



# Annual General Report 2015 - 2016

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## 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - AGENDA

Monday, September 19 at 3:30 p.m.

Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre, Grand Ballroom CD, Vancouver, BC

1. Call to order	Bill Hodgetts
• Registration	
• Notice of Meeting	
• Scrutineer's Report	
• Quorum	
2. Approval of the minutes of the 2015 AGM	Bill Hodgetts
3. Financial statements & report presented	Jodi Habersstock
• Audited financial statement	
• Appointment of the auditor	
4. Report on the Board 2015-16 Activities	Jean Holden
5. Approval of the Annual Reports	Marlene Bagatto
6. Election of Directors & Report of the Nominating Committee	Marlene Bagatto
7. Recognition of Outgoing Board Members	Bill Hodgetts
8. Resolution to appoint Salima Jiwani as president for 2017-18	Bill Hodgetts
9. Awards Presentation	Bill Hodgetts
• Student Awards	Steve Aiken
• CAA University Challenge Cup	Steve Aiken
• Richard Seewald Career Award	Steve Aiken
• Honours of the Academy	Steve Aiken
• Jean Kienapple Award for Clinical Excellence	Steve Aiken
• Paul Kuttner Pioneer Award	Steve Aiken
• President's Award	Bill Hodgetts
10. Other Business	Bill Hodgetts
14. Call to Adjourn meeting	Bill Hodgetts

## 2015 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

October 22, 2015

Sheraton on the fall, Niagara Falls, ON

### 1. Call to Order

#### a. Welcome

The Chair welcomed the members to the 18th annual general meeting of members of Canadian Academy of Audiology (“CAA”). Gurjit Singh, the President of CAA, acted as Chair of this meeting. In accordance with the General By-laws of CAA, and appointed Tracy Cook to act as the recording Secretary.

#### Motion 1:

**“RESOLVED that the agenda be approved.”**

#### Moved:

**Bill Hodgetts**

#### Seconded:

**Joy Gauvreau**

**There was no discussion on the motion. Carried unanimously.**

#### b. Registration

Every member has registered with the Secretary.

#### c. Notice of Meeting

The notice calling this meeting of members was emailed to all the members of record on September 17, 2015.

#### d. Scrutineer’s Report

91 members were present and 1 member represented by proxy making a total of 92 voting members.

#### e. Quorum

Notice having been served in accordance with by-laws, and a quorum being present, the meeting was declared duly constituted for the transaction of business

### 2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The copies of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Canadian Academy of Audiology held on October 16, 2014 were made available to each member in the Annual General Report. No member requested a reading of these minutes.

#### Motion 2:

**“RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting of members held on October 26, 2014 be taken as circulated.”**

#### Moved:

**Carri Johnson**

#### Seconded:

**Steve Aiken**

**There was no discussion on the motion. Carried unanimously.**

<p>3. Annual Financial Report</p> <p>a. Audited Financial Statement</p>	<p>The first item of business was the financial statements of CAA for the year ended May 31, 2015 (including the balance sheet and accompanying statements, together with the auditors' report thereon) contained in the Annual General Report distributed to the members.</p>
	<p>Joy Gauvreau, Treasurer, presented the financial statements and report.</p>
<p><b>Motion 3:</b></p>	<p><b>"RESOLVED that the audited financial statements for the year ended May 31, 2015 be approved."</b></p>
<p><b>Moved:</b> <b>Seconded:</b></p>	<p><b>Joy Gauvreau</b> <b>MJ DeSousa</b></p>
	<p><b>There was no discussion on the motion. Carried unanimously.</b></p>
<p>b. Appointment of the Auditors</p>	
<p><b>Motion 4:</b></p>	<p><b>"RESOLVED that Dixon Gordon, be appointed as the auditors of CAA to hold office until the next annual meeting or until their successors are duly appointed, and the board of directors be authorized to fix the auditors' remuneration."</b></p>
<p><b>Moved:</b> <b>Seconded:</b></p>	<p><b>Gurjit Singh</b> <b>Bonnie Cooke</b></p>
	<p><b>There was no discussion on the motion. Carried unanimously.</b></p>
<p>c. Report on the Board 2014-15 Activities</p>	<p>Jean Holden, Executive Director, gave a brief report on the Board's activities for 2014-15.</p>
<p>4. Annual General Report</p>	<p>The Annual General Report also contained all the committee reports, the Executive Director's report, and the President's report.</p>
<p><b>Motion 5:</b></p>	<p><b>"RESOLVED that the Annual General Report be approved as circulated."</b></p>
<p><b>Moved:</b> <b>Seconded:</b></p>	<p><b>Carrie Johnson</b> <b>Steve Aiken</b></p>
	<p><b>There was no discussion on the motion. Carried unanimously.</b></p>

