

Shout Out to Our Retirees

The NLTA SLP SIC would like to give a huge shout out to Kim Lawlor, Judy Lawlor and Patti Brake on their retirement. Your years of service to the speech-language community in your respective roles are appreciated. May you look back on your career with good memories of the lives you have positively impacted and the friendships you have made. We will miss you more than you know. We wish you nothing but the best in your future endeavors!

Professional Development/ Resources Grant

We are happy to announce that we will again be offering a grant to SLP SIC members. Grant money may be used for professional development or for the purchase of therapy materials. Please read on to learn how to apply by **June 21, 2023**.

The grant to be awarded is a maximum of \$500. Applications will be reviewed by the SLP SIC executive and eligible applicants will be "put into a hat" and one name will be drawn.

- Travel, accommodations and registration will be covered up to \$500; the fund does not cover the cost of meals.
- Funds will be awarded when proof of attendance and necessary receipts are received.
- Professional development must be in the area of speech, language and/or literacy, and/or be relevant to school-based speech-language pathology.
- Applicants must agree to provide a short written summary of what they learned during their professional development. This summary will be shared with members through our newsletter and social media.
- Funds must be used within one calendar year of the awarded date.

Hurry to get your applications in before it's too late – **deadline is June 21, 2023**. This is an opportunity you won't want to miss! Go to www.nlta.ca/slp-pdgrant

Update on Teacher Allocation Review Committee (TARC) Report

As you are aware, the TARC Report came out last year and we felt that some things in our original submission were not interpreted as intended. Our sub-committee submitted a letter to the NLTA regarding these misinterpretations and they included it in their official response to the report. We have not heard any response to our follow-up submission but stay tuned! Thank you to our sub-committee members: Sandy Crowley, Kirsten Wallace, Kelly Harris, Darlene Marche, Christine Champdoizeau and Natalie Finlay.

Good News and Accomplishments

SLP Issues Represented at the NLTA Biennial General Meeting (BGM)

On April 11-14, 2023, the NLTA held their BGM at the Sheraton Hotel in St. John's. Sandy Crowley and Natalie Finlay attended as delegates for our special interest council. One objective at BGM included voting by delegates to either carry or defeat resolutions that are submitted. If carried, these resolutions are used by the NLTA to help generate their priorities for the next two years. We are very pleased to share with you that 3/3 resolutions put forth by our SIC were passed. They are as follows:

- That the Collective Bargaining Committee consider for inclusion in the opening proposals for the next round of negotiations, a proposal for payment of allowances to Speech-Language Pathologists, at the same rate as allowances for School Psychologists.
- That NLTA enter into discussions with the Department of Education to create a fair, responsible, and ethically sound allocation formula for Speech-Language Pathologists taking into consideration workload and geographical responsibility.
- That the NLTA lobby the Department of Education for additional allocations for and the creation of, an associated itinerant Speech-Language Pathologist (S-LP) position in each of the school families and the CSFP, specializing in Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC).

We look forward to working together with the respective groups on our resolutions.



BGM 2023  **Invest in our Kids**

SIC Grant Winner 2022

In June 2022, Judy Lawlor was the recipient of the \$500 professional learning/resources grant. Here is what Judy had to say about all the wonderful things she was able to purchase:

How did I ever survive 34 years as an S-LP without "Ned's Head" and a mouth model? Game changers!! Well, maybe not game changers, just something new and entertaining for an aged S-LP at the end of her career. The kids (and I) love them both.

"Ned's Head" from Super Duper, can be adapted for so many different tasks. It is a cloth head with various items placed inside. The students pick a card and, by touch only, they have to find the item inside "Ned's Head". It can simply be used as a reward or for descriptive skills, naming skills, articulation, etc., etc.

The mouth model is also lovely. I finally don't have to get the kids to look inside my mouth to see where to place the tongue. The tongue in the model I ordered is not great. It isn't very flexible at all but a lot of the mouth models do not ship to Canada. However, I simply use my hand as a tongue to show the placement in the mouth.

