THE **SPEECH & STUTTERING** INSTITUTE

ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

The Speech & Stuttering Institute | 150 Duncan Mill Rd. Unit 2, Toronto, ON M3B 3M4
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Message from Paul L'Heureux, Chair of the Board and Dr. Robert Kroll, Executive Director

Welcome to our 2015-16 Annual Report

Paul L'Heureux

Over the past years, there have been many changes at The Speech and Stuttering Institute. We are thrilled to share with you through this Annual report all the exciting activities, initiatives and new challenges that we have taken on.

Our history started in 1977 as the Speech Foundation of Ontario, established to foster the development of innovative therapy programs and to support education and research in the field of communication disorders. By merging with the Speech Pathology Program at the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry in 1997, The Speech and Stuttering Institute was born, now with two distinguished programs; speech therapy and stuttering therapy, and a reputation for excellent service and leading expertise.

We have seen a lot of changes, from our start on Grenville Street, to Phillips House to our current location on Duncan Mill Road. Ten years ago, when I became Chair of the Board of Directors we were experiencing some uncertainty. Our cash reserves were low, and we had to look for a new location. We responded to this challenge by prioritizing our fiscal plan, expanding our programming to offer new speech programs for school aged children, investing in our reserve fund and finding our current home.

Robert Kroll

Since then we have continued to grow and flourish. We have added successful summer programs, early evening and weekend clinics and have introduced a very successful speech program specifically for children on the Autism Spectrum. When the government funding priorities shifted away from the clinical work last year, we were once again faced with a challenging time. We responded again by focusing on what we do best; providing excellent services and creating more options in how we are able to care for the people we serve.

We have been recognized by the Government of Ontario as a Centre of Excellence in Training and Development and are a leader in training throughout the province. We hope you will enjoy reading more about that further in this report.

We are proud of the work we have done and what we have accomplished. Together we are able to transform the lives of people with communication disorders to help them lead happy, healthy and engaged lives.

Thanks for reading,

Paul L'Heureux
Chair of the Board

Robert Kroll
Executive Director

Speech Programs

Pre-School Programs

We offer programs for children who are:

- 2 and 3 years of age with delayed speech and language development

- In JK and SK and have difficulties with their speech production skills

School-Aged Programs

Speech challenges may persist beyond the preschool years. This program serves children from Grades 1- 3 who:

- Have speech difficulties

- Are generally performing at grade level in terms of their overall development

ASD Speech Program

We provide treatment for school aged children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) who are:

- Communicating well in other ways (for example, using picture boards or computer-based systems)

- Showing interest in talking and have moderate to severe speech difficulty

Speech Camp

Speech Camp is for children who have completed Junior or Senior Kindergarten and would benefit from oral language and early literacy support. Theme based activities provide a motivating context for building vocabulary, storytelling and phonological awareness skills. Opportunities for carryover of emerging speech skills are also incorporated into the program.

Stuttering Programs

Pre-School Programs

Fluency intervention is offered for children 2 to 4 years of age. This may include regular monitoring, parent education and counselling, and/or individual treatment sessions.

School-Aged Programs

Our 5-6 year old and 7-9 year old group treatment programs run for 1 hour per week for approximately 16 weeks. Parents attend the program with their children. Our 10-14 year old program runs for 1.5 hours per week for 21 consecutive weeks. Follow up sessions are offered to support consolidation of fluency skills.

Fluency Camp

During the month of July, we typically offer a summer fluency program for children 7-9 and 10-14 years old. The children participate in half-days of group treatment for three weeks, Monday through Friday. Half-days provide children time to practice their skills. Follow up sessions are scheduled throughout the school year.

Adult and Teen Programs

Intensive and weekly treatment programs are offered for adults and teens who stutter (13 years and up).

Intensive Fluency Treatment Program

For over 30 years this program has attracted adults and teens who stutter. It is an intensive 3 week program that requires attendance during weekdays, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Home assignments are given daily; therefore, it is essential that the participants be fairly free of other responsibilities and commitments. One hour maintenance sessions are offered to support consolidation of fluency skills for one year following intensive treatment. Intensive treatment is typically offered in October, January, March, May, July and August. Summer months are typically reserved for students.

Weekly Group Treatment Program

Adults or teens participate in 1.5 hours of group therapy per week, for 20 consecutive weeks. Maintenance sessions are offered to support consolidation of fluency skills following regular weekly sessions.

Research

As a part of our three-fold mandate, The Speech and Stuttering Institute engages in state of the art research to evaluate effective treatment methods.

Research at The Speech and Stuttering Institute focuses on clinically relevant issues designed to shed light on best practices in the provision of Speech-Language Pathology Services for individuals with speech and stuttering disorders. The Institute is well-placed to draw upon the expertise of its many experienced Speech-Language Pathologists in working with these client populations. Clinicians at the Institute are currently leaders in Ontario's Ministry of Children and Youth Services projects aimed at developing treatment approaches for children with motor speech and stuttering disorders. Our approach to clinical research reflects a commitment to discovering the most effective treatment methods, in order to support both excellent clinical service and evidence-based professional training.

Excellence in Applied Research Award

Congratulations to the team who was awarded one of Canada's top Applied Research Awards the "2016 Excellence in Applied Research Award" from Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC).
The Motor Speech Research Study conducted at The Speech and Stuttering Institute has led to the development of a decision making pathway for identifying pre-school children with motor speech difficulties and determining who would benefit from more intensive motor based speech therapy.