5. Election of Directors
- a. Nominations
- Two positions were open on the board. In accordance with the By-laws a call for nominations was sent to all CAA members by email on August 14, 2015. At close of nominations on September 11, 2015 there was 1 qualified nominee for the openings. In addition, Maxine Armstrong and MJ DeSousa resigned their positions as Directors during this year. In accordance with the CAA bylaws the Board of Directors nominated Marlene Bagatto and Jodi Haberstock to fill the vacancies for the rest of the term.
- b. Slate of Directors
- The Board of Directors have confirmed the following Slate of Directors:
- i. **For the first year of their first term:**
1. Marlene Bagatto
  2. Jodi Haberstock
  3. Janine Verge
- ii. **Returning for the 1st year of their second term:**
1. Salima Jiwani
  2. Gurjit Singh
- The balance of the Board is made up of returning directors.**
- iii. **Returning for the 2nd year of their first term:**
1. Barb Bentley
  2. Bonnie Cooke
- iv. **Returning for the 3rd year of their first term:**
1. Bill Hodgetts
  2. Angela Weaver
- v. **Returning for the 2nd year of her second term:**
1. Joy Gauvreau
- vi. **Returning for the 3rd year of their second term:**
1. Steve Aiken
  2. Glynnis Tidball
- c. **Officers – The Board of Directors have appointed the following officers:**
1. President – Bill Hodgetts
  2. Treasurer – Jodi Haberstock
  3. Secretary – Salima Jiwani
  4. Past-President – Gurjit Singh

<b>Motion 6:</b>	<b>RESOLVED that the proposed Slate, be confirmed to hold office until the next annual meeting or until their successors are duly appointed.</b>
<b>Moved:</b>	<b>Steve Aiken</b>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Barb Bentley</b>
	<b>There was no discussion on the motion. Carried unanimously.</b>
6. Resolution to appoint Marlene Bagatto as President 2016-17	Appointment of the CAA President for 2016-17
<b>Motion 7:</b>	<b>RESOLVED that Marlene Bagatto, be appointed as the President of CAA to hold office until the next annual meeting or until her successor is duly appointed.</b>
<b>Moved:</b>	<b>Steve Aiken</b>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Barb Bentley</b>
	<b>There was no discussion on the motion. Carried unanimously.</b>
	<b>Marlene Bagatto</b> was appointed President of CAA in 2016-17. Marlene Bagatto addressed the Membership.
Recognition of Outgoing Board Members (Victoria Lee and Susan Nelson-Oxford) – Gurjit Singh	Victoria Lee and Susan Nelson-Oxford
7. Award Presentations:	
a) Student Awards	<p>Steve Aiken was called upon to recognize the winners of the Student Awards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stephen Jones – Western University</li> <li>• Catherine Giasson – Université de Montréal – not in attendance</li> <li>• Curtis Wetmore – Dalhousie –</li> <li>• Jordan Thompson – U of Ottawa – not in attendance</li> <li>• Terrance Sokalofky – UBC</li> </ul> <p>CAA University Challenge Cup - Western University</p>
b) Paul Kuttner Pioneer Award	Steve Aiken presented the Paul Kuttner Pioneer Award to Carolyne Edwards

c) William Cole Award	Steve Aiken presented William Cole Industry Award –William Cole.
d) President’s Award	Susan Nelson-Oxford presented the President’s Award to Salima Jiwani
8. Address to Membership	Introduction of Kathy Pichora-Fuller for WCA 2016
9. Call for Other Business	No further business was discussed.
10. Conclusion:	There was no further business; the chair entertained a motion to conclude.
<b>Motion 8:</b>	<b>RESOLVED that the 2015 Annual General Meeting is concluded at 2:20 pm.</b>
<b>Moved:</b>	<b>Bonnie Cooke</b>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Jodi Haberstoch</b>
	<b>There was no discussion on the motion. Carried Unanimously.</b>



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*Dr. Bill Hodgetts*

Over the past several years, our Executive Director and members of the finance committee have managed to strengthen our financial position. This has been achieved by diversifying revenue opportunities and judicious expense management. While the contribution to CAA operating funds will be less this year because we are sharing in hosting the World Congress of Audiology our years of careful financial stewardship will leave us in a strong position moving forward.

