



CAASPR Receives \$1 Million in Funding to Develop Competency-Based Assessment Framework

On February 6, 2012, the Canadian Alliance of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Regulators (CAASPR) signed an agreement with the federal government to develop a competency-based assessment framework for use in all regulated provinces in Canada. The funds, which will be disbursed over the next 34 months, are provided by the Foreign Credential Recognition Program of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC). The objective of the project is to improve labour mobility for licensed workers and to expedite licensure and labour market integration of internationally-trained and Canadian applicants through the development of a national competency-based assessment framework for both professions. CAASPR will accomplish this by:

1. Developing a national centralized application and assessment model for both professions;
2. Setting a common standard for entry-to-practice competencies through the development of performance indicators;
3. Establishing profession-specific language benchmarks in both official languages for each profession;
4. Developing, testing and implementing an online competency-based portfolio assessment tool to assess and recognize all forms of prior learning of internationally-trained applicants; and
5. Determining the feasibility of developing and implementing common entry-to-practice examinations for both professions.

CAASPR is the national federation of audiology and speech-language pathology regulators in Canada. As leaders in regulatory issues, members of CAASPR are committed to work collaboratively on matters related to their mandate to protect the public. While regulation occurs at the provincial level, members of CAASPR actively work on development and implementation of national strategies for the advancement of regulatory standards and audiology/speech-language pathology practice in a consistent manner across Canada.

This is the fourth project funded by HRSDC under the Labour Mobility/Foreign Credential Recognition divisions. While CAASPR will act as the lead organization, it will rely on the ongoing input of its members, professional associations and academic programs throughout the country. CAASPR will also work with other professions to continually determine best practices in the assessment of competence and seek opportunities for collaboration.

Regular updates will be provided to project partners and stakeholders. Questions may also be directed to Karen Luker, Executive Director, Canadian Alliance of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Regulators at office@caaspr.ca or 613-858-6544.