

ANNUAL *Report*

Transforming lives for lasting change.





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Message from the Executive Director

As we reflect on another successful year at The Speech & Stuttering Institute (SSI), despite mounting financial constraints or an operating deficit supporting sustainability, I am deeply grateful to the extraordinary community that makes our work possible. Every milestone we achieved in the 2025–2026 fiscal year reflects the generosity of our donors, the leadership of our Board of Directors, the dedication of our staff, and the resilience of the individuals and families we are privileged to serve.

For nearly 50 years, SSI has been helping people find their voices.

Through specialized, evidence-based care, we have empowered thousands of children with speech disorders and individuals of all ages who stutter to communicate with greater confidence and participate more fully in their schools, workplaces, and communities. As demand for our services continues to grow, so too does our commitment to ensuring that expert care remains accessible to those who need it most.

This year marked an exciting period of growth. We experienced a significant increase in clients accessing our stuttering program, reinforcing the growing need for specialized fluency services and the important role SSI continues to play across Ontario.



We also expanded our professional education offerings by introducing new workshops that provided speech-language pathologists and other professionals with practical, evidence-informed training. By sharing our expertise, we are strengthening clinical capacity throughout the province and extending our impact well beyond the clients we serve directly.

Behind every statistic is a person whose life has been changed. A child who can participate confidently in the classroom. A young adult who feels empowered to pursue new opportunities. A parent who finds hope knowing their child is receiving the highest-quality care. These stories remind us that communication is fundamental to connection, confidence, and opportunity—and they inspire everything we do.



Your generosity makes these outcomes possible. Every donation supports our clinical programs, helping us keep fees accessible and providing financial assistance to families who would otherwise face barriers to specialized treatment. Your investment is not simply funding services; it is creating opportunities, building confidence, and changing lives.



Kevin Kozak dropping off food donation items from SSI staff to Dorothy Boothroyd, Co-vice Chair of Community Share Food Bank

As we look ahead, our focus is on thoughtful growth and long-term sustainability. We will continue to explore new program opportunities, strengthen partnerships, and diversify revenue to meet growing demand

for our services while ensuring SSI remains a strong and innovative organization for years to come. Our commitment to clinical excellence, education, and accessibility will continue to guide every decision we make.

At the same time, rising program costs and the continued need to keep our services accessible reinforce the importance of strengthening SSI's financial sustainability and diversifying our sources of revenue.

The coming year will also mark a remarkable milestone as SSI celebrates 50 years of service. This anniversary is more than a celebration of our history—it honours the thousands of lives transformed through communication, compassion, and expertise. It is also an opportunity to look ahead with optimism as we build on our legacy and shape the future of speech-language services in Ontario.

Thank you for believing in our mission and for being an essential part of SSI's story. Together, we are ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to be heard, understood, and empowered to reach their full potential.

KEVIN KOZAK, CPA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
THE SPEECH & STUTTERING INSTITUTE



About SSI

The Speech & Stuttering Institute, founded in 1977, is a registered charity and non-profit organization. Our team is dedicated to supporting clients with speech production and fluency challenges.

Our Team

- 22 SLPs (part-time and full-time)
- 1 Clinical Administrator
- 1 Administrative Manager
- 1 Executive Director

Our Mission

The mandate of The Speech & Stuttering Institute is three-fold:

- To provide excellent **clinical service**;
- To **educate** and **train** professionals throughout the province;
- To engage in breakthrough **research** to find the most effective treatment methods.

Our Clinical Services

SSI's in-house clinical programs offer assessment, treatment and follow-up for:

- children with speech production difficulties through our **Children's Speech Therapy Program**
 - individual therapy with parent/caregiver participation
- preschoolers who stutter through our **Preschool Fluency Program**,
 - individual, parent-mediated therapy
- school-aged children who stutter through our **School Age Fluency Program**,
 - individual, group, and intensive therapy options with parent/caregiver participation
- teens and adults of all ages who stutter through our **Adult & Teen Stuttering Therapy Programs**
 - individual, group, and intensive therapy options, plus client refresher programs
- Our SLPs also offer **consultation services** to clients/clinicians regarding speech and fluency disorders.

Our Clinical Services

SSI offers both in-person and telepractice-based clinical services. Our SLPs are licensed with the College of Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario (CASLP0) to serve clients throughout the province.