This past year and for the next several years we have set our sights on some longer term initiatives. Many of these ideas are in the reports submitted by the various committees and I would like to comment on a few. For some time, we have been discussing how to offer increased educational opportunities throughout the year. Our annual conference is consistently wonderful with respect to the speakers we invite and the topics they cover. We are working on strategies that will allow for some of that excellent education to be available in other months as well.

We have been quite active in forming, supporting and managing special interest groups and coalitions. We have groups focusing on infant hearing, tinnitus, vestibular issues and adult hearing, all of which have been active throughout the year in raising awareness for the public and for the professionals working in these areas.

We have been strengthening relationships with family physicians and Otolaryngologists as we work to ensure that the patient pathways and access to hearing help are most efficient and beneficial to the patients who need it.

We continue to work on our PR and awareness strategies together with our science and education strategies to raise the profile of Audiology in Canada and the world. These committees have been extremely active all year and have some exciting projects rolling out in the near future.

Our online journal "Canadian Audiologist" continues to be a fantastic resource for clinicians, researchers and the public. Many thanks to our dedicated editors, the editorial board and the contributors and sponsors for making this journal a continued success.

I am always amazed at how enthusiastic and dedicated the administration, volunteers and students are in this profession. I want to thank every member who provides us with feedback and guidance, every executive, board and committee member for taking time from their jobs, friends and family to devote extra efforts to CAA. It has been an absolute privilege to be able to represent this organization over the past year and I am grateful to have been granted the opportunity.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

*Jean Holden, MSc, MBA – Executive Director*

CAA has had an active year working together with Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC) and the International Society of Audiology (ISA) to produce an outstanding education, networking and industry program for the World Congress of Audiology 2016 which has attracted over 1000 attendees from 50 countries. We acknowledge the outstanding work done by our conference co-chairs Dr. Kathy Pichora-Fuller and Dr. Marshall Chasin who oversaw the science, education and industry sponsorship programs. Hundreds of volunteers have worked hard to ensure that the experience both on and off-site will be memorable for all.

Next year we return to our annual CAA conference at the Ottawa Delta City Centre October 11 to 14, 2017. For the first time this year we are planning other education opportunities, conversations and publications that will be exciting additions to our website and our online education presence.

Our online journal Canadian Audiologist is nearing its third year of publication and continues to increase readership of features and regular articles on science, technology, clinical practice, economics and consumer issues. Our website has continued to grow and inform members and the public. During May month this year we ran a campaign of articles in MacLean's Magazine reaching 2.5 million readers across Canada with messages to promote regular hearing tests, preservation of hearing and knowledge about hearing technology. Our editor in chief, Marshall Chasin was interviewed with Jann Arden on cross country Breakfast television programs. Clayton Fisher's 'Living with hearing loss' video was shared through social media and our website. Our student contributions to building awareness of audiology and hearing health were shared widely. Salima Jiwani, Philippe Fournier and other members of the Science and Education team have ensured our presence in social media includes the latest news, science and clinical findings and events around the world.

We increased our membership and also strengthened revenues from our job board and online ads. Careful management of expenses has allowed us to build our reserve to manage anticipated expenses for the World Congress.

We have continued to work together with SAC and our Federal Health Partners to enhance the processing and guidelines related to third party funding. We work with the Canadian Council of University Programs to find ways to support education for students of Audiology programs. We will continue our program next year to provide 30 students with free registration opportunities. Next year we will return to raising funds for our student bursary and our clinical science grant.

