

Canadian Autism Awareness Month (CAAM) - October 2009

CAAM events across Canada

During the month of October many provincial and territorial events are planned around the country to raise Autism awareness and to celebrate our successes. Autism Society Canada posts a comprehensive list of provincial and territorial events on its website at: www.autismsocietycanada.ca

“As a parent of a child living with an ASD, Autism Society Canada is helping me to find answers. I look forward to talking with other Canadians living with an ASD child and their families about available ASD resources, from across this country. This will have a measurable impact on my daily life, as a mother, as a teacher and a direct impact on my family's life, and more importantly, my daughter's life, as she was diagnosed with Aspergers Syndrome.” – Arden C. Fiala, parent and volunteer from Saskatchewan, SASKFEAT director

A Canadian National Autism Strategy

Canada's Health Minister the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq issued a Ministerial Message to remind us of the importance of continuing to raise awareness in Canada. Autism Society Canada continues to work with the Federal Government to ensure Canada develops its National Autism Strategy. Families and individuals continue to struggle with limited funding, resources and supports. The thousands of Canadians with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) deserve support for treatments and services to help reach their full potential and contribute to society.

“Autism Society Canada has a responsibility to again call upon politicians and policy makers during this month to make autism a national priority. ASC's ultimate goal remains to develop a National Autism Strategy for all Canadians.” – Michael Lewis, President of ASC

CAIRN (Canadian Autism Intervention Research Network) Symposium

Autism Society Canada's Board members and its Advisory Committee of Adults on the Spectrum were present at this national conference in Toronto October 2, 2009. The conference brought together scientists and practitioners from across disciplines, as well as parents and policy makers to share information and to discuss potential research topics with autism stakeholders. For the first time, persons on the autism spectrum were also present to share their thoughts and views on a research agenda.

It was such a great honour and responsibility for the Advisory Committee to be part of this CAIRN symposium and to provide a first-hand perspective on research issues that matter to adults on the Autism Spectrum, a crucial element that's been sorely needed in Autism research for the longest time – Kristian Hooker – Chair, Advisory Committee of Adults on the Spectrum

Canadian Charter of Rights for Persons with Autism

People with autism should share the same rights and privileges enjoyed by all citizens of Canada with appropriate consideration to the best interests of the person with autism. These rights should be enhanced, protected and enforced by appropriate legislation in each province and territory. ASC is encouraging feedback (admin@autismsocietycanada.ca) regarding the [Canadian Charter of Rights for Persons with Autism](#). The original Charter was proposed in celebration of World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD), April 2nd 2009.

Founded in 1976, Autism Society Canada has grown to become a strong federation of Canada-wide provincial and territorial autism societies whose collective memberships represent the largest body of individuals affected by ASDs and their families in Canada.