SSI also provides motor speech assessment and treatment for children receiving publicly-funded speech therapy services within Toronto's Preschool Speech and Language Program through the lead agency, Surrey Place.

Our Training Programs

In addition to offering in-house professional training workshops for SLPs and support personnel, SSI is funded by Ontario's Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) to train clinicians across the province's Preschool Speech and Language Programs in the Motor Speech Treatment Protocol and the Preschool Fluency Pathway - Indirect Treatment Protocol (ITP), both developed at SSI.

SSI has been recognized by the Ontario government as a "Centre of Training and Development" as a result of the Institute's many years of conducting research to inform our evidence-based speech and stuttering therapy programs.





2025-2026 Highlights

2 Fundraising Campaigns:
Giving Tuesday and
the **Annual Appeal**.

Over \$30,000 in subsidies paid
for clients in financial need.

100% of clients indicated that
they would recommend SSI to others.

6 professional training workshops
297 Clinicians trained
(SLPs/CDAs)

370 clinicians trained in SSI's
provincial training program

4,625 therapy sessions delivered
Over 259 individuals treated
Over 80% of our clients are children.

**49 Years
of Service!**



Subsidy Program

SSI's subsidy program allows us to offer reduced fees to clients/families in demonstrated financial need. It is our goal to never turn away anyone who can benefit from our services because of their inability to pay.

SSI is committed to reducing barriers to equitable speech and stuttering therapy access.

To the donors who made my therapy possible,

I wanted to thank you for your kindness. Because of you, I had the opportunity of taking speech therapy classes.

I used to feel so stuck. My mouth would speak before my mind could think of the next sentence. I knew what I wanted to say, but it would never come out right. But my therapist never gave up on me, and neither did my family, and none of it would have been possible without your support.

Little by little, things got easier. I no longer feared speaking, people stopped asking me to repeat myself, and my stomach stopped turning before presentations in class.

You made all of this happen. You didn't have to share your money, but you did, and that is a gift that will never go away.

Forever grateful,

A kid who used to be silent.



Dear Donors,

Thank you very much for your generous support of The Speech & Stuttering Institute (SSI) and its subsidy program.

Because of your kindness, our child was able to access speech therapy services at SSI that have made a meaningful difference in communication skills and confidence. The support from this program helped our family access high-quality therapy that we may not have been able to afford on our own.

Through this experience, we have seen improvements in speech and communication, as well as greater comfort in expressing thoughts in daily life. We are also very grateful for the care, patience, and professionalism of the clinicians at SSI, who have supported our child every step of the way.

Your generosity truly makes a difference for families like ours, and we sincerely appreciate your commitment to helping children receive the services they need.

*With sincere gratitude,
A grateful parent*

Dear Donors of the Speech and Stuttering Institute,

I am writing to express our family's deepest gratitude for your generous support.

Our son has struggled with a stutter, which at times made his social life very difficult. Because his mother is a stroke survivor and we are living on a limited income, we truly did not know how we would be able to afford the therapy he desperately needed. Thanks to your donations, he was able to receive the care that has now significantly changed his life.

His stuttering has decreased much more, and he is now far less hesitant to join in conversations. His Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) was absolutely amazing—showing immense patience and creating a fun therapy experience that our son always looked forward to attending.

Your generosity has made a profound impact on our son's future and our entire family. Thank you for making this life-changing therapy possible.



Dear Generous Donor,

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your contribution to The Speech & Stuttering Institute. Our family received a financial subsidy for our child's clinical services, which would not have been possible without your support. Your generosity has truly changed our lives.

Before starting therapy, my child experienced extreme difficulty at school especially during presentations, when speaking with unfamiliar people, or while trying to explain thoughts and ideas clearly. Seeing our child make progress, find their voice, and gain confidence each week has been incredible. Your donation removed a massive financial burden from our shoulders, allowing us to focus entirely on therapy and healing.

Please know that your kindness does more than fund a program it directly shapes a child's future. We are incredibly grateful for your support.

