



Speech-Language & Audiology Canada
Orthophonie et Audiologie Canada
Communicating care | La communication à cœur

Friday, September 18, 2015

Official Statement From Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC)

Re: Memorial University of Newfoundland's Failure to Accommodate Students With Hearing Loss

Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC) firmly believes that the **ability to communicate is a basic human right** and that people need to be able to communicate in order to reach their full potential in every aspect of their lives.

SAC is extremely disappointed with Dr. Ranee Panjabi from Memorial University regarding her refusal to wear a simple FM transmitter to accommodate students with hearing loss. The association is equally disappointed that Memorial University has allowed this type of discrimination to happen repeatedly over many years. ([Read the CBC news story here.](#))

While SAC acknowledges that a 1996 agreement between Dr. Panjabi and the university has allowed the professor to refuse to wear an FM device, SAC believes that such an agreement is unacceptable today.

SAC urges Memorial University to uphold its own [Policy for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities](#) and ensure that **all** of its students have equal access to education. By upholding its policy, Memorial University will also guarantee that all staff and personnel will make the required accommodations for students with hearing loss.

SAC is writing to Memorial University directly to further address this issue.

About SAC

Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC) Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC) is a member-driven organization that supports and promotes the professions of more than 6,200 members and associates. We are the only national organization passionately supporting and representing speech-language pathologists, audiologists and communication health assistants inclusively. Through this support, we champion the needs of people with communication disorders. Visit www.sac-oac.ca to learn more.

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