

Informing Canada's Autism Strategy: Lessons From Across the Globe



What's the issue?

Without access to the appropriate supports, people with Autism and their families face worse health, education, employment, and quality of life outcomes.

The **Canadian Autism Spectrum Disorder Alliance (CASDA)** is partnering with the Canadian government to guide the development of the **Canadian National Autism Strategy (NAS)**. Stakeholders highlighted **5 areas of immediate federal action**:



Affordability & access



Employment



Housing



Information

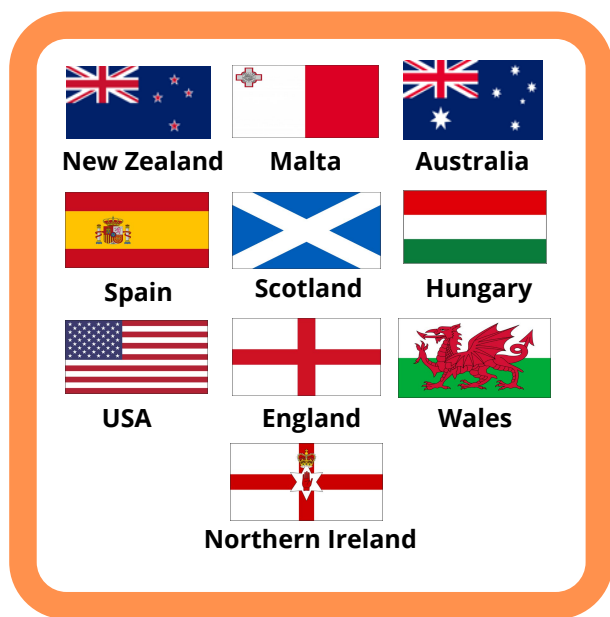


Research & Governance



What did we do?

To learn from other countries, we looked at their Autism strategies, legislation, and plans of action.



We pulled out policy recommendations relevant to the 5 areas.



What did we learn?

Here is one example from each area:



'Family Support Hubs': Multi-agency networks of organizations that help connect families to local service providers that best suit the needs of individual families.

'Project Search': A school-to-work employment readiness program that provides youth with disabilities job coaching, career exploration, work skills training, and hands-on work experience.



Alignment of NAS with **Canada's National Housing Strategy**. Develop comprehensive data to better understand the diverse housing needs of Canadians with Autism.



'Can You See Me Campaign': This campaign promotes understanding and acceptance of autism among communities, and minimizes exclusion and stigma.



Role of consultation in research and governance. Advisory committee legislated in national act, with stakeholder roles outlined, ensuring people with Autism sit on the board.



Where do you come in?

We are looking for interested and enthusiastic stakeholders to help us use knowledge from the international strategies to develop policy recommendations that work within Canada. **To contribute to this process, please fill out this [survey](#) or email info@casda.ca.**

To learn more about the international Autism strategies and the above process, check out **our [webinar](#)**.