*With sincere thanks,
A Grateful Family*



Financials

SSI derived its revenue in 2025-2026 from three primary sources:

- In-house programs (clinical services, in-house professional training workshops, and fundraising)
- Ontario's Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) Training Program (preschool motor speech/fluency training for publicly funded clinicians)
- Toronto Pre-School Learning (PSL) Motor Speech Program (direct motor speech assessment/treatment for Toronto's PSL)

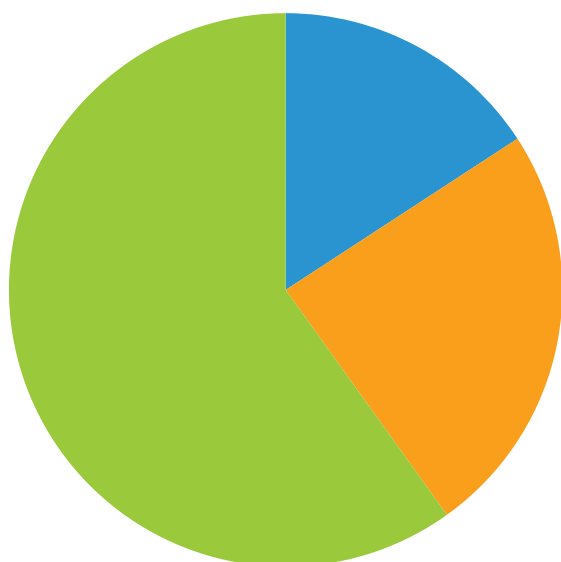
The latter two programs are self-contained (i.e., each service contract directly covers the associated program expenses). This means that fundraising and donations exclusively and directly support the sustainability of SSI's In-House Programs, specifically our clinical therapy programs, including the subsidy program for clients/families in financial need.

2025-2026 Revenue
= \$1,320,403

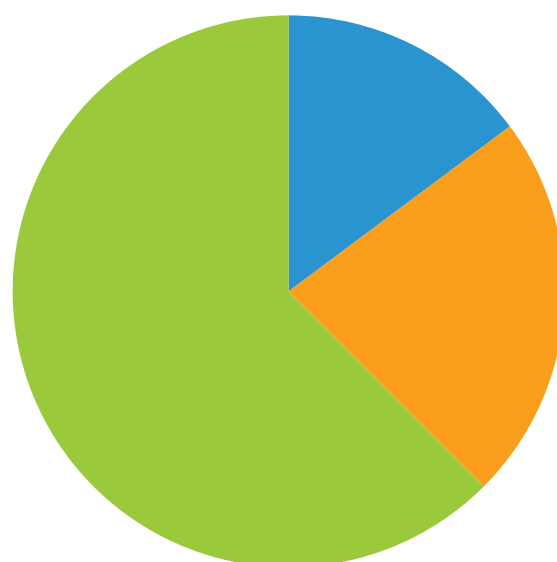
Projected Shortfall
= \$88,723

2025-2026 Expenses
= \$1,409,126

- Toronto PSL Motor Speech 15.8%
- MCCSS Training 24.3%
- SSI's In-House 59.9%



- Toronto PSL Motor Speech 14.8%
- MCCSS Training 22.7%
- SSI's In-House 62.5%



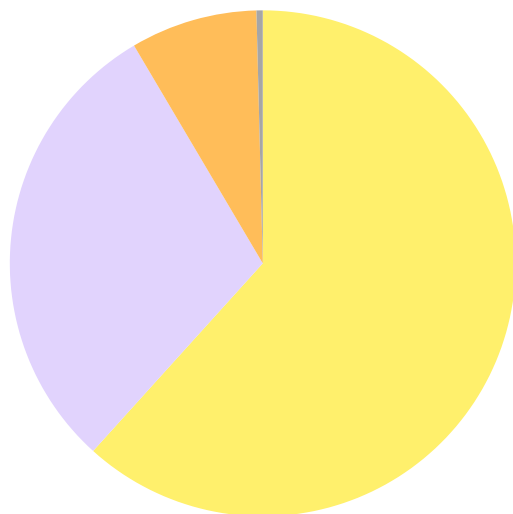
**Revenue for SSI's In-House Programs comes from four primary sources:**

- Clinical Therapy Program Fees
- Fundraising/Donations
- Professional Workshops
- Interest

