



45 Years

of standing with autistics
and the autism community

"J has some special talents which are actually inspirational that may be augmented because she is autistic. She shines in many ways :) The resources you sent are AMAZING!!!! So kind of you to be so detailed and thorough with the information and walking us through the process. We greatly appreciate it."

Sincerely,
- D.A.



About Autism Canada

Autism Canada is the only Canadian organization with a national perspective on the issues currently facing those with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), their families, caregivers, and other allies.

Autism Canada has been generating public awareness about autism in Canada since 1976. Together, with our counterparts, we work to share expertise, build consensus and inform public policy. In addition to encouraging best practices, we actively promote national dialogue on the most effective strategies for building equitable access to funding and services.

Every one of our staff and Board of Directors has a personal connection to autism and neurodiversity or are on the Autism Spectrum themselves. Additionally, Autism Canada is guided by an external advisory group called "Autism Ambassadors" made up entirely of individuals on the spectrum. The Autism Ambassadors are a consistent and direct connection to the autism community in Canada and act as our consultants on issues relevant to the autism community.

Our strategic objectives focus on changing the future for those on the Autism Spectrum through the delivery of the highest quality programs like the national annual Au-Some Conference, written and presented solely by those on the Autism Spectrum. We are home to the first of its kind Search and Rescue for Autism program as well as the Recognizing Behaviours and Sensory Support programs. Additionally, Autism Canada hosts the Family Services Program which allows us to provide practical and timely support to individuals and families in need.

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.

Message from the Chair & Executive Director

45 years.

Autism Canada proudly celebrated our 45th anniversary in 2021; that's a history of 45 years standing with autistics, their families, caregivers, friends, and allies. Although a great deal changed for the autism community over that period, our commitment to inclusivity and acceptance for everybody on the Autism Spectrum has gotten stronger and we are steadfast in our mission.

We recognize that this past year again presented challenges and hardships due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Like you, we are hopeful and optimistic that the days to come will continue to allow more connection and community. Autism Canada will continue to advocate for communities that are welcoming and inclusive for everyone – and we hope to have many more opportunities to join with you in neighbourhoods across the country.

In 2022 Autism Canada is launching a new strategic plan that will guide our organization toward growth, sustainability, and innovation. Looking to the future provides us a sense of hopefulness that we're helping create stronger communities and more inclusive environments.

We'd like to express our deep appreciation to our staff who have continued and improved our operations through the challenges of another year of the pandemic. Their commitment to individuals on the Autism Spectrum, their families, and our communities is inspiring and we thank them for their dedication, passion, and creativity. We would also like to thank the members of the board of directors. Our board is a group of committed volunteers who have capably steered the organization through another challenging and successful year.

And more importantly we'd like to thank you, our donors, and friends, for your continued support. We appreciate your financial contributions, your participation and feedback, your efforts to influence change. We are honoured that you support us; thank you.

Kindest regards,



Dermot Cleary
Chair, Board of Directors



Barbara Patten
Executive Director

Autism Canada Board of Directors



Dermot Cleary
Chair



Dr. Suzanne Lewis
Vice-Chair



Tim Berry
Treasurer



Larry Bellehumeur
Director



Paul Finch
Director



Sally Ginter
Director



Jennifer Ho
Director



Tom Jackman
Director



Liz Phipps
Director



Andrea Podruski
Director



Philippa St. Clair Hood
Director

Guiding Principles

Mission:

To advocate for and support people with autism and their families living in Canada.

Vision:

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

At Autism Canada we:

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

Autism Society Canada Treasurer's Report

In 2021 Autism Society Canada experienced a 4% increase in revenue over 2020; total revenue was \$632,775. The organization's revenue from donations was \$317,821 which was a 58% increase in donations from last year. This included a legacy gift of \$50,000. Sincere thanks to all of our donors who continue to provide financial support to the organization.

Salary and wage adjustments accounted for most of a 5% increase in expenditures, and the year ended with a modest surplus of \$132,433, comparable to the 2020 surplus of \$130,671.

Autism Society Canada received a qualified audit opinion for 2021; this is because the organization receives revenue through fundraising initiatives and donations which are not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. This is common amongst charities that conduct fundraising.

Lastly, I'd like to express my appreciation to the members of the finance and audit committee of the board who are responsible for ensuring that Autism Canada has its financial affairs and internal controls in order.