The reports of the 4 special interest groups/task forces and coalitions are rich with accomplishments. These groups have memberships shared with SAC and other topic related professionals and scientists. (See details in reports below)

1. The National Vestibular Group (CAA and SAC) is pending publication of "Vestibular Assessment and Management for Canadian Audiologists: A Scoping Review." The purpose of this scoping review is to create a framework for audiologists who perform vestibular diagnostic assessment and management in Canada.
2. The Tinnitus Special Interest Group is working on a website to serve as a resource for audiologists and the public.
3. The Canadian Infant Hearing Task Force (CIHTF) issued a press release on January 18th calling on the Federal, Provincial and Territorial Health Ministers to prioritize early hearing detection and intervention (EHDI) programs across Canada. The press release coincided with the release of the CIHTF's position statement and a national progress report (an update to the 2014 report card). The progress report was developed in consultation with the provinces and territories and was additionally endorsed by the Canadian Society for Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery. The media campaign resulted in interviews with CIHTF spokespeople on television, radio, and in print, in Vancouver, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Ottawa, London, Moncton and Iqaluit—reaching an estimated 3 million Canadians. CIHTF representatives Bill Campbell and Chantal Kealey, along with Joanne Charlebois from SAC, met with Federal Health Policy Director Caroline Pitfield and Policy Advisor Dr. Jesse Kancir. They also met briefly with Federal Health Minister Jane Philpott.

4. The Canadian Coalition for Adult Hearing Health is concerned that many adults who could benefit from hearing healthcare are not pursuing or receiving services. That topic is huge and the group has made steps towards narrowing the focus to set priorities for action.

I encourage you to read the full reports on the activities of the committees and interest groups to gain more insight into how much a team of volunteers can accomplish to provide education, advocacy, research and support for Audiologists in Canada. This organization would not be successful without the contributions of a long list of volunteer committee members and our hard working board of directors. I am thankful for contributions by Tracy Cook, our Administrative Manager, and the creative dedication of Erika Henry our Production Coordinator. We acknowledge the continued support and services from Plank Design, our technology service provider, and Dixon Gordon & Co. LLB our accounting firm.

## STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

### CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

*Jean Holden, MSc, MBA – Executive Director*

The World Congress of Audiology 2016, September 18-21 Vancouver British Columbia, replaces the annual CAA conference this year. The congress is the bi-annual meeting of the International Society of Audiology (ISA) and is co-hosted by the Canadian Academy of Audiology (CAA) and Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC). The congress has been in planning for more than 4 years with Dr. Kathy Pichora-Fuller and Dr. Marshall Chasin as conference co-chairs, Joanne Charlebois (SAC) and Jean Holden leading the Executive Business Management and Dr. Steve Aiken (SAC) and Dr. Chantal Kealey (SAC) participating in the management committee.

The program includes stimulating presentations in the opening ceremony from a leading research chair and a consumer. There are three plenary Round Tables, a special Aram Glorig prize winning lecture and lecture by a representative of WHO. There are 28 invited feature education sessions, over 200 contributed talks and posters. We are pleased to have a sold out exhibition hall and many other education sessions offered by sponsors and industry leaders where there are many opportunities to learn about leading technologies and services. The congress will be preceded by 6 pre-conference workshops. Over 150 speakers are providing knowledge and stimulation for discussion over the 4 days of the congress. Their efforts will ensure that this is one of the richest opportunities for learning and ideas exchange we have seen in Canada in the field of Audiology.

Well over 1000 registrants from 50 countries will share networking, exchange knowledge and enjoy a variety of receptions, a gala and other social opportunities. We are grateful for the hundreds of volunteers who have been working diligently in the years ahead of the congress and will be providing many services at the congress site.

## EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

*Marshall Chasin, Au.D., – Editor in Chief*

Canadian Audiologist continues to grow with more and more original contributions in each issue. This last issue (issue #4, vol. 3) has five original articles, along with original columns spanning the entire range of audiology hearing health care.

We continue to have good reciprocity agreements with other trade magazines such as Hearing Review and this reciprocity agreement has been invoked several times over the past year.

Steve Aiken, the associate editor, Jean Holden, our executive director, and myself are in the process of designing a strategy to approach the manufacturers and other sponsors for a sustaining advertising program for 2017 and going forward.

We are also in the process of designing a Canadian Audiologist product catalog which can take advantage of our online status. Some of the potential advantages of such a catalog is that it can be updated on a regular basis (as opposed to being static for the year of publication), with embedded links to the advertiser's sites.