Most of my materials came from Super Duper. It has so many great S-LP materials. The "Phonological Awareness Game" was probably the most exciting item. It has all the varying levels of phonological awareness skills broken down, so you can choose cards from the various levels that each student is working on. The students love it too. Some of the Reading Specialists have borrowed it and are now ordering their own copy.

"Auditory Memory for Riddles" card deck contains 56 cards and provides a description of common items. The kids have to guess what you are describing. Cute and portable, which is really important to itinerants.

I have always been a big lover of games. They keep the kids well entertained, while working on a skill. The "Spelligator" is a game where kids build words by turning over tiles. Once they make a word, they get to put it on the alligator's back. The kids keep taking turns until all the tiles are used and whoever has made the most words is the winner (each word has to have at least 3 letters). Lots of fun, but the kids have to be at a certain level to play and for many of our students with language and/or phonological awareness difficulties, this game is a little difficult. For those students who can do CVC tasks, it can be a lot of fun.

"Word Families with Silly Sentences" is perfect for helping with phonological awareness, but also can be adapted for articulation, especially for final consonant deletion. It's always so exciting to get new things, but I have to admit that I ordered a lot of things with my daughter, Molly, in mind. As I plan to leave this profession, I will pass on all of these items to my daughter, who has also entered the field. I was hoping to have one year working together in Newfoundland as a "mother and daughter S-LP team", but alas, that is not to happen. I can't wait around any longer. I do believe, however, that we are the first Newfoundland "mother and daughter S-LP team", but I stand to be corrected.

So, many thanks for the new items. I have certainly enjoyed using them this year and may continue to do so if I do some private work. If not, they will certainly come in handy for Molly. I would like to say farewell to all my colleagues as I sign off in June 2023. It has certainly been a slice, to say the least. I am ready, though, to leave it all behind and move on to the next phase of hiking, skiing, riding my bike, reading and sipping my coffee slowly in the mornings!!!

First Ever Social

Thank you to everyone who attended our first social after the RTL/ Comprehensive Assessment PL at the Delta Hotel in St. John's in February. It was good to get together in person for a PL session after being online for two years due to the pandemic. Nothing can replace seeing each other face-to-face.



May Month Initiatives

We were pleased to kick off our May Month with some outstanding PL from Dr. Kelly Farquharson. The virtual presentation titled "Maximizing Outcomes for Speech Sound Disorders: Selecting the right approaches, targets and words" was just what we needed. The feedback from the membership was extremely positive. Proof of attendance will be forthcoming and can be counted towards our CEU requirements for NLCHP.

Gift card giveaways were part of our virtual May AGM. Sixteen gift cards were up for grabs.

A big thank you goes out to the NLESD and the NLTA for displaying SAC's May Month marquee on their respective websites to help us spread the word!

Meet Your Current Executive

- Sandy Crowley **President**
- Susan Clarke **Vice President**
- Kimberlyn Crandford. **Treasurer**
- Beth Anne Emmink. **Secretary**
- Michele Critchley **Communications Officer**
- Laura Tulk **NLASLPA Liaison**
- Vacant **Member at Large**

Join Our Team

The SLP SIC would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to Michele Critchley for all your years of dedicated service as our Communications Officer. You have been with us right from the start and will leave big shoes to fill. We will miss your passion to advocate for better working conditions for SLPs in the schools of this province and for the students that we serve.

Our SIC currently holds seven executive positions and we are asking for new members who might be interested in serving. While each of the titles are listed separately, we've found that roles often overlap – we seem to function well as a team that shares executive responsibilities as needed, so no need to feel intimidated!

An election will be held via virtual meeting at the end of September and nominations are due by **June 23**. Nominations can be completed by following this link: www.nlta.ca/slp-sic-nomination-forms.