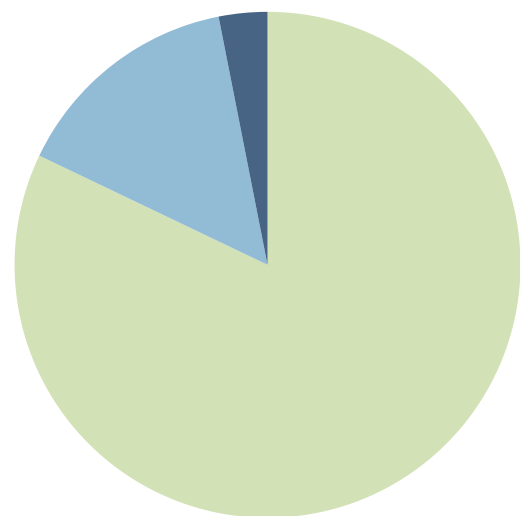
These revenue sources must cover program personnel salaries, operating costs, and business costs.

**2025-2026 In-House Programs Rev
= \$791,903**

- Clinical Therapy Program 61.7%
- Fundraising/Donations 29.8%
- Professional Workshops 8.1%
- Interest 0.4%

**2025-2026 In-House Programs Exp
= \$880,626**

- Program Personnel 82.1%
- Operating Costs 14.8%
- Bank and HST Costs 3.1%



Fundraising/donations are key to bridging the gap between the expenses of running our rigorous clinical and training workshop programs, and the revenues raised. The expertise, experience, knowledge and dedication of SSI's team allow us to offer our unique services to our community of clients and clinicians.

As a non-profit organization and registered charity, SSI deeply values the support of the individual donors, foundations, and companies that help us to fulfill our mandate.



Donors and Supporters

SSI gratefully acknowledges the following donations received between April, 1 2025 and March 31, 2026.

Giving Confidence \$25,000+

- Harmonize For Speech
- The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation
- Rama Gaming House

The Catherine and Maxwell
MEIGHEN FOUNDATION



Giving Voice \$10,000+

- CIBC Children's Foundation
- Anonymous



Giving Strength \$1,000+

- AirBoss of America Corp.
- Mike Baccellieri
- Tim Berezowski
- Mohamed ElFar
- Dana Hall
- Frank and Erika Ientile
- Andre Kozak
- Kevin Kozak
- James Reesor
- Paul Rose



Giving Encouragement \$500+

- Lea Ayuyao
- Jack Bergman
- Gino Capizzano
- Nikki Clucas
- Alison Cumberland
- Andrew Ferancik
- Chris Figel
- John Fisher
- Robert Gazzoli
- Lily Hiebert Rempel
- Stacey Hoffer
- Nick Ierfino
- Jay Kelman
- Fiona Kroll
- Lai and Associates Inc.
- Valerie McCarthy
- Terence Mersereau
- Mark Middlebrook
- Douglas Wall

Giving Friendship Up To \$499

- Felice Addorisio
- Alletram Group
- Corey Anquetil
- Ricardo Arnone
- Bavika Atputhajeyam
- Peter Aziz
- Carol Bagozzi
- Rose Baker Reilly
- Andrew Bellini
- Froilan Berroya
- Pierre Bertsoulakis
- Dilip Bhattacharyaa
- Danny Bianco
- Chris Bitsakakis
- Sunni Boot-Agnew
- Britton Policy and Compliance Consultants
- David B Camilleri
- George Caners
- Dino Caporiccio
- Matt Carroll
- Melinda Carvalho
- Steve Chandler
- Andrew Csillag
- Carlo Cudini
- DASA.Z Technologies Inc.
- Haviva Davids Diena
- R Dinney
- Neil Driscoll
- Rommel D'Souza
- Michele Duclous
- Myron and Olena Dylinsky
- Morris Eddy
- Vicki Evangelo
- Farm Boy
- Lori Fernandes