This research study was conducted by a research team lead by principal investigator (PI) Dr. Aravind Namasivayam, Ph.D., S-LP (C) and several internationally recognized researchers and Speech-Language Pathologists (S-LPs). The study's co-investigators included Dr. Robert Kroll (Executive Director, The Speech and Stuttering Institute, Toronto), Ms. Margit Pukonen (Clinical Program Director, The Speech and Stuttering Institute), Ms. Debra Goshulak (Senior S-LP; The Speech and Stuttering Institute), Dr. Pascal Van Lieshout (Professor & Chair, Department of Speech-language Pathology, University of Toronto), Dr. Ben Maassen (Professor, University of Groningen, The Netherlands), Dr. Toni Rietveld, Professor, Radboud University, The Netherlands) and Dr. Frank Rudzicz (Scientist, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute).

Training and Education

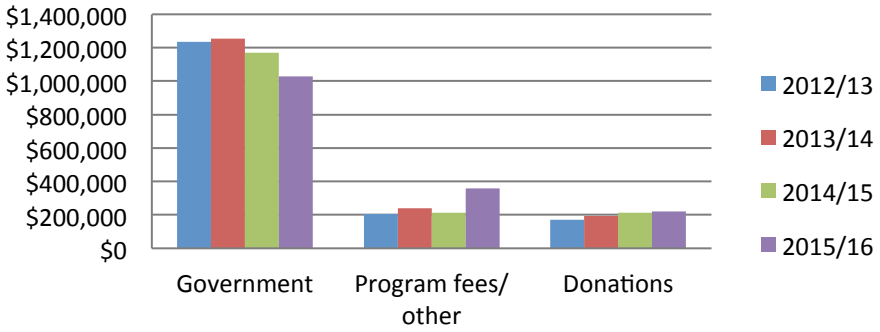
We have been asked to train Speech Language Pathologists across Ontario as part of our new designation as a Centre for Training & Development.

For many years, we have had a close association with the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services. They have partnered with us to ensure that the professionals within the Preschool Speech and Language Services Program are kept up to date with the most current thinking pertaining to the treatment of fluency and motor speech disorders. To this end, they have commissioned us to develop evidence-based care pathways for these populations and to train our colleagues across Ontario to apply the principles of these care pathways, thus ensuring the highest quality of care to these children and their families.

Over this past year, senior staff at the Institute have been carrying out several of these workshops, and have reached Speech Language Pathologists and support personnel in such regions as Niagara, Peterborough, Durham, Wellington Dufferin, York, Haldimand-Norfolk, Hamilton, Brandt and Toronto. We have received very favorable feedback from these training sessions and hope to report the results of the impact of this provincial training in the near future.

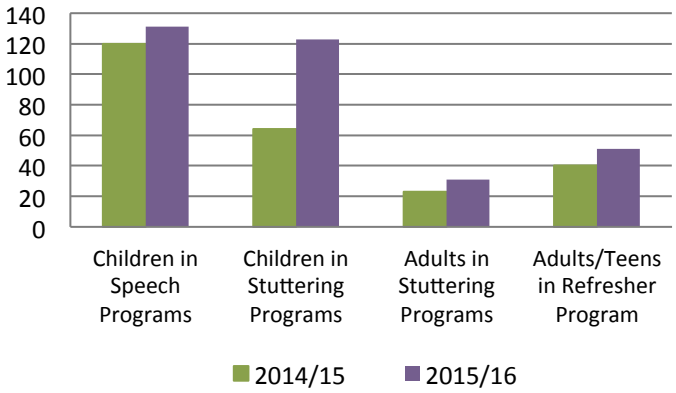
Financial Resources

Revenue by Type

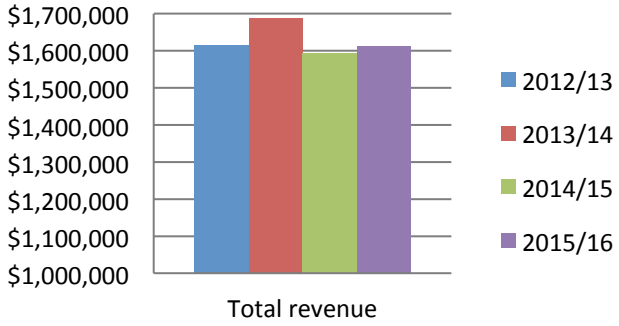


Balance Sheet Summary (in thousands)		
	14/2015	*15/2016*
Assets	721	737
Liabilities	29	25
Total Net Assets	692	712

Clients Served



Revenue by Year



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Did you know?

The Speech and Stuttering Institute has been recognized by the Ontario Government as a ***"Centre for Training and Development"***

OUR COMMUNITY OF DONORS

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to all those who made donations.
We are extremely grateful for their commitment and ongoing support of The Speech and Stuttering Institute.

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Did You Know?

From an early age, children are encouraged to "use their words" to express their feelings, to negotiate roles and responsibilities and to resolve peer conflicts. This may be an unrealistic expectation for a student who is lacking the oral language foundation to (a) understand what is being asked of them; and/or (b) to use the appropriate verbal or nonverbal means to comply with the request. Students with speech and language impairments are at particular risk for mental health issues, including those stemming from diminished self-esteem, bullying, anxiety and social difficulties

From: TDSB's October 2015 Mental Health and Well-Being Newsletter

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* Donations are listed in the fiscal year in which the gift is received. Gifts received after March 31, 2016 will be recognized in next year's report.

We make every effort to ensure that our donor listings are accurate and complete. If an error or omission has occurred, please contact Loriellen Karam, Director of Development, 416-491-7771 x 243 or loriellenk@speechandstuttering.com

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