



JOIN US

TO GUIDE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A
NATIONAL AUTISM STRATEGY

03/2021


CASDA  ACTSA

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

Join us to support the development of a National Autism Strategy!

On behalf of the board and members of the Canadian Autism Spectrum Disorder Alliance (CASDA), I would like to invite you to join CASDA. As a member of CASDA you can be a part of a national endeavour to make a better Canada for Autistic Canadians.

As you may know, CASDA is a national leadership coalition focused on coordinating national conversations about autism and bringing community voices to the federal government to support their development of a National Autism Strategy (NAS). Furthermore, as a growing alliance positioning as a constructive policy generator, CASDA sets out to identify emerging policy gaps and create systems change in guiding the development and implementation of a NAS.

In our work together, CASDA is aiming to influence the federal government to ensure the best Canada for Autistic Canadians. To do this we are committed to a shared leadership model where all our members are independent leaders in the autism sector. From across the country, we pool our expertise and engage with the federal government utilizing a strong and credible voice.

As a member of CASDA you will be adding your voice to that of Autistic self-advocates, stakeholder populations and your colleagues, across the country, making it that much stronger and that much more influential.

Together, with a strong and authoritative voice, we are making change happen; but there is more to do. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you as we press forward with our advocacy for a robust NAS.

If you would like to speak with other CASDA members or have a Board member contact you, please do not hesitate to [reach out](#).



Debbie Irish
Chair of CASDA

WHY JOIN CASDA?

By becoming a member of CASDA, you will become a part of a coalition of like-minded organizations and individuals committed to a national shared leadership movement. CASDA aims at **uniting voices** together, **amplifying areas of consensus** while simultaneously **highlighting areas of difference** for the government. It is imperative that we work together to create a greater voice for the autism community in Canada.

In the development of autism-related policies and processes, we will be your convener and incubator of innovative ideas. We lead by working together to foster **consensus**, pilot **innovation**, and bring forward **emerging practices** from you, our members, to the federal government. As we press forward with our advocacy for a robust NAS, we must consider that autism spans a variety of topics when it comes to government policies. As such, it is imperative that we unite our voices to bring a diversity of expertise and experiences towards a national shared leadership movement.

If you have any questions, feel free to email us at info@casda.ca.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



STRONG UNIFIED
VOICE



PUBLIC PROFILE



YOUR NAME
DISPLAYED



REGULAR UPDATES
VIA NEWSLETTER



ACCESS TO WORKING
GROUPS



DISCOUNTED RATE
FOR ANNUAL SUMMIT

[Join Now](#)

OUR VISION

A better quality of life for Autistic Canadians. A successful National Autism Strategy can accomplish this. The ultimate outcome is real, impactful, positive change for Autistic Canadians and their families.

OUR MISSION

CASDA is a coalition of organizations and individuals developing a National Autism Strategy. It is committed to ensuring the implementation of a comprehensive NAS that addresses critical gaps in funding and policies, which are preventing autistic individuals and their families from exercising their equal rights as Canadians.

OUR GUIDING BELIEFS



... accomplish more by working together.



... foster a culture of trust and respect.



... communicate effectively.

We will ...



... produce measurable results.



... focus on pan-Canadian initiatives and issues.

[Learn More](#)

100+ MEMBERS ACROSS CANADA

In becoming a member of CASDA you will be adding your voice to that of your colleagues, across the country in advocating for the best practices across Canada.

CASDA was formed July 2007 shortly after the Senate Committee Report “Pay Now or Pay Later: Autism Families in Crisis”. During this time the federal government sent a clear message to the autism community: We need to work together with a unified voice.

The autism community responded by forming CASDA. The founding members of CASDA all believed that there was more our Federal Government could do for autism and together we could make change happen. One thing we all agreed on was that this country needed a NAS.

The autism community cannot afford to wait any longer. Families are being pushed to the breaking point. Canadians on the Spectrum have a right to equal access to health care and education that meets their needs and to participate fully in society. In April 2019, we launched a revitalized campaign for a NAS with a Blueprint, followed by the Roadmap in March 2020. These documents outline areas for federal focus and delineate a potential timeline for the government to work together with the autism community in developing a Strategy.

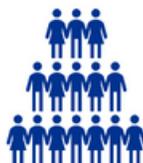
CASDA
is a Canada-
wide alliance
that
represents:



Researchers
and clinicians



Community
organizations



National Autism
organizations



Self-advocates
& Individuals

[**Learn More**](#)

OUR WORK

Below you will find some of the work we are doing to bring the voices of the autism community together and to support the development of a National Autism Strategy.

Policy Compendium

This year, CASDA struck 5 policy development working groups to focus on the priority areas for a NAS. The aim of these briefs is to aid and support the federal government in taking actionable and effective steps towards the development of a NAS. Their contents reflect the opinions and views of a wide range of engaged stakeholders, who are dedicated to move action for a Strategy forward.

[Learn More](#)

Roadmap for a National Autism Strategy

Launched in Spring 2020, CASDA has developed a proposed timeline for the government to work together with the autism community to develop and implement a robust NAS.

[Learn More](#)

Canadian Autism Leadership Summit

A key annual initiative, the Summit brings together experts, Autistic individuals, service providers, politicians and partners from across the country. Together we discuss, debate, and develop recommendations for policies and strategies that benefit Autistic Canadians.



[Learn More](#)

Community Roundtables

A new initiative for 2021, CASDA will be hosting online community roundtables to gather stakeholders across Canada to continue the discussion on autism and the NAS throughout the year. Stay tuned!

[Click here](#) to to learn more about CASDA's other projects.

LANGUAGE DISCLAIMER

To learn about why CASDA uses identity-first language, [read our full Language Disclaimer.](#)



CANADIAN AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER ALLIANCE

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