

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

AUTISM CANADA

46 Years of standing with autistics and
the autism community



Advocate • Educate • Support



WHAT WE DO

We have an external advisory group known as "Autism Ambassadors," consisting exclusively of individuals on the Spectrum. These Autism Ambassadors provide invaluable insights and guidance on matters that are relevant to the autistic community in Canada. Our strategic goals revolve around creating a transformative future for individuals on the Autism Spectrum. To achieve this, we implement high-quality programs to empower and support individuals with ASD. One such program is the annual Au-Some Conference, a unique event exclusively developed and presented by individuals on the Autism Spectrum. Additionally, we take pride in pioneering innovative initiatives like the Search and Rescue for Autism program, which is the first of its kind, and the Recognizing Behaviours and Sensory Support programs. Furthermore, Autism Canada hosts the Family Support Program, ensuring practical and timely support is readily available to individuals and families in need.

ABOUT AUTISM CANADA

Autism Canada is a nationwide organization committed to advocating for the rights and needs of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their families, caregivers, and allies. Since 1976, our primary objective has been to raise public awareness about autism, collaborate with diverse stakeholders to shape public policies and promote best practices within the field. We aim to foster a national dialogue that identifies effective strategies for ensuring equitable access to funding and services for people with ASD. Our team comprises individuals who have personal connections to autism and neurodiversity, including those who are on the Autism Spectrum themselves.

NOTE ON LANGUAGE

Autism Canada recognizes that there are a variety of language preferences within the autism community. Out of respect for these preferences, Autism Canada utilizes both identity-first and person-first language interchangeably in our communications.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

In the spirit of reconciliation and working together, Autism Canada is thankful for this land, the country of Canada, and our connections to land, sea, and community. We pay our respect to the Elders past and present and extend that respect to all today.



A WORD FROM THE CHAIR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we reflect on the past year at Autism Canada, we are moved by the enduring dedication and commitment of our community, staff, and supporters. The challenges we've faced have brought us together, fortifying our foundation and strengthening our resolve to serve the Autism community across the country.

This year saw us broaden our reach nationally, offering support through outreach, engagement, training materials, and family support initiatives. Our mission – advocating for and supporting individuals on the Spectrum, their families, and caregivers – continues to inspire us to deepen our impact.

An important milestone was the success of the Au-Some Conference, led by a neurodiverse team of autistic advocates and allies, and reaching thousands across the nation. Our Sharing the Spectrum newsletter remained a powerful voice for those on the Spectrum, while our Family Support Program continued to provide resources and support to thousands.

We welcomed a significant victory in BC, where a proposal to negatively change the existing autism funding framework was rejected. We also testified before a senate committee on Bill S-203 and look forward to contributing on behalf of our community to the establishment of a federal framework on the Autism Spectrum.

As we move through 2023, we are driven by a clear vision – a society where those on the Autism Spectrum are fully accepted by their communities and lead fulfilling, healthy, and happy lives. This is our north star, guiding us toward a future of inclusive societies and communities.

On behalf of Autism Canada, we extend a heartfelt thank you to our donors, stakeholders, volunteers, staff, and board members. Your belief in our cause, active involvement, insightful feedback, and generous contributions are deeply appreciated. Your support fuels our work, drives our progress, and truly makes a world of difference in the lives of those we serve.

Together, we look forward to another year of growth, inclusivity, and advancements in our mission. Thank you for standing with us.



Paul Finch
Chair, Board of Directors



Barbara Patten
Executive Director

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Mission:

To advocate for and support individuals with autism, their families, and caregivers living in Canada.

Vision:

That people on the Autism Spectrum have full, healthy, and happy lives.

Our Mandate:

- See the Spectrum Differently
- See Potential in People Living on the Autism Spectrum
- See & Respect the Person & Individual First
- See the Opportunity to Work Together to Make a Difference
- See & Understand Behaviour as a Form of Communication

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



PAUL FINCH
Chair

DR. SUZANNE LEWIS
Vice-Chair

DERMOT CLEARY
Past-Chair

TIM BERRY
Treasurer, Finance & Audit

LARRY BELLEHUMEUR
Fund Development

SALLY GINTER
Governance & Nominations

TOM JACKMAN
Director

JENNIFER HO
Director

LIZ PHIPPS
Director

PHILIPPA ST. CLAIR HOOD
Director

ANDREA PODRUSKI
Director





AUTISM CANADA'S TREASURER'S REPORT

Total revenue for the year was \$524,365, a decrease of 17% over 2021 revenue of \$632,775. Donation revenue accounted for \$348,918 or 67% of total revenue, and this represents a 10% increase over 2021 donations. Grant revenue, which accounts for 27% of total revenue, was lower compared to 2021 by \$134,962.

