

Autism Society Canada celebrates its 35th Anniversary in 2011 “I am my own success- Leland’s story.”

Leland Kreklewich is his own success story: despite his early diagnosis of Asperger’s Syndrome, Leland is an accomplished public speaker and a member of Autism Society Canada’s Advisory Committee of Adults on the Spectrum. Leland is proud to be a part Autism Society Canada (ASC), an organization that was started 35 years ago with the goal of helping parents find information and supports for their children living with an autism spectrum disorder.

Today, 35 years later – and with the help of advisory committee members like Leland - ASC has grown to become the largest collective voice in the Canadian autism community. Provincial and territorial autism societies and their member groups provide direct support to people with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) and their families all across Canada.

As a child Leland suffered from convulsions and speech delay, and at the age of three he was diagnosed with Asperger’s Syndrome. Despite the many obstacles he has faced over the years, Leland speaks with great optimism and looks forward to sharing his experiences with others. “I live an independent life; I own a condo, I have my own car and I have a full time job. I enjoy sharing my experiences. However, it’s important to understand that what works for me may not work for someone else. Everyone has their own unique way of dealing with their Autism.” Leland is a graduate of the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST) accounting program, and currently works as an accountant at MNP in Saskatoon. He is his own success story: his career has enabled him to live the independent lifestyle he enjoys. But Leland is quick to point out that he couldn’t have accomplished all this on his own. For example, he has a boss who understands his disorder and is sympathetic to his needs.

Leland surrounds himself with good and honest people who have his best interests at heart and don’t mind telling him the truth. “My close friends and family truly look out for me.” Leland’s success is an inspiration. However, it’s important to note that what worked for him, may not work for other individuals with autism.

After all, once you’ve met one person with autism, you’ve met one person with autism.

Autism Society Canada supports Leland and his family by advocating on a national platform on their behalf. After 35 years of experience working with the Canadian autism community, ASC knows that the time is now to develop the foundation of a Canadian Autism Strategy, so individuals across Canada can access high quality services for their autism related needs. For more information log on to www.autismsocietycanada.ca, or contact us at 866-476-8440.

ASC’s Provincial Member society in Saskatchewan is SASKFeat.

<http://www.saskfeat.com/> or 306.862.4768