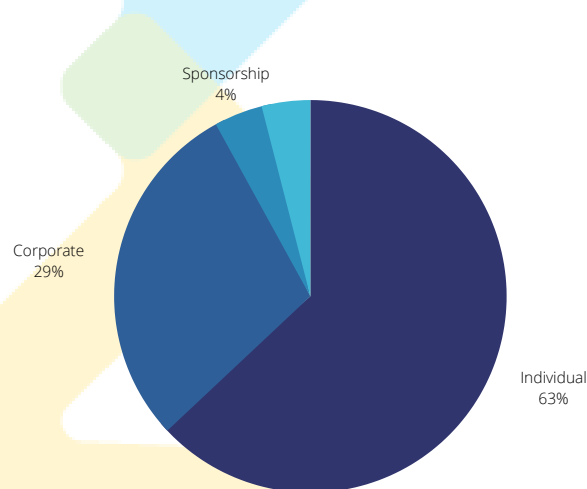


Tim Berry, MBA, CPA, CMA

Every Penny Counts

Where our Donations Come From

- 63%** Individual Donors
- 29%** Corporate Donors
- 4%** Sponsorship
- 4%** In Memorium Donations



With Thanks from a Client

"I wanted to send you a deeply heartfelt thank you for your message to me in response to my stress about my assessment process.

Indeed, it is a very stressful experience and process, and it meant a great deal to me that some stranger out there took the time to be sensitive and kind to me when I reached out. This is the second time that I have reached out to your organization with queries, and both times you have been incredibly informative and kind."

- S.S.

We Couldn't Do It Without You

Tenacity \$10,000+

DeCaria, Sam & Fannie
Enbridge
Government Of Canada

McBride, Erna H
Norwex Foundation
Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation

Resilience \$5,000+

BE havior
British Columbia General Employees' Union
Computer Modelling Group Ltd.
Cormark Securities Inc

Curran, Connor
Egan, Lee
Michelman, Angelika
Sachs, Michael

Integrity \$3,000+

Ledcore Industries Inc.
Ontario Power Generation Employees' & Pensioners' Special Events
Zaidi, Lubna

Empathy \$1,000+

Bokkers, Tyler
Doig, Edward
Fillion, Alfred
Halldorson, Clarence
Hawthorn, Leigh
Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto
Keoughan, Sean
Lambersky, irwin
McDermott, Carolyn
McEachern, Bryan
Mclarty, Brenda
Meridian Credit Union Limited
Mills & Mills LLP
Mini Owls
Nahanni Steel Products Inc.

PayPal Giving Fund
Pearce, Ian and Michelle
Rewkowska, Malwina
Rieger, John
Shahidi, Lilli
Shaun Robert Gowman Michael Liam Willis
Standard Products Inc.
The Richter Charitable Foundation
Trash Inc
Tso, Chi Yuen (David)
United Way / Centraide (Central N.B.) Inc.
United Way East Ontario
Washkau, Julie
Whyte, Eleanor
Wohler Canada Inc

With thanks to our anonymous supporters.
Although you are not recognized publicly in these pages,
we are truly grateful for your support.

We Couldn't Do It Without You

Advocate \$500+

- 
- Abitbol, Adam
 - Albert, Debbie
 - Amery, Kal
 - Atkinson, Sean
 - Barill, Max
 - Brhelle, Lois
 - Butler, Jane
 - Carver-Smith, Janet
 - Commision Scolaire Sir Wilfrid Laurier
 - Dymond, Mark
 - Faris, Paul
 - Gardner, Shane
 - Gradley, Christian
 - Hebert, Arthur
 - Hobbs, Richard
 - Hoxha, Shemsedin
 - Jafarpisheh, Arash
 - Johnston, Steve
 - Kruyne, Ashley
 - Krysac, Lorraine Cindy
 - Lam, Arthur
 - Lee, Cindy
 - Leonard, Sylvie
 - Loo, Allyson
 - Lynn, Mykalla
 - Macleod, W Morrison
 - Madaire, Robert
 - Martins, Mary-Jane
 - Maskell, Lynzy
 - McHugh, Rose
 - McIntosh, Michael
 - MDX Recycling INC
 - Mok, Dereck
 - Morrison, Melisa
 - My Tribute Gift Foundation
 - Ng, Alexander
 - Osborne, John & Shelley
 - Payment, Dominique
 - Postma, Dan & Mira
 - S&P Global
 - Sraka, Robert
 - Swartz-Hawley, Sara
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 - United Way Of Greater Toronto
 - United Way of Sarnia Lambton
 - United Way Saint John Kings and Charlotte
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 - Villeneuve, Philip
 - Vyver, Cristiena
 - Whyte, Eleanor
 - Wilson, Andre
 - Windsor, Ashley

Autism Canada would like to thank each of our 2021 donors and sponsors. It is because of your support and trust in us that we can accomplish so much.





In 2021, our Family Services Team received and responded to

2,367
calls & emails.

That's over 1,700 hours of direct support.



