



For Immediate Release

AUTISM SPEAKS CANADA NAMES FRANK VITI AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Brings more than twenty years of senior executive and CEO experience to organization

TORONTO, ON (October 29, 2012) – Autism Speaks Canada announced today that it has named Frank Viti as Chief Executive Officer effective November 1, 2012. Some of Frank’s key responsibilities will include strategic planning, program innovation, marketing, corporate partnership development and establishing new fundraising initiatives.

“Autism Speaks Canada was looking for an accomplished leader who would be able to take the organization to the next level,” said Marc Murnaghan, Chair, Board of Directors for Autism Speaks Canada. “Frank brings a wealth of senior executive and CEO experience leading organizations in building corporate value propositions, strategic planning and innovative revenue generation. We are excited to have him lead our organization into a successful future.”

Frank has been a key leader in North America’s non-profit and governmental sectors for over two decades having worked within healthcare, social services and environmental agencies. His experience includes President and CEO for Merit Ontario, President and CEO for Asthma Society of Ontario and Vice President, Revenue for Ducks Unlimited. He has also held management positions with the Canadian Cancer Society and the Lung Association. He has also worked in all three levels of government. Frank earned his MBA at the Kellogg School of Management and the Schulich School of Business and achieved his Certified Fund Raising Executive designation in 2001. He has championed innovative and high revenue initiatives related to advancement, strategic corporate partnerships, social marketing, consumer product certification and corporate sponsorship. Frank remains an active volunteer in the Aurora community as well as supporting Federal Health Advisory Committee’s and Research Councils.

About Autism

Autism is a general term used to describe a group of complex developmental brain disorders – autism spectrum disorders – caused by a combination of genes and environmental influences. These disorders are characterized, in varying degrees, by communication difficulties, social and behavioural challenges, as well as repetitive behaviours. An estimated 1 in 88 children is on the autism spectrum – a 100 percent increase in the past 40 years that is only partly explained by improved diagnosis.



About Autism Speaks and Autism Speaks Canada

Autism Speaks together with Autism Speaks Canada forms North America's largest autism science and advocacy organization. It is dedicated to funding research into the causes, prevention and treatments for autism; increasing awareness of autism spectrum disorders; and advocating for the needs of individuals with autism and their families. Fund raising walks for Autism Speaks are held across North America including 6 sites in Canada. Funds raised through walks and other events support Canadian autism research and community grants to agencies across Canada that work directly with children, youth and adults with autism. To learn more about Autism Speaks Canada, please visit www.autismspeaks.ca. For more information on the Walk Now for Autism Speaks events, please visit www.walknowforautismspeaks.ca. Information on Autism Speaks U.S can be found at www.autismspeaks.org

###

Media Contacts: Alicia Erz
 Manager, Communications, Web & