

For immediate release:

For World Stroke Day (October 29), the Aphasia Centres of Ontario would like to highlight the fact that approximately 1/3 of all stroke survivors live with aphasia, a language disability affecting understanding, speaking, reading, writing (Dickey et al, 2010) and full participation in life.

However, according to the most recent international survey of the public awareness of aphasia (Code et al. 2016), less than 10% of the general public understands what the word aphasia means.

Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) and Communicative Disorders Assistants (CDAs) at Ontario's Aphasia Centres promote awareness of aphasia, and provide training in supportive communication strategies.

It is a Canadian Stroke Network Best Practice Recommendation that everyone involved in stroke rehabilitation and recovery receive training in supportive communication strategies.

This includes family members and friends of people with aphasia, community volunteers, university and college students, other health professionals, community agencies, and police and emergency services.

In the past year, SLPs and CDAs at Ontario Aphasia Centres have trained over 2000 people to understand aphasia and learn supportive communication strategies!

Within the world stroke community, Speech-Language Pathologists and aphasia centres are working hard to provide communicative access, so that people with aphasia and their families can participate more fully in life.

For more information about Ontario Aphasia Centres, please contact Vivienne Epstein: [vivienneepstein@saintelizabeth.com](mailto:vivienneepstein@saintelizabeth.com)

For more information about aphasia, communication access and supportive communication strategies at the Waterloo Wellington Regional Aphasia Program (WWRAP), please contact Antonella: [antonella.samson@sjhcg.ca](mailto:antonella.samson@sjhcg.ca)