Operating expenses of \$602,291 were 20% higher than 2021 and this was primarily due to the hiring of a full-time fund development manager. The Society ended the year with a deficit of \$77,926 compared to a surplus of \$132,433 in 2021.

Autism Society Canada received a qualified audit opinion for 2022. This is because the organization receives revenue from fundraising initiatives and donations, which are not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. This is common amongst charities that receive revenue from donations and fundraising events.

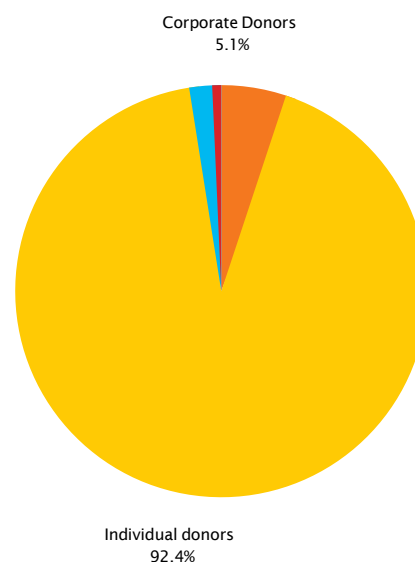
Lastly, I would like to express my appreciation to the members of the audit and finance committee of the board, who are responsible for oversight of the financial affairs of the Society.

Tim Berry, MBA, CPA

Every Penny Counts

Where our Donations Come From

- 92% Individual Donors
- 5.1% Corporate Donors
- 1.5% In Memorium Donations
- <1% Sponsorships



WE COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT *you.*

Autism Canada would like to thank each of our 2023 donors and sponsors. It is because of your support and trust in us that we can accomplish so much.

TENACITY \$10,000+

Government of Canada
Community Foundations of Canada
Gleddie, Gordon
Gleddie, Graham
Gleddie, Stephen
Opta Intel
DeCaria, Sam & Fannie

INTEGRITY \$3,000+

United Way East Ontario
Andrea Segsworth
Murray & Sheri Radoux Family Foundation
Earl & Dorothy Long Charitable Foundation
Ruckpaul Family Foundation

RESILIENCE \$5,000 +

Michael Sachs
BC General Employees Union
Estate of Audrey Aylard
Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc.
Jewish Community Foundation of Montreal
Peter McCawley
Computer Modeling Group
Showcase

EMPATHY \$1,000+

Mini Owls Inc
Alison Lawton
Angelika Michelman
Ledcore Industries Inc.
Paypal Giving Fund
United Way Greater Toronto
Financial Horizons Inc.
Scott Larter
Leadership Plumbing & Heating Inc.
Standard Products Inc.
Ontario Power Generation
Special Events
S&P Global
Irwin Lambersky
Nahanni Steel Products Inc.
Burrito Boxy's
Fern Hill School
Sean Keoughan
Lawler Consulting Ltd.
Alan Richardson
ATCO Gas
Larry Bellehumeur
Clarence Halldorson
Richard Hobbs
Kassandra Dobson
1438283 Alberta Ltd.
John Proctor
Philip Villeneuve
Daniel Canning
Faithful Brethren Lodge
Alfred Fillion
Christian Gradley
David Humpartzian
Reginald Jones
Matt Kroekenstoel
L'Oreal Canada
MDX Contracting Inc.
Marilyn Quintin
Danny Sovereign
Cristiana Vyver
Wohler Canada Inc.
St. Matthew Lutheran Christian
Academy
Bridges of Hope International
Network

ADVOCACY \$500+

Westcreek Public School
United Way Saint John, Kings, and
Charlotte
Ashley Kruyne
Shemsedin Hoxha
Michael Karafilidis
Larry & Susan Bell
Nanda Manish
United Way Sarnia Lambton
Suzanne Lewis
Lara Sinclair
Brad Adams
Michael McIntosh
OS Retail Services
Tatiana Paulin
CIBC
Lois Brhelle
Casey's Creative Kitchens
Estates of Douglas Findlay
John Lannuzzi
Jeannot Foundation Match Canada Inc.
Brenda & Don McClarty
Liszz Palmer
Brandan Stewart
Kartik Thakker
Esther Wir
Museum of Vancouver
Blue Brush Events
Vincent & Katie Lenarduzzi Foundation
Microsoft
Lidia Tagliabracci
Peter Diamant
Luckesha Thomas
Gothic Lodge N.O 608
Inca's Gold Organics
Olga Erykalina
Joseph Speranza



