowledgment statement. CASLPM staff and a few council members will begin Indigenous cultural safety training called, San'yas in June. Council is also beginning to have strategic focus discussions to help guide our work over the next year. Stay tuned for updates.

CASLPM Council & Staff Acknowledgements

I'd like to acknowledge CASLPM council. This group is comprised of Speech Language Pathologists, Audiologists, and public representatives. The audiologists serving on council are Bonnie Johnston and Colita MacTavish. Together with me, the speech-language pathologists are Kelly Tye Vallis, the current Vice-Chair of council, Karen Butler, and Heather Shpak. Our public representatives are Shauna Hewitt and Margaret Klassen, who also serves as on the Executive Committee.

They are an amazing group of dedicated professionals who are committed to their roles on council. Each council member not only is an integral part of council, but they serve on committees, either as chair or members. I'd like to thank you to each of them who so generously has helped me "get up to speed" and supportive as I took over the position of council chair.

I would also like to acknowledge one of our public representatives, Roland Street, who will be completing his term in June of this year. Roland has been on council since 2014. He served as President of CASLPM from 2014-2017. He has been an invaluable member of council and his insight, history and contributions to CASLPM will be greatly missed. Thank you, Roland.

Also, thank you to Heather Shpak, who completed her role as chair in November 2023. She saw CASLPM through some major transitions, including the hiring of our registrar, Colleen Braun, and a move from Vaughan Street to Scurfield Blvd. to name only a few. We are thankful that Heather continues on council and committees. Thank you, Heather, for your time and expertise.

I'd like to acknowledge the work and dedication of the Team at the CASLPM office. Colleen Braun, our Registrar and Executive Director, who has brought years of expertise to CASLPM and in 2 ½ short years has made a tremendous impact. Thank you to Suki Kaur Alix, our Deputy Registrar and Marianne Crewson, CASLPM Office Manager. Thank you for all your work!

Summary

CASLPM saw the loss of long-time founding member, Virginia Martin in December 2023. Gini was active in MSHA creating a history of our professions as well as creating our archives. She was a pioneer in our field and her loss will be felt within our professions and across the county.

As a reminder, council meeting highlights are posted on our website soon after each meeting, along with a report from the registrar on ongoing items that are important to registrants. Please take some time to keep updated on council activity.

Again, thank you for attending and thank you for all you do for your patients, clients, students, their families and our professions.