

**MEMBERSHIP
INFORMATION**

**BE PART OF THE
MOVEMENT**



CASDA  ACTSA

Spring 2022



A NOTE ON LANGUAGE:

Language is a powerful mechanism in shaping our understanding of the world around us and it influences how people perceive themselves and others. The words we use to talk in conversation with and about autistic people can have a powerful impact in either advancing or undermining disablist attitudes.

Based on the literature and the strong preference of the autistic members of CASDA, we recommend either using identity-first language, or more neutral terms such as "person on the autism spectrum." In order to respect the agency and diversity of voices within the community, CASDA will use such terms interchangeably.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Debbie Irish CASDA Chair

Welcome to CASDA!

On behalf of CASDA's board and members, I want to introduce you to our alliance. CASDA is a national leadership movement focused on achieving a comprehensive National Autism Strategy. Our members are part of a pan-Canadian endeavour to make a better Canada for Autistic people, their families, and their communities.

We are committed to a shared leadership model where all our members are independent leaders in the autism sector, across the country, pooling our expertise and speaking with a strong and credible voice with the federal government about our commitment to improving the lives of Autistic Canadians and their support persons.

We are an inclusive organization where Autistic persons across Canada, researchers, support providers, policy makers and community members join together to strengthen our collective voices and extend our impact.

CASDA's organizational member agencies account for more than \$400 million in revenue, and in turn, contributions to their communities. The National Autism Strategy, which is aimed at improving outcomes for Autistic people in Canada, and their families, can only enhance these contributions to Canada's economic and social strength.

As a member of CASDA, you add your voice to that of over 450 of your colleagues, across the country.

Together, we are making change happen; but there is more to do. We look forward to working with you as we press forward to put legs under a National Autism Strategy. If you would like to speak with other CASDA members or have a Board member contact you, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debbie Irish".

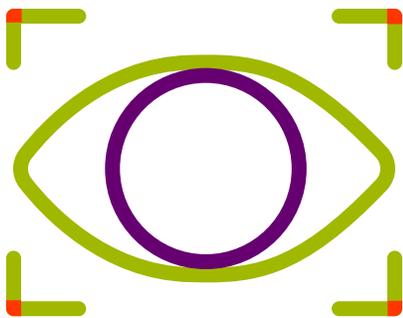
DEBBIE IRISH

ABOUT CASDA

HISTORY

The Canadian Autism Spectrum Disorder Alliance (CASDA) was formed in July of 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 Autistic and autism communities: We need to work together with a unified voice. The community responded by forming CASDA.

Click here to read more [About Us](#) on our website.



VISION

Autistic people living in Canada and their families exercising their full rights and realizing their full potential.



MISSION

To enable the community to address complex issues that Autistic persons and their families face across their lifespan.

Our Guiding Beliefs

WE WILL



Respect and learn
from each other



Share leadership and
meaningfully including
persons with lived
experience



Encourage diversity of
thought and ongoing
dialogue



Ensure equity in
representation across
all stakeholder groups.



Add value to the
neurodevelopmental and
broader disability
community

OUR INITIATIVES

In the work to advance a National Autism Strategy, CASDA has engaged in a number of time-limited projects. These projects provide the federal government with data and evidence needed to improve the lives of Autistic people in Canada, and to further advancing a National Autism Strategy.

To learn more about our current and past projects, visit www.casda.ca.

Examples of these projects include:



Roadmap to a National Autism Strategy

- CASDA launched the Roadmap in March 2020 after the federal government's commitment to the development and implementation of a National Autism Strategy in December 2019.
- The Roadmap includes recommended early wins, timelines for working together, and proposed sequencing of the actions for the development of a National Autism Strategy.
- To view the Roadmap, [click here](#).



Policy Development Working Groups (PDWG)

- CASDA has been running Policy Development Working Groups since 2020 to produce policy reports aimed to guide the development of the National Autism Strategy and the Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP).
- These reports have contributed to systems-level change and federal policy agendas by providing recommendations for improving the quality and accessibility of supports for Autistic people and families from coast to coast to coast.
- PDWG members include CASDA members, partners, and collaborators, including Autistic people, family members, clinicians, researchers, and service providers.
- Past PDWG topics included employment, social inclusion, housing, etc. This year's topics include accessibility in employment, minority languages, and criminal justice system interactions as they relate to Autistic people.
- Stay tuned for our National Autism Newsletter if you are interested in participating in one of our PDWGs!

OUR INITIATIVES

READY WILLING & ABLE

Ready, Willing and Able (RWA)

- In recognition of the need for a supported employment strategy, the federal government provided funding to Inclusion Canada & CASDA to implement a demonstration of effective employment opportunities, across the country.
- Since 2014, RWA has engaged with a wide variety of employers to develop employment options for potential employees with developmental disabilities and/or on the autism spectrum.



The Canadian Journal of Autism Equity (CJAE)

- Established in December 2020, the Canadian Journal of Autism Equity is an open-access e-journal focused on critically engaging with a variety of equity discussions within the autism community and public policy. Seeking authorship primarily by first-voice Autistic people or people with lived experience with autism and intersectionality, the Journal seeks to offer a platform to amplify marginalized voices and share these perspectives with decision-makers and Canadians alike.
- The CJAE is published once each year, in April following World Autism Acceptance Day.



Autism Data Collaborative (ADC)

- In October 2021, CASDA launched the Autism Data Collaborative, bringing stakeholders together to discuss how to better leverage Canadian data assets to inform autism policy in Canada.
- ADC facilitates and accelerates multidisciplinary, multi-sector, and multi-jurisdictional data initiatives and health services and policy research for autism.
- Since the inaugural event, 4 working groups have begun meeting to make progress on priority areas that were distilled from the Fall event.
- The working groups are made up of 42 people from across Canada who are Autistic self-advocates, caregivers, service providers, policy makers, community organizations, and researchers.
- Click [here](#) to view the stakeholder report: Actioning an Autism Data Collaborative.

CANADIAN AUTISM LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Each year, CASDA hosts a national meeting of its members at the Canadian Autism Leadership Summit. It is our opportunity to come together and identify the most current issues facing our sector, review progress since the previous Summit meeting, and articulate goals and objectives for the coming year.

Presentations are made to provide further information related to the goals identified by the members. Networking opportunities are built into the meeting schedule and posters are presented to enable members to illustrate their most current work and engage with others who may have similar interests or activities.

The members guide the direction for CASDA and we develop a work plan to implement these objectives. While non-members are welcome to attend the Summit, the intention of the Summit is to enable our members to stay current on the national issues related to autism and to remain active in setting the directions of CASDA. The Summit traditionally provided a vehicle for engaging with federal politicians, both at the Summit proper and at events organized on Parliament Hill.

Should you have any questions regarding this please contact us at info@casda.ca. To learn more about the Summit and how you can register, [click here](#).



"The Summit does a fantastic job of informing stakeholders of changes in research, practice, policy, etc. Great networking opportunity - especially love the national stage. Very action oriented attendees."

- SUMMIT ATTENDEE



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. It is imperative that we work together to create a greater voice for the Autistic and autism communities in Canada.

Joining CASDA means ...

- The ability to advocate with a strong, collaborative, unified voice; through participation in a national shared leadership movement;
- Staying connected and receiving regular updates through the CASDA e-newsletter;
- A public profile on all marketing and exhibit materials supporting the work of CASDA;
- Your organization's name displayed on CASDA's website;
- Involvement in working groups and focus groups;
- Discounted rates for the annual Canadian Autism Leadership Summit.

To join now, click on the button below. If you have any questions, feel free to email us at info@casda.ca .

JOIN NOW!



TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP



Organization Member

This **paid** membership is available to Canadian organizations whose mandate supports autism and is incorporated as a charity and/or not-for-profit organization. Organization Members have **voting privileges**.



Community Member

This **paid** membership is available to all individuals as well as organizations that would not be considered for organization members (likely because they are for-profit or are not incorporated). **Community Members have voting privileges**.



Associate Member

This **free** membership is available to individuals, groups and organizations that wish to remain aligned with CASDA and receive regular updates. Associate Members do not have voting privileges.

JOIN NOW!

Your membership with CASDA will be renewed automatically on an annual basis. All members will have the possibility to cancel their membership with CASDA with a notice term of 3 months to the end of membership period. Furthermore, members will be able to upgrade or downgrade their membership type at any time.