In short, there is nothing special to report. Each issue comes out on schedule (with issue #5 scheduled to go live on September 8, 2016). I am sure that you have all had an opportunity to scan, if not peruse the various issues of Canadian Audiologist. According to Goggle Analytics we are closing in on the 200,000 unique page view hits to date.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

*Jodi Habershtock – Chair*

The objective of the Finance Committee is to oversee CAA's revenues and expenditures for the 2015/2016 fiscal year. The Finance Committee is comprised of the Treasurer and the Executive Director. This year Finance Committee meetings were combined with the Executive and Board of Directors meetings, with the goal of discussing key decisions, progress reports based on accounting financials and developing an operating budget for the next fiscal year.

## NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

*Dr. Marlene Bagatto – Chair*

The role of the Nominations Committee is to identify upcoming vacancies on the Board, recruit new Board Members and explain the role to individuals willing to serve as officers. The recruitment process for new Board Members is based on a Policy and Procedure document (June 2016) that is integrated into CAA's annual plan.

The Board runs with a minimum of 5 up to a maximum 13 volunteer Directors. The beginning of the 2015/2016 year saw a membership of 12 hardworking Directors committed to advancing CAA affairs. These members remained active throughout the year. At the end of the 2015/2016 year, there will be two directors who have completed their terms on the Board. Replacements will be nominated and recommended by the Board of Directors and will be put to a vote by the members at the September 2016 AGM.

## PAST PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE

*Dr. Steve Aiken – Chair*

The Past Presidents' Committee exists to inform and support the current board and, most importantly, to recognize excellence through the administration of the Academy's honours and awards. These play a critical role in the Academy as a means of celebrating dedication, excellence, and achievements, and also of expressing our values as an organization.

Award nominations are open to all CAA members (and to the public in the case of the Jean Kienapple Award for Clinical Excellence), with calls for nominations sent out each spring. A current list of awards is available on our website [www.canadianaudiology.ca](http://www.canadianaudiology.ca) along with details about the nomination process and a list of past award recipients. Please consider submitting a nomination if you know of a deserving candidate, and congratulating our award winners for 2016.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS AND AWARENESS COMMITTEE

*Bonnie Cooke – Chair*

The Public Relations and Awareness committee is committed to promoting the benefits of membership in the CAA and to raising awareness of the role of audiologists as front line hearing healthcare professionals to both the general public and interdisciplinary healthcare providers. Our mandates are as follows:

- To increase student and professional membership,
- To promote audiologists as the front line professionals for hearing health care to consumer groups such as CHHA and to the general public, and
- To improve and promote linkages with each other (other audiologists) to help create a platform for advocacy within our profession.

We continue to have an eager and diverse team of volunteers with several projects on the go, and many great ideas/discussions around many of our long-term goals as a committee! This year marks the second round of the "CAA University Challenge" which has again encouraged high calibre submissions from Audiology programs all over Canada to help promote audiologists as front-line hearing professionals. This year's submissions will be posted on our website so please stay tuned.

This year we have focussed on helping our members to promote the field of audiology within their own communities. For May Month, we shared the "CAA University Challenge" submissions from last year (some videos, some brochures) as well as a video that one of our committee members created which outlines the impact that hearing aids can have on an individuals' life on our website. We also continue to help promote linkages with other healthcare professionals by creating presentations for our members to use to promote their audiology services to General Practitioners in their own communities.

As a committee, it is our belief that the larger and more connected our community of audiologists at CAA becomes, the more effective we can be as advocates for our profession. We are currently working towards creating a professional discussion forum to help to better connect our member community and help to better utilize the large knowledge base of our membership. Stay tuned for more in the coming year...

## SCIENCE AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

*Dr. Steve Aiken - Co-Chair*

*Salima Jiwani - Co-Chair*

The role of the Science and Education Committee (SaEC) within CAA is to:

1. Educate Canadian audiologists,
2. Foster the dissemination of Canadian audiological research, and
3. Support research in audiology.

This past year, the responsibilities of the SaEC were slightly different than in past years. In previous years, the SaEC has organized, arranged, reviewed and judged podium and poster sessions at the annual CAA conference, and has also managed the Clinical-Research Grant Competition. Given the joint conference this year with the World Congress, these responsibilities were transferred to a separate committee managed by the World Congress Executive Committee.

The SaEC mandate for this past year has therefore been to manage, update and create content for the website. The SaEC has collected Testimonials from past award recipients and published these on our website. We have also updated the list of upcoming conferences to the website, and are actively working towards updating current content on the website as well as creating new members-only content, which will serve as a benefit of membership with CAA.

