

Canadian Autism Spectrum Disorders Alliance (CASDA)  
Alliance Canadienne des Troubles du Spectre  
Articles of Membership  
Amended September 15, 2015

**Introduction**

The name of the corporation is the Canadian Autism Spectrum Disorders Alliance. In French, the corporation shall be Alliance Canadienne des Troubles du Spectre Autistique. The corporation is known commonly, as CASDA.

CASDA is a coalition of organizations and individuals sharing a common vision, mission and goals. The members are committed to working together in the best interest of the goals of CASDA and to collaborating in the spirit of a national shared leadership movement.

CASDA was formed following the release of the 2007 Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology report entitled, *Pay Now or Pay Later: Autism Families in Canada*. A number of leaders from ASD-specific organizations from across Canada initiated the alliance to ensure that the momentum created by the release of the report continued.

CASDA has identified a single focus for its work: to work with the federal government and its departments to develop a national ASD strategy. By reaching out to leaders in the ASD sector from across Canada, CASDA has successfully promoted a single voice for autism in Canada and a unified body with which our government could work. Through CASDA, the autism community has come together to provide a strong and unified national voice to advance the collective messages of our sector. Together, CASDA and its members have worked to promote the federal government's commitment to the development and implementation of a National Autism Strategy.

The **Vision** of CASDA is that all Canadians living with an ASD should have full and equal access to resources so as to achieve their full potential.

The **Mission** of CASDA is to ensure our federal government develops and implements a plan or a National Autism Spectrum Disorder Strategy.

The **Goals** of CASDA are to engage our federal government, its ministries and departments to make them aware of the issues facing Canadians living with ASD and to partner with them to develop and implement a national ASD strategy.

## **Categories of Membership**

There are two categories of membership in CASDA, Voting Members and Non-voting Members.

### 1. Voting Member:

1.1 **National Organization Member:** has representation, members or service scope in all provinces and territories across Canada and has a recognized mandate to influence policy at the federal level of government. They will have provided confirmation that they have read, understood, and signed CASDA's membership application form, paid fees and agrees to adhere to the Articles of Membership.

1.2. **Community Organization Member:** has representation, members or service scope in a community, province, territory or region of Canada and has provided confirmation that they have read, understood, and signed CASDA's membership application form, paid fees and agrees to adhere to the Articles of Membership.

Voting Members must be incorporated as a charity and/or not for profit organization, pursuant to applicable Federal and/or Provincial laws.

### 2. Non-Voting Members

2.1 **Honourary Member:** An individual who is deemed to have made significant contribution to CASDA's vision, mission or goals may receive the title of Honourary Member. The title of Honourary Member must be approved by members at an Annual General Meeting by a simple majority of members present.

2.2 **Political Ambassador:** An individual who is a current elected and/or appointed official at the Federal level who supports the vision, mission or goals of CASDA. All Political Ambassadors must be approved by the Board of Directors and voted on by the members at the Annual General Meeting, with a simple majority of members present.

2.3 **Friends of CASDA/Individual Members:** He/she has attained the age of eighteen (18) years, and is a resident of Canada. He/she has provided confirmation that they have read, understood, and signed CASDA's membership application form, paid fees and agrees to adhere to the Articles of Membership.

## **Membership Term, Rights, Privileges and Responsibilities**

The membership year shall be the annual date upon which the membership was confirmed. Fees deemed payable shall be determined by the Board of Directors, based on a review of the fees schedule and the financial requirements of CASDA and will be published on the membership application form.

Membership to CASDA and all rights and privileges shall cease under the following circumstances:

- Upon written and signed notice of resignation to the Board of Directors from the Member.
- A member's account with CASDA falls out of good standing (i.e. being in default with respect to payment of Fees after a maximum grace period of 30 days.)
- An individual or an organization is expelled from the membership by reason of undertaking activities that are not in collaboration and consistent with the vision, mission or goals of CASDA.
- An individual ceases to be a resident of Canada, or an organization ceases to exist (becomes dissolved).

Voting rights are defined as follows:

- Only Voting Members shall have voting rights.
- Each Voting Member in good standing shall have one (1) vote on all questions put to the membership at the Annual General Meeting.
- Any motion shall be passed by a simple majority of votes from the Voting Members present at the Annual General Meeting.
- Voting shall be by a showing of hands, verbal vote or other electronic means.

## **CASDA Governance**

CASDA shall operate in compliance with By-law 1, developed upon incorporation in and as filed with CASDA's submission to the Canada Not for Profit Corporation Act, in June 2015.

There shall be a Board of Directors comprised of up to ten (10) Voting Members, of which a minimum of one (1) and a maximum of three (3) are National Organization Members. Each Director will be in a senior position within their organization and have the ability to make decisions on behalf of their organization. Individuals on the Board of Directors must be Voting Members of CASDA in good standing. All Directors will have a minimum of one (1) year tenure within CASDA.

Nominations for an appointment on the Board of Directors shall be made by CASDA members and delivered to the Board of Directors Chair prior to the Fiscal Year end (December 31). A list of nominees will be circulated to all Members along with the notice of the Annual General Meeting.

An Annual General Meeting (AGM), shall be held within one hundred and twenty (120) days of the end of CASDA’s fiscal year. Notice of the AGM shall be delivered to each Member, at the last email address provided, a minimum of twenty-one (21) days before the meeting. Notice shall be deemed received when the electronic mail is sent. The AGM may take place via teleconference call, unless otherwise specified. Quorum of the AGM shall be the number of Voting Members in good standing present at the meeting.

The fiscal year of CASDA shall follow the calendar year, January 1<sup>st</sup> through to December 31<sup>st</sup>. A complete and proper statement of the books for the previous year shall be presented at the annual AGM. A Member wishing to inspect the books & financial records of CASDA must give the Treasurer 90 days’ notice of their intension to do so.

Dated at the City of Toronto in the Province of Ontario,  
September 15, 2015

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Member name from the Board of Directors

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Member name from the Board of Directors

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Member signature from the Board of Directors