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AUTISME**
See The Spectrum Differently
Le spectre autrement

Our strength is our Family Services Program

Autism Canada's Family Services 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 crisis support to those struggling with an autism diagnosis and potential co-occurring conditions.

Each inquiry is researched and responded to with available resources by province or community. This can include employment, education, diagnosis, housing, and funding according to location and nature of severity. With the global pandemic and the simultaneous suspension or elimination of essential support programs, uncertainties within school networks, job loss, homelessness, and severe mental health concerns, crisis inquiries have become increasingly common.

The Family Service team at Autism Canada is trained to provide the support necessary for the crisis situations some on the Autism Spectrum may be facing.

Thank You, Family Services Team

“

Thank you so much for all the helpful info as well as the advocacy letter. I'm still trying to get in home services to help me, but wanted to let you know that your support is very much appreciated.
- Z



“

Thank you sooo much for all of the information, links and resources. We truly appreciate your help in navigating this process. We will go through everything and reach out again if we have any questions.
-T.J.

“

Thank you so very much! This is so incredibly helpful! My mom and I are so grateful for all your help, advice, and information. Your kindness and commitment is life-changing! Thank you for everything
- J.A.



You Made This Possible in 2021

AU-SOME CONFERENCE

Our free, annual Au-Some Conference was a successful day of presentations about autism created and shared by autistics. This year, because of our supporters, we were able to compensate all of our presenters with an honorarium for their time and efforts. We were able to secure Canadian icon & autism advocate Eugene Levy to introduce the conference and as well as our keynote speaker!

By far our largest event, the Au-Some Conference is virtual and free so attendees can view from anywhere in Canada (and beyond). To date, & since its launch on October 23, the engaging presentations from the Au-Some Conference have been viewed over 3,000 times.

We would like to thank The British Columbia General Employees' Union, Cormark Securities, Novotech, Rangan, Public Label and Daily Hive for their unwavering support of the event.

SHARING THE SPECTRUM

The Speaker Series

2021 saw the launch of a new forum for community events, The Speaker Series.

We organized 3 free events for our community to share information and learnings about autism from subject experts and autistics alike.

The series included presentations on sleep strategies and relaxation / meditation for children on the spectrum, the importance of human connection for autistics and a three part series on back to school for parents and caregivers.



Community events are an important way to engage, spread acceptance and create inclusivity for autistics, their caregivers, friends, and allies. With the isolation created by the pandemic through 2020 and 2021, we wanted to bring people together for community and for some much needed fun.

We hosted 3 Musical BINGO events which saw community members join us online to play bingo by searching for songs and artists instead of numbers.

We also hosted the Canadian premiere of the movie The Limits of My World, a documentary film about a young man aging out of the system and about his relationship with his neurotypical sister.

Between these events, we engaged over 270 people and raised over \$7,000 to support our Family Services Team's activity.

Our Autism Ambassadors

THANK YOU

Bruce Petherick
Jason Oldford
c.e. chapple
D. S.

Javier A. Herrera
Henry Bockstael
Minni Ang
Andrew S.

Anantha Krishnamurthy
Gail Berman
Michael Tanzer
Yvonne Spicer

David Beresford
William Caruana
Theresa Somerton

Autism Canada's dedicated volunteer team of autistic ambassadors advocate and work to inspire social change on issues that are important to their community and the families, caregivers and allies of those on the Autism Spectrum. They contribute by writing articles and producing videos on relevant topics for our Sharing the Spectrum Newsletter, by speaking to the media on the community's behalf and by advising the Autism Canada team on how to better support our clients and the autism community in Canada.

We are grateful to each of our Ambassadors and would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank them for their continued dedication, support and engagement.

*"I would like to thank you for the resources you have sent. May I also tell you how much I appreciated your time in listening to me when we spoke over the phone and for being so warm and empathetic with my little bout of heartache... I am grateful for wonderful people like you who are helping special needs families like ours."
- M.N.*



Connections



Autism Canada/Autisme Canada
24,402 supporters



Autism Canada
12,822 supporters



Autism Canada
11,418 supporters



Autism Canada
2,916 supporters



Autism Canada
1,245 supporters



Mailing List
6,618 Supporters

Most Liked Post of 2021



Autism Canada
Just now



AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

People on the spectrum need the same things as everyone else - kindness, understanding, acceptance and inclusivity.

www.autismcanada.org

Autism Acceptance Month

People on the spectrum & their families often face stigma, prejudice and a lack of services and support. Be the person who offers support, kindness and acceptance.

#autismacceptance



Like



Comment



Share

*"My wife and I wanted to say thank you for all the information you sent us re: the Disability Tax Credit. You went out of your way to help and we truly appreciate it."
- T.P.*

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.

Notes



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Registered Charitable Number: 13160 7657 RR0001

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.