



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CASDA LAUNCHES BLUEPRINT FOR A NATIONAL AUTISM STRATEGY

Canada cannot let the lives of Autistic individuals get shuffled between the provinces, territories and the federal government.

(Ottawa, ON): The Canadian Autism Spectrum Disorders Alliance (CASDA) is launching a detailed blueprint for a National Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Strategy; calling on the federal government to take a leadership role in supporting Autistic Canadians, as well as their families and caregivers.

The launch of the National ASD Strategy blueprint will take place on April 1st, one day before World Autism Day and CASDA's two-day [Leadership Summit](#) bringing together Canada's leading researchers, community stakeholders, self-advocates and policy makers.

Who: Canadian Autism Spectrum Disorders Alliance (CASDA)

What: CASDA will be reaffirming its call for a National ASD Strategy, with the release of a blueprint for a strategy, at a media event hosted by Senator Jim Munson.

Where: 135B Press Conference Room, West Block, Parliament Hill, Ottawa

When: April 1, 11 a.m.

Why: Based on 2015 data, 1 in 66 Canadian children and youth ages 5-17 have been diagnosed with Autism. It has been over a decade since the launch of the Senate Committee Report, "Pay Now or Pay Later: Autism Families in Crisis". The Senators' call for a National ASD Strategy has picked up momentum across the country, with self-advocates, families, caregivers, researchers and medical and support professionals all asking for federal leadership. While changes to Ontario's autism treatment program has garnered significant media coverage across the nation, it's important to note this is not a unique challenge for Ontario. Every single Province and Territory has to address the complex lifespan challenges pertaining to successfully supporting people with autism and their families.

We need a truly national approach; A Strategy that puts Autistic Canadians at the centre.

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