**WITH THANKS TO OUR ANONYMOUS DONORS.
WE ARE TRULY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT.**



OUR FAMILY SUPPORT
TEAM RESPONDED TO

2,014

PHONE CALLS AND EMAIL INQUIRIES

10,119

HOURS OF DIRECT ASSISTANCE

OUR STRENGTH IS OUR FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM

Autism Canada's Family Support Program has been operational for over a decade and serves as our front-line connection to individuals and families in need. Our dedicated staff and volunteers receive and respond to thousands of inquiries annually, providing resources, referrals, services, and advocacy for those facing challenges with an autism diagnosis and potential co-occurring conditions.

Each inquiry is researched and addressed with available resources according to the province or community. This can include resources related to employment, education, diagnosis, housing, and funding based on the location and severity of the condition.

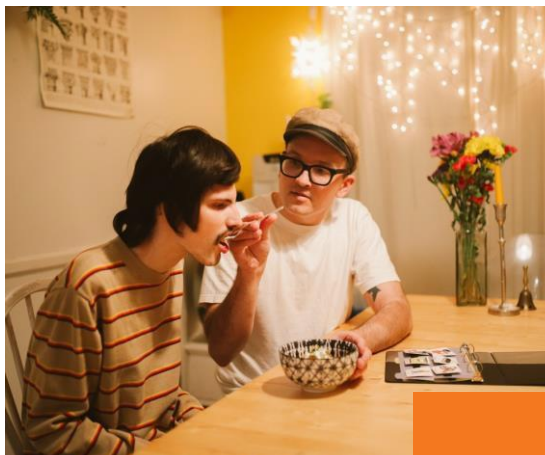
Our Family Support Team is available to assist not only children on the Spectrum, their parents, and caregivers but also youth, adults, and seniors.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

THANK YOU, FAMILY SUPPORT TEAM

"I haven't finished reading over everything you sent, but my daughter will feel validated for sure! Thank you!"

L.M. - Vancouver, B.C.



"Wonderful resources such as yours not only help parents, but also university students, some who want to work with neurodivergent children in the future."

G.S. -Winnipeg, Manitoba

"Thank you so much for all of this information and the effort you put into compiling and providing concise explanations for each item!"

J.C. - Toronto, Ontario





YOU MADE ALL OF THIS POSSIBLE IN 2022

AU-SOME CONFERENCE

The Au-Some Conference is our signature online event that showcases the perspectives of autistics on various autism-related topics. It is a wonderful chance for participants to gain knowledge, understanding, and find support from the first-hand experiences and wisdom of autistic presenters.

Thanks to our kind sponsors, we are able to provide the conference for free to participants and compensate all of our presenters for their important work. The 2022 Au-Some Conference was a big hit, with over 3,000 views. We are always thankful to our sponsors for their steadfast support of this event and would like to highlight the exceptional support of the British Columbia General Employees' Union as our long-standing Premiere Sponsor.

SHARING THE SPECTRUM

Our Sharing the Spectrum newsletter contains stories, poems, articles, and insights from our Autism Ambassadors. Our goal is to share our knowledge, experience, and perspectives and to celebrate the diversity and richness of the community.

AUTISM JUNCTION

Autism Canada's longevity and national presence has helped create a database of available resources accessible to individuals, caregivers, and professionals. Autism Junction offers the most comprehensive on-line resources for services and supports across Canada.



YOU MADE ALL OF THIS POSSIBLE CONTINUED...

SEARCH AND RESCUE FOR AUTISM

Many people, of all ages, on the Autism Spectrum wander or bolt from a safe space. There are times when they become lost due to their wandering and bolting. These incidents are critical, and First Responders need specific training for technical response. The community needs prevention tools, and an understanding on how best to communicate with First Responders. We developed training materials for emergency personnel and resources for the Autism Community.



"It becomes totally overwhelming when you have to deal with a crisis and try to figure out what to do. I am grateful that Autism Canada exists. What you have done represents the most help we have ever had."