The SaEC, together with the PR and Awareness committee, has also taken an active role in communicating with colleagues and the public at large via social media. The CAA Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter pages are being constantly updated with Audiology updates and news.

As in recent years, the SaEC has taken a proactive role in working with Students to promote CAA to Audiology students across the country. CAA organizes a presentation to students in the fall term of each school year to impart the value of participating in their professional association. We provide them with opportunities to get involved with CAA as volunteers, publish their work in our online journal, and encourage them to contribute to CAA's social media outlets.

## THIRD PARTY COMMITTEE

*Carri Johnson – Chair*

The third party committee was developed to provide an efficient and effective working relationship with the Federal Healthcare Provider (FHP) Program Members. The committee's goal is to improve the quality of care to our mutual clients, to guarantee access to services and to ensure fee structures are in place for our members who provide these services.

CAA meets with the FHP twice a year formally and as needed via e-mail and teleconference. The areas of concern do not vary greatly from year to year yet we have made positive progress in our communications and resolved many issues. In particular, we are working with NIHB to improve their service delivery model as well as the services they provide to their clients. We continue to communicate key issues with the members of the FHP with the hope that we will be more involved in the early stages of any decision making process and better meet the needs of all parties involved: our mutual Clients, the FHP and the Service Providers.

The Third Party Committee is looking for input from our members on their experience with all of the FHP groups (DND, NIHB, RCMP and VAC). Please continue to check out the website <http://www.canadianaudiology.ca/advocacy-and-funding/advocacy-news.html> for updates on our progress.

We would like to thank all members who take the time to provide us with information to improve the services for FHP clients.

## CAA NATIONAL VESTIBULAR SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP COMMITTEE

*Janine Verge, Aud(C) - Chair*

The CAA National Vestibular Special Interest Group committee was initially created in the fall of 2013. It has three strategic priority goals:

1. Supporting Audiologists who specialize in vestibular testing and rehabilitation,
2. Enhancing communication between members of the vestibular special interest group, and
3. Advocating on behalf of members to special interest groups.

Several measures have been conducted by this committee to support Audiologists who specialize in vestibular testing and rehabilitation. In 2014, a survey was created to investigate current vestibular practice issues in Canada. The results were published in the "Canadian Audiologist" focusing on issues related to education, certification, standards of care, and supportive personnel (<http://canadianaudiologist.ca/issue/volume-1-issue-4-2014/departement/message-from-guest-editor/>). This "all vestibular" issue was co-edited by the co-creators of the vestibular special interest group (Janine Verge and Maxine Armstrong). The Canadian Audiologist continues to have an on-going column in the Canadian Audiologist called, "Striking the Right Balance" co-edited by Janine Verge and Michael Vekasi.

Since the summer of 2014, a joint committee of Audiologists, representing both the Canadian Academy of Audiology and Speech-Language & Audiology Canada, have been working on the document "Vestibular Assessment and Management for Canadian Audiologists: A Scoping Review." The purpose of this scoping review is to create a framework for audiologists who perform vestibular diagnostic assessment and management in Canada. It outlines suggested knowledge requirements and provides direction to help guide practice. It is also meant to provide clarity to government, university training programs, provincial associations and colleges, and other health care professionals such as; Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Otolaryngologists, and Neurologists, of an audiologist's role in vestibular assessment and management. A draft is expected to go out to Audiologists across Canada for their feedback in the fall of 2016. Committee members include Ronald Choquette, Carolyn Falls, Kathy Packford, Yvette Reid, Uta Stewart, Janine Verge (chair), Michael Vekasi, and Erica Zaia.

A future initiative to further support Audiologists will be creating a vestibular website for clinicians to provide education, enhance communication with patients, and to increase consistency of care.

To enhance communication, CAA has a Facebook page called, "[CAA National Vestibular Special Interest Group](#)." All Audiologists, whether they specialize in vestibular testing or not, are encouraged to follow our Facebook page for links to free on-line webinars, articles, research, quizzes, hand-outs, teaching tools, upcoming conferences, and videos related to Vestibular Audiology. Clinicians can communicate with each other by posting questions about best practice or commenting on a post. It is a great way to provide an on-going database of resources for both students and clinicians.

