



SAC Scholarship Program 2021-2022

Impact Report



Speech-Language &
Audiology Canada
[Communicating care](https://www.sac.ca)



THANK YOU

Speech-Language & Audiology Canada's Scholarship Program has been a significant part of the association since the first scholarship was awarded in 2006. Now more than ever – amid the pandemic and financial hardships many are facing - scholarships have the power to transform lives.

Scholarships provide students with financial reprieve, but its impact is more profound. The impact of scholarships are more profound than simply providing student with financial support. The recognition of their hard work elevates their spirit, bolsters their confidence, and inspires them to give back to the community through their future endeavors.

The stories in this report offer a small glimpse into the lives of the many students who have received support this year from **KIDSPEECH™**.

Here's what some of the past scholarship recipients are up to today ...



Andrea Tkalec, M.Sc.S., SLP (C)

2014 KIDSPEECH Scholarship

Andrea graduated from the University of Ottawa in 2015 and became SAC Certified in November 2015. She now resides in Montreal and works at Le Centre de réadaptation MAB-Mackay.

Vanessa Blouin, SLP

2015 KIDSPEECH Scholarship

Vanessa graduated from Laurentian University in 2016 and now works for Conseil Scholaire Catholique Franco-Nord.

Brianna Guild, M.H.Sc., SLP

2018 KIDSPEECH Scholarship

Before graduating from the University of Toronto, Brianna and a group of SLP students were shortlisted for funding from the Ontario Budget Talks competition. She now lives in the Toronto-area and works for Speech Pathways.

Alyssa Wagner, MCISc., SLP (C)

2016 KIDSPEECH Scholarship

Alyssa is a graduate of Fontbonne University. She resides in Saskatchewan and works for Regina Public Schools.

Joanna Wiles, M.Sc.A, SLP (C)

2019 KIDSPEECH Scholarship

Joanna graduated from McGill University in 2020 and now works for West Island Speech Therapy.

The SAC Scholarship Program awarded 27 scholarships to students in 2021-2022.

More than \$384,000 in scholarships have been awarded since the launch of the SAC Scholarship program in 2006.





Ala Refai

University of Toronto
KIDSPEECH™ Leadership
Scholarship

I am extremely honoured to have received the KIDSPEECH Leadership Scholarship from your wonderful organization. Completing a masters in Speech-Language Pathology during the pandemic has been an incredible challenge and I know many of us have felt discouraged and burnt out. However, it is because of generous supporters like you that help students like me feel a spark again for this field. What keeps many of us going is knowing that there are kind and passionate folks out there who want those of us just starting out in the field to succeed and be supported.

One of the things that drew me into the SLP field was feeling that it is in its infancy and there are many ways our field can develop for the better. This scholarship has helped me feel supported in how I envision and hope for the field to change. It has been both heartwarming and inspiring to receive this scholarship knowing that there are others out there who are also passionate about fostering a diverse and uplifting environment for people of colour and those from bilingual backgrounds. Nothing is more encouraging to a student who has been studying for the past two years at home than knowing there is a welcoming, big-hearted, and caring SLP community.

This scholarship has not only helped me equip myself with the tools I will need as a new, culturally, and linguistically SLP, but has also made me feel safer about entering the field when I graduate. As students, it is very common for us to have feelings of imposter syndrome and I am sure the feeling persists in the first few years of practice. Being able to receive recognitions such as this has helped me build my confidence and validate the dedication I have to this field. I whole-heartedly thank you for providing me with this sense of welcoming, passion, and motivation, as well as equipping me with the tools I need to help others. It is something I wish on for all students at some point, but I know I am privileged to be in this position. I will remember this as I become an experienced clinician and will try to give back to those starting out just as you have for me.

Thank you very, very much.

Sincerely,



Cortnee Adacsi
Fontbonne University
KIDSPEECH™ Travelling
Fellowship

“Receiving the KIDSPEECH Travelling Fellowship is helping me, as a speech-language pathologist, access additional graduate level education to further develop my knowledge and skills to support successful language access from an early age in Deaf and hard of hearing children along with their families.”

Cortnee Adacsi is an interactive speech-language pathologist and lifelong learner who is on an education leave to obtain her Master of Arts in Early Intervention in Deaf Education degree from Fontbonne University in St. Louis, Missouri.

This scholarship will help Cortnee to continue to develop her knowledge and skills to support successful language access from an early age in Deaf and hard of hearing children. She will continually embed the client-/centered coaching principals and best practices from deaf education and speech-language pathology into her work as a clinician in Alberta as well as strive to build capacity within the field.

Angela MacDonald-Prégent is a PhD student at the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at McGill University. Her dissertation examines the efficacy of a novel augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) intervention for nonspeaking children on the Autism Spectrum.

Originally from Prince Edward Island, after receiving her master’s degree in Speech-Language Pathology from Dalhousie University in 2011, she began her professional career working with Autistic preschoolers in the Nova Scotia Early Intensive Behavioural Program. Since then, she has occupied several positions in both the public and private sector working with people on the Autism Spectrum and individuals with developmental disabilities.

“As a speech-language pathologist who returned to school to pursue a doctoral degree in my 30s, I have faced setbacks that have caused me to doubt myself at times. However, every so often, I get a reminder that yes, I am on the right path. My latest reminder was being chosen for this scholarship – thank you.”



Angela MacDonald
McGill University
KIDSPEECH™ Doctoral
Scholarship