G & K - Calgary, Alberta



OUR AUTISM AMBASSADORS

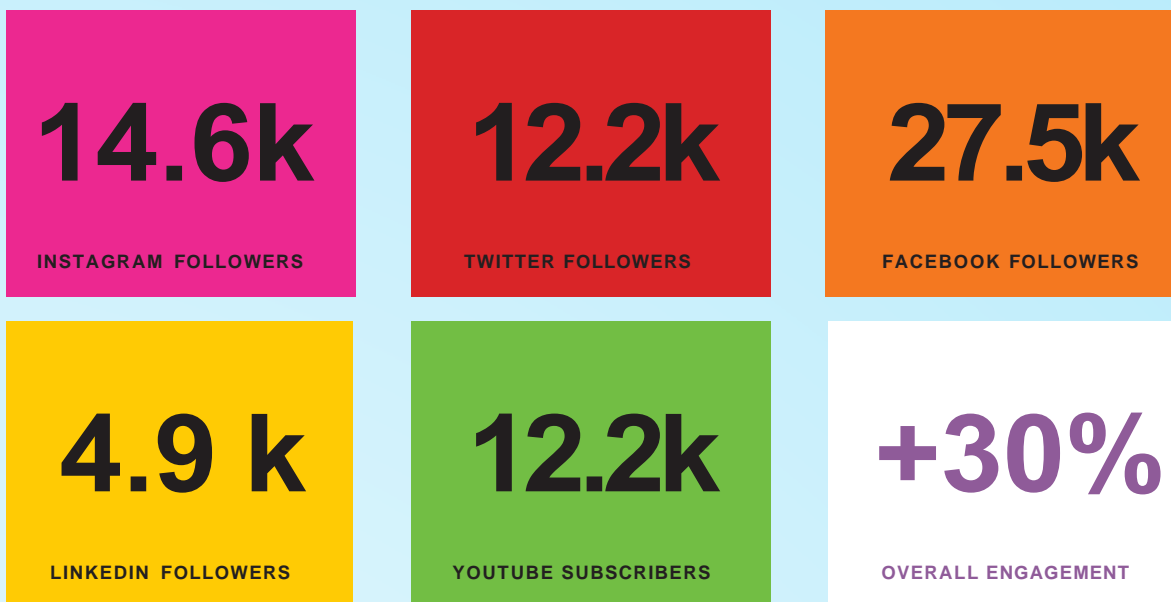
Jason Oldford
c.e. Chapple
Javier A. Herrera
Henry Bockstael
Minni Ang
Andrew S.
Anantha K.
Michael Tanzer
Yvonne Spicer
David Beresford
William Caruana
Theresa Somerton
Nico. B
Kara Dymond
Laura Dooley
Margaux Wosk
D.



Autism Canada's Autism Ambassadors are volunteers who work to inspire social change on issues that matter to their community and the families, caregivers, and allies of people on the Autism Spectrum. They write articles and make videos on relevant topics for our Sharing the Spectrum Newsletter, speak to the media on behalf of the community and advise the Autism Canada team on how to better support our clients and the autism community in Canada.

Our Ambassadors are invaluable to us, and we appreciate their ongoing commitment, assistance, and involvement.

OUR CONNECTIONS



WE ARE PLEASED TO RECOGNIZE OUR PARTNERS



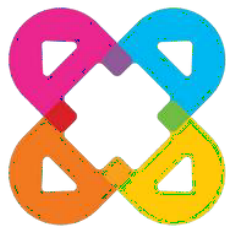
IMAGINE CANADA COMPLIANCE

Imagine Canada's Standards Program awards accreditation to charities and nonprofits that demonstrate excellence in five areas of operations. The standards are designed to build strong and trusted charities and nonprofits. Autism Canada is Imagine Canada Standards compliant.

ACCESSIBILITY FOR ONTARIANS WITH DISABILITIES

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) was enacted to expand the government's mission to offer full accessibility to all disabled Ontarians by 2025. All Autism Canada staff and Board Directors are certified compliant with AODA.





AUTISM
CANADA
AUTISME

See The Spectrum Differently
Le spectre autrement

Autism Canada 140 Yonge Street, Suite 200 Toronto, ON M5C 1X6
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www.autismcanada.org

Registered Charitable Number: 13160 7657 RROOOI

We recognize your right to confidentiality and pledge to protect your privacy. We adhere to the privacy guidelines of both the Ontario Privacy Commissioner of Canada and Imagine Canada.