- Bernard Fishbein
- Elissa Flagg
- Kristine Frost
- Martin Gangadeen
- Lidia Giosa
- Deb Goshulak
- Todd Hounsone
- I&A Professional Corporation CPA
- Milan Karakas
- Loriellen Karam
- Tali Kellerstein
- Richard King
- David Kozak
- Nadine Kruse
- Kimberly Lai
- Amar Lallh
- Mark Levitan
- Martin Levy
- Jan Lim Liu
- Oliver George Long
- Andrew Lowe
- Olga Luftig
- Daniela Marchetti
- Jim Martella
- Mary Matthews
- Karen McDonald
- Doug McElroy
- Kepton McKenzie
- Craig Michael
- Carlos Motta
- Mykhaylo Mudrak
- David Ng
- Alexis Orchard
- George Papazotos
- Carolina Parente
- Paul Giamou Photography Ltd.
- Damiano Peluso
- Shelma Perilla
- Vittoria Petrolo
- John Psihos
- Margit Pukonen
- Joseph Radocchia
- Isaac Rajendram
- John Rattray
- Cees Rokx
- John Shain
- Leanne Shapiro
- Gavin Sims
- Tefik Skera
- Alexander Smith
- Gabe Soscia
- Jennifer Swanson
- Sofia Tsibouras
- Bob and Amy Wiffen
- Dana Wolle
- Zuoxing Yu

Don't hesitate to contact us to report any inadvertent errors or omissions from the above list so that we can make a swift correction.

Giving Partnership

SSI participates in Ontario's Charitable Gaming program, governed by OLG/OCGA. Charitable gaming offers a gaming and entertainment experience that preserves and enhances funding for local charitable organizations by sharing a portion of the proceeds with the local community.



Our sincere thanks to the Rama Gaming House, and to the SSI volunteers who made it possible for us to take part in this valuable initiative:

- Rojana Alzamora
- Liya Aneesh
- Jacques Ayuyao
- Lea Ayuyao
- Peter Aziz
- Laura Belfiore
- Dana Hall
- True Htoo
- Loriellen Karam
- David Kozak
- Kevin Kozak
- Laurie Kozak
- William Kozak
- Michele Meloche Kelly
- Abigail Mootilal
- Jenna Patsopoulos
- Flavia-Alessia Preci
- Margit Pukonen
- Rashmia Raihan
- Mindy Ravinsky
- Omar Sauri
- Jim Steward
- Sylvia Steward

SSI is a Registered Charity

Legal Name: The Speech and Stuttering Institute

Registered Charity #:119159358RR0001

Year of Incorporation: 1977



Board of Directors

The Board of Directors provides strategic oversight to ensure that SSI fulfills the three core tenets of our organizational mission:

- To provide clinical services
- To educate and train professionals throughout the province
- To engage in cutting-edge research to unearth the root causes of speech-related challenges in order to find the most effective treatment methods.

Our board members volunteered their time and expertise to ensure another successful year.

Frank Ientile, Chair

Chief Financial Officer, AirBoss of America Corp.

George Shields, Vice Chair

Founder, Harmonize For Speech

Corey Anquetil, Director

President, Akaei Retail Consulting

Peter Aziz, Director

Senior Counsel, Torys LLP

John Fisher, Director

President & CIO, Bridgeport Asset Management

Dana Hall, Director

Teacher, Toronto District School Board

Loriellen Karam, Director

Realtor, Keller Williams Portfolio Realty

John Mahood, Director

Senior Account Manager, Consulting Services

**Thank you to the SSI Board for providing excellent guidance
for the benefit of SSI's stakeholders.**

How to Support SSI

Fundraising at SSI directly supports our therapy programs for clients with speech and stuttering challenges. Donations bridge the gap between the costs of delivering our rigorous clinical program and the revenue derived from client fees.

We serve our community by keeping our clinical fees below those recommended for SLP services in Ontario and by providing subsidized fees to ensure that clients and families in financial need can access treatment. Our clinicians focus their practices exclusively on speech and stuttering disorders to best serve clients with needs in these specific areas.

Community support is critical with no government funding for SSI's clinical treatment programs!





7 Ways You Can Support SSI

Make a **direct donation**

www.speechandstuttering.com/donate

Donate Stock: Donate appreciated stocks, securities, or mutual funds

www.speechandstuttering.com/donate-stock/

Bequeath a Gift: Plan a legacy gift

www.speechandstuttering.com/bequest-gift/

Ask your company to include SSI in its employee or corporate giving programs

Spread the word about SSI to encourage friends and family to make a charitable donation

Volunteer to support our Clinical Therapy Programs!

Email info@speechandstuttering.com for more information

Follow SSI on Social Media:



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@SpeechAndStuttering



The Speech and Stuttering Institute



The Speech
& Stuttering
Institute

Excellence in Clinical Service
Educating and training professionals
Engaged in breakthrough research

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