Finally, the vestibular special interest group committee has been advocating for Audiologists by representing CAA and its members in a newly formed vestibular working group representing both ENTs and Audiologists formed by Dr. Blakley. The group met for the first time June, 2016 at the *Canadian Society of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery* in PEI. Action items for the next year include:



1. To determine the degree and nature of consensus that exists about vestibular testing across the country,
2. To create and collect information from a questionnaire to determine what tests are being done and which are felt to be the most useful clinically, and
3. To work on the establishing indications for testing and application of results to patients.

## **TINNITUS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP**

*Glynnis Tidball – Lead*

The Tinnitus Special Interest Group is to providing support to clinicians and the public interested in tinnitus and hyperacusis. Specific goals of the group are to;

- To promote educational opportunities for clinicians interested in enhancing their clinical competency in this area,
- Establish a network of connect clinicians specializing in tinnitus and hyperacusis, and
- Provide an online resource for members of the public seeking help to manage tinnitus and hyperacusis.

Our group is looking for interested members to contribute and help expand the scope of activities of the group.

Please contact [tinnitus@canadianaudiology.ca](mailto:tinnitus@canadianaudiology.ca).

## **CANADIAN INFANT HEARING TASK FORCE**

*Steve Aiken - Chair*

The Canadian Infant Hearing Task Force is a national group of leaders and experts in matters related to early hearing detection and intervention (EHDI), formed to promote, support and advocate for comprehensive universal EHDI programs in all Canadian provinces and territories. The group is a joint effort of Speech-Language and Audiology Canada and the Canadian Academy of Audiology.

The Canadian Infant Hearing Task Force (CIHTF) issued a press release on January 18th calling on the Federal, Provincial and Territorial Health Ministers to prioritize early hearing detection and intervention (EHDI) programs across Canada. The press release coincided with the release of the CIHTF's position statement and a national progress report (an update to the 2014 report card). The progress report was developed in consultation with the provinces and territories and was additionally endorsed by the Canadian Society for Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery.

The media campaign resulted in interviews with CIHTF spokespeople on television, radio, and in print, in Vancouver, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Ottawa, London, Moncton and Iqaluit—reaching an estimated 3 million Canadians.

Following the press release, CIHTF representatives Bill Campbell and Chantal Kealey, along with Joanne Charlebois from SAC, met with Federal Health Policy Director Caroline Pitfield and Policy Advisor Dr. Jesse Kancir. They also met briefly with Federal Health Minister Jane Philpott.

The Task Force also conducted a May month campaign to raise awareness about the importance of EHDI services across Canada. The campaign encouraged people to share their experiences with EHDI services in Canada by posting to Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.



In late 2015, the CIHTF conducted a nationwide survey of EHDI practices. The data were presented in summary form by Bill Campbell at the 2015 CAA Conference. An in-depth review of the data is currently being conducted by the Task Force.

Finally, the CIHTF launched a website this year, managed by Drs. Steve Aiken (Dalhousie) and Robert Funnell (McGill) at [www.infanthearingcanada.ca](http://www.infanthearingcanada.ca). All progress reports, report cards and position statements are available on the website.

## CANADIAN COALITION FOR ADULT HEARING HEALTH

*Reporting Member: Bill Hodgetts*

*Chair: Lorientne Jenstad*

The premise that drove individuals to start this group is: "Many adults who could benefit from hearing healthcare are not pursuing or receiving services." That topic is huge and needs to be narrowed down in order to become feasible for a small group of individuals to achieve change.

Over the past year we have made significant progress with this Coalition. We have established our mandate, terms of reference, membership, roles of the members, guidelines and schedule.

Some recent insights from the chair:

- Laya and Lorientne have just started doing interviews for the convergent study. We will have some initial data to discuss when we meet in person in Vancouver at the world congress.
  - Second, as word of the coalition gets out, we are inviting people to consider us an action group, or a knowledge implementation group. That is, we are trying to make decisions and take actions based on the research available up to this point with regards to adult hearing health. We will be continuing to discuss our identity, particularly as we really get rolling with some initiatives.
  - Third, are considering whether we should be writing a Canadian response to a couple of landmark reports out of the US recently.
- A. PCAST: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2015/10/26/%E2%80%8Bpcast-recommends-changes-promote-innovation-hearing-technologies>
- B. <http://nationalacademies.org/hmd/Reports/2016/Hearing-Health-Care-for-Adults.aspx>

Finally, we will be meeting in Vancouver in just one month.