



**CANADIAN AUTISM  
LEADERSHIP  
VIRTUAL  
SUMMIT  
2021**

**ACTIVITY PACKAGE**

## LETTER TO THE ATTENDEE

Dear Attendee,

It is with great pleasure that we, the CASDA Board, welcome you to participate in the 7th Annual Canadian Autism Leadership Summit (CAL2021) on October 6, 2021. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have once again moved our annual conference to an online platform in accordance with federal, as well as provincial and territorial guidelines on health and safety.

Due to the nature of this Summit being virtual, we have put together this package for attendees, outlining scheduled and ongoing activities. We hope that this package will give you an overview of what to expect and to ensure a seamless CAL2021 experience.

Our theme this year is “Equity, Language, and Policy.” CAL2021 will focus on deepening the conversation on how to link policy, practice and data around a National Autism Strategy. This year’s activities have been tailored to help you connect with policy makers and researchers, as well as to help inform us on what is needed for a National Autism Strategy. This year, we are also offering CAL2021 attendees the unique opportunity to attend a watch party in their local area, in a safe and comfortable setting following provincial restrictions.

In this package, you will find:

- A guide on how to use the virtual platform: Airmeeet (p.3)
- CAL2021 agenda and short description of activities (p.4)
- The poll questions that we plan on asking CAL2021 attendees (p.8)

We hope you enjoy the experience. Please feel free to give us feedback at any time by emailing us at [summit@casda.ca](mailto:summit@casda.ca). Thank you for attending CAL2021 and being part of the CASDA community.



**Airmeet** is a free video-first virtual workspace that you can access with a link directly from your browser. Airmeet mimics an in-person conference with **live virtual tables** for you to network & connect with other attendees. To participate, you must have an account with Airmeet.

**We strongly encourage you to use Chrome to access Airmeet. Not all features are available on other platforms.**

To open the link where you can set up your Airmeet account, click on “Click here to set up Airmeet.”

[Click here to set up Airmeet](#)

**Sign-up to a demonstration of the CALS2021 virtual platform:  
Getting familiar with Airmeet**

<p>To get familiar with the Airmeet platform, we invite you to schedule a one-on-one tech walkthrough with our staff. To schedule a tech walkthrough, e-mail us at <a href="mailto:summit@casda.ca">summit@casda.ca</a></p>	<p>These tech walkthroughs will take place on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>October 1, 2021: 12:00 PM EST</b></li><li>● <b>October 1, 2021: 8:00 PM EST</b></li><li>● <b>October 4, 2021: 12:00 PM EST</b></li><li>● <b>October 4, 2021: 8:00 PM EST</b></li></ul>
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Given that our team will not be available to help you with Airmeet registration on the day of the Summit (October 6, 2021), we ask that you register for Airmeet by October 3, 2021, three (3) days before the conference. Please carefully review the [Step-by-step guide to use Airmeet: For participants](#). We have also created an [Accessible Tech Guide](#).

Additional resources are also linked below:

- [Airmeet iPad and Mobile application for Attendees and Speakers](#)
- [Attendee Guide to Airmeet - Android Application](#)
- [Attendee Guide to Airmeet - iPhone Application : Airmeet](#)
- [Access Social Lounge on Airmeet Mobile Application : Airmeet](#)

If you need additional assistance or encounter an issue with Airmeet registration, please contact us directly at [summit@casda.ca](mailto:summit@casda.ca).

**Let's have some fun!**  
**Here's what you can do to make CALS2021 even more engaging!**

If you are attending CALS2021 by joining an in-person Local Watch Party	Selfie Challenge: Come prepared with your favourite mask and footwear!
If you are attending CALS2021 virtually, on the platform Airmeeet	Best Profile Picture Challenge: Create an original photo and share your picture on social media, with the hashtag #CALS2021

**2021 Canadian Autism Leadership Summit**  
**AGENDA**  
**October 6, 2021**

<b>TIME</b>	<b>SESSION</b>
8:00 PST 11:00 EST	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NETWORKING</b></p> <p>Airmeeet is open. Feel free to enter the event, view the schedule, and join a table to meet other CALS2021 attendees!</p>
	<p><b>Land Acknowledgement<sup>1</sup></b></p> <p>As we join together at this conference from coast to coast to coast, we invite all attendees to visit this link for reflection:</p> <p>To open the link to learn more about territory acknowledgement, click on "Click here to learn more about territory acknowledgement."</p> <p><a href="#">Click here to learn more about territory acknowledgement</a></p> <p>You are invited to share your land acknowledgement for CALS2021 on your social media account using the hashtag #CALS2021. We invite you to go off script and discuss what the land acknowledgement means to you.</p>

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<sup>1</sup>“If we think of territorial acknowledgments as sites of potential disruption, they can be transformative acts that to some extent undo Indigenous erasure. I believe this is true as long as these acknowledgments discomfit both those speaking and hearing the words. The fact of Indigenous presence should force non-Indigenous peoples to confront their own place on these lands.” - Chelsea Vowel, Métis, *Beyond Territorial Acknowledgements*

**Activity: What is outside your window?**

Help us create a map of Canada by taking a picture of what is outside your window! Share a picture on your social media account using the hashtag #CAL2021. [Please tag @ASDalliance.](#)

8:30 PST 11:30 EST	<b>LIVE</b>	<b>Opening Remarks &amp; Opening Ceremony</b>
Opening remarks from Dr. Jonathan Lai, Executive Director of CASDA. Opening Ceremony from James Bird, <b>Member from Dene and Cree Nations of Northern Alberta and the Northwest Territories.</b> Opening remarks from Serge Buy, Chief Executive Officer for the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences.		
9:00 PST 12:00 EST	<b>PRE-RECORDED &amp; LIVE</b>	<b>KEYNOTE Visioning a National Autism Strategy</b>
Please join Damon Kirsebom and Dr. Deepa Singal for their Keynote Presentation: <i>Visioning a National Autism Strategy.</i>		
9:30 PST 12:30 EST	<b>LIVE</b>	<b>PANEL The Need for an Autistic-led Equity Journal</b>
Come listen to the Editors of the Canadian Journal of Autism Equity as they share their journey in founding an Autistic-led platform that brings equity issues to light. The panel is 45 minutes long, followed by a short Q&A at the end.		
10:30 PST 1:30 EST	<b>NETWORKING &amp; BREAK</b> You can take our survey, visit the survey table to talk to staff, or connect with other CAL2021 attendees	
<b>Activity: Dance Party</b> We have all been sitting for a few hours now. Join us as Brent Edwards, our MC, gets us moving with this dance party.		

<p><b>Survey</b> Using virtual post-it notes, write down your reflections on: “What are some things to work on moving forwards with a National Autism Strategy? Click on “Click here to fill out the survey” to participate. <a href="#">Click here to fill out the survey.</a></p>		
11:00 PST 2:00 EST	<b>LIVE</b>	<p><b>PANEL</b> <b>Navigating Language Use in Autism: Respect, Rights and Cultural Values</b></p>
<p>In this panel, Autistic people, parents, service providers and researchers come together to speak of the importance of language-use in autism. This discussion is especially important as we move forward with a National Autism Strategy.</p>		
12:00 PST 3:00 EST	<b>NETWORKING &amp; BREAK</b>	
<p><b>Activity: What’s on my desk?</b> At the Networking Table, share one thing that is on your desk that you think is fun, unusual, or interesting.</p>		
<p><b>Activity: You’re in my space!</b> At the Networking Table, share who or what has disrupted your virtual meetings the most? For example: Pets, spouse, children, notifications, etc.</p>		
<p><b>Activity: Is it higher or lower?</b> Play The Higher Lower Game. To play click on “Play Higher or Lower” <a href="#">Play Higher or Lower</a></p> <p>Share your high score by sharing a screenshot or text on your social media account using the hashtag #CAL2021. <b>Please tag @ASDalliance.</b></p>		
12:30 PST 3:30 EST	<b>LIVE</b>	<p><b>PANEL</b> <b>Moving from Strategy to Policy: Community Engagement on a National Autism Strategy</b></p>

<p>The next step for a National Autism Strategy is stakeholder engagement. Join us for this panel about community engagement organized by the Kids Brain Health Network-CASDA 2021 Policy Fellows. Learn about the ongoing work to advance a National Autism Strategy in Canada.</p>		
<p>1:30 PST 4:30 EST</p>	<p><b>LIVE</b></p>	<p><b>Closing Ceremony, Survey Results &amp; Special Announcement</b></p>
<p>Closing Ceremony from James Bird, <b>Member from Dene and Cree Nations of Northern Alberta and the Northwest Territories.</b></p>		
<p>2:00 PST 5:00 EST</p>	<p><b>NETWORKING</b> Airmeeet will remain open for anyone who would like to continue connecting with CALS2021 attendees.</p>	

## Polls on the Development of a National Autism Strategy

On October 6, 2021 at 10:30 PST /1:30 EST, keep an eye out for our survey for all CALS2021 attendees!

Below are the 2 questions that we will ask on October 6.

After the conference, we will summarize your thoughts as part of CASDA's collective voice and bring them to the Canadian Government.

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### Survey question 1:

How do current federal government-funded initiatives fit within the upcoming National Autism Strategy?  
(Current funded initiatives can be found below)

1. How should current funding initiatives be organized in a National Autism Strategy?
2. What other types of initiatives are missing?
3. Do you have any other comments about initiative/programs for autism at the federal level?

Current government and government-funded national initiatives and programs include<sup>2</sup>:

- Enabling Accessibility Fund
- Ready, Willing, and Able
- Autism and Intellectual Disabilities Knowledge Exchange Network (AIDE)
- Social Development Partnerships program
- The Autism Spectrum Disorder Strategic Fund
- National Autism Surveillance System (NASS)
- Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Program
- Canada Disability Benefit
- Disability Tax Credit
- Canada Pension Plan disability benefits
- Canada Disability Savings Grants and Bonds
- Disability Inclusion Action Plan

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<sup>2</sup> This list is not inclusive.



**Survey Question 2:  
What are some things to work on moving forwards with a National Autism  
Strategy?**

**How do I participate in the survey?**

We will ask Question 1, its subquestions, and Question 2 in a Jamboard where attendees can share their answers with each other using virtual post-it notes.

Click on “Click here to fill out the survey” to participate.  
[Click here to fill out the survey.](#)

You can fill out this survey anytime during the hours of the conference on October 6. **You may also join a table with a CASDA staff member or Summit planning member who can ask the questions at the table and write down your answers in the survey.** CASDA members who will be at the tables in between presentations include:

- Stephanie Côté
- Urwa Ghazi
- Emilyanne Stocks
- Megan Krasnodembski
- Dana Bernick
- Elizabeth Plouffe
- Rebekah Kintzinger