



Canadians with Autism Spectrum Disorders Still Waiting For Action

For immediate release

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Autism Society Canada urges both the federal and provincial governments to work collaboratively to step up action to provide comprehensive supports, early intervention and more accessible services to families and individuals affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs). Health and social policy leaders must take the necessary steps to ensure a seamless system of care and a better understanding of the special needs of children and adults with autism across the lifespan. In far too many cases, Canadians are unable to secure access to effective treatments, targeted health and social services, adequate education supports, and in-home family supports.

As Christine Dade, President of Autism Society Canada says... *“Every day, ASC receives numerous requests for help from individuals and families across the country, many of whom are trying to deal with very difficult situations. The onus is continually on the parents and families and people with ASDs. They are expected to know exactly where to go and what to do. They are expected to be able to navigate increasingly complex systems, and to advocate successfully for their own needs in all situations. In too many cases, complex and fragmented systems of care, long waiting lists and lack of resources make this impossible. In addition, there are many”* have not” parts of the country that remain severely underserved when it comes to autism and Aspergers supports. Either way, we continue to fail these individuals and families”.

Autism Society Canada has been working for over thirty years to promote a comprehensive federal National Autism Spectrum Disorder Strategy – we feel national leadership and commitment on ASD is absolutely vital in order to bring equal access to targeted health, education and social services for all Canadians with ASDs. **There are currently glaring gaps in the availability of fully funded treatment and services for children, youth and adults with ASD.** The lifespan needs facing our community are complex and the treatment, service and accommodation needs across the ASD spectrum are multi-faceted.

Autism Society Canada is a nationally incorporated charity founded in 1976. ASC is a federation of Canada-wide provincial and territorial autism societies whose collective memberships represent a very large community of individuals affected by ASD and their families in Canada. ASC is committed to advocacy, public education, information and referral, and the support of its provincial and territorial autism societies.

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