

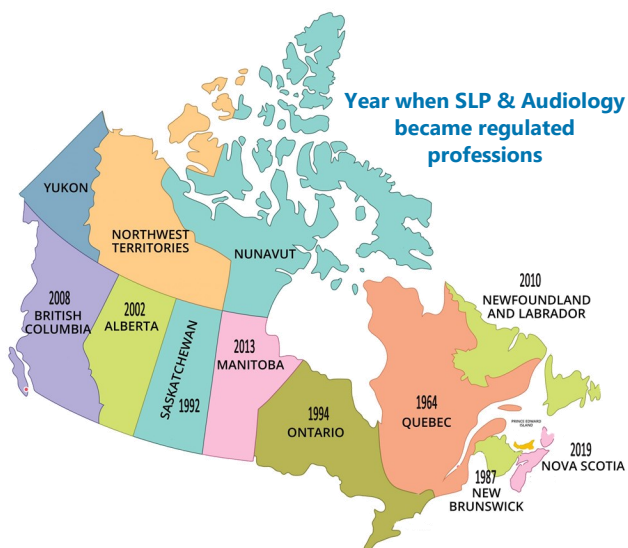


# From the Desk of the Registrar

June 2022

Dear ACSLPA members,

2022 certainly seems to be flying by and I can't believe we are almost into summer holiday season – those two glorious months in Alberta where we are relatively assured of nice weather and some vacation time. July is also a bit of a special month for the College this year because July 1 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ACSLPA and of regulated health profession status for audiology and SLP in Alberta.



In terms of regulated professions, SLP and audiology are still relative newcomers to the scene, with ACSLPA being only the 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian regulatory college in these professions. In terms of size, ACSLPA is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest SLP and audiology regulator in Canada, after Ontario, Quebec, and BC (respectively).

As you can see in the tables, times have really changed in the last 20 years for ACSLPA and we have really grown! One of the reasons the College has grown so much as an organization is because government and the public expect so much more of regulatory bodies than they did in the past. In 2002 many of our activities were undertaken

2002	2022
Regulated Members 945	Regulated Members 1,800
Registration Fees \$525	Registration Fees \$650
Total Expenditures \$335,873	Total Expenditures \$1,350,000
Number of Staff 3 (part-time)	Number of staff 9 (working 7.5 FTE)

FTE = full-time equivalent

by regulated members who volunteered their time and effort to the College. In 2022, rules around privacy, security, accountability, and the increasing complexities of regulation make it more and more necessary to have dedicated staff with specialized knowledge. For example, in 2002 ACSLPA probably wasn't much of a target for international hackers and scammers but today we are a preferred target (because small not for profits are often more vulnerable than big organizations) so we have to spend more and more resources each year on data and privacy security. As another example, in 2002 staff would not have had to answer a 30+ page survey from government asking to demonstrate how the College complies with the *Fair Registration Practices Act* (which did not exist until 2019).

Although we have become more bureaucratic with age, at our core the College is still focused on setting relevant and meaningful standards for the professions that keep the public safe and enhance the public's confidence and respect for SLPs and audiologists. To that end, we've just wrapped up the first phases of some big projects and are transitioning into the implementation phases. A few of these are:

- **Interprovincial practice Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):** ACSLPA has entered into an MOU with Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, and New Brunswick to make short-term practice (either in person or virtual) easier and less costly. That project is rolling out in July across the participating provinces and we hope other provinces will join with us soon.
- **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) revisions to the Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics:** The College has just wrapped up a 1 year project to review the Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics to ensure they enable and support anti-racist and anti-discriminatory service provision and do not perpetuate systemic discrimination or racism. That project involved ACSLPA members with scholarship and lived experience in this field as well as third party partner organizations who supported the work with specific insights from Indigenous and other perspectives. The updated Standards and Code will have a soft launch this summer with more information, training, and support for members in the fall.

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- Continuing Competence Program (CCP) updates: Work on the CCP started in 2019 with the goal of making our CCP requirements more effective at supporting competence while making participation in the program simpler and more streamlined for regulated members. In the old program, a lot of time and effort was spent “polishing already shiny apples” with relatively little directed towards the practitioners who likely needed support for their competence the most. The new program flips that right around and we hope you will really like what you see at renewal this fall. Staff and members of the Competence Committee have done a lot of research into best CCP practices in Alberta, across Canada, and around the world, and I am confident you would be hard pressed to find a more effective and efficient program than ACSLPA’s.

Through the summer months, ACSLPA staff will be very busy working to implement these projects and others, as well as working with ACSLPA Council to develop a 2023 – 2025 strategic plan that continues to move the College and SLP and audiology practice forward. The main themes of the strategic plan include governance (making sure Council is able to give direction and assure accountability efficiently and effectively), communication (ensuring the College is accessible and that our messages are available to those who need them, when they need them), and regulation (making sure we’re putting effort in the right places to keep the public safe without intruding unnecessarily in your practice). Other themes that will be woven through the plan include equity, diversity and inclusion, virtual care and interprovincial practice, workforce challenges that affect safe and available care, and our relationship with government.

On a final note before I close “From the Desk of the Registrar” for the summer, there is an election for Council vacancies that’s been kicked off with a call for nominations. Council sets the direction for the College and holds me and the rest of Staff accountable for the work we do. If you like the work the College does and would like to play a role in it, please consider running for Council. Alternatively, if you don’t particularly like the work the College does, please consider running for Council so that your voice can be heard when decisions are being made.

Have a great summer everyone!



Michael Neth,  
Registrar & CEO