



College of Audiologists and
Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario
Ordre des audiologistes et
des orthophonistes de l'Ontario

Dr. Marie-Josée Berger
Provost and Vice-President, Academic
Laurentian University

March 26, 2021

Dear Dr. Berger,

I am writing on behalf of the College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario (CASLPO), which is the regulatory authority in the province for the licensing and oversight of audiologist and speech-language pathologist professionals. As part of our mandate to protect the public interest, CASLPO works closely with all university programs in the two professions in Ontario. This includes direct interaction with both faculty and students throughout the academic year to ensure that those entering the profession understand the requirements and responsibilities of a regulated health professional.

We have been following with considerable concern the financial situation confronting Laurentian University and the potential impact on Laurentian's academic programs. It is our understanding that as part of its court-mediated restructuring, the university is evaluating considerable adjustments in order to continue to fulfill its mission.

The speech-language pathology programs offered by Laurentian help meet the need for communication disorder services in Northern Ontario, particularly among the Francophone community. As many graduates of Laurentian's Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) programs continue to live and work in Northern Ontario after graduation, they are of great assistance in addressing this important public need.

We understand that the university faces considerable pressures at the present time, but we want to recommend your consideration of the important and unique public interest role your SLP academic programs fulfill for Northern Ontario and Francophone communities.

We appreciate the opportunity to bring CASLPO's concerns and viewpoints to your attention, and for considering as you conduct your internal review.

Sincerely,

Brian O'Riordan
Registrar, CASLPO

cc: Chantal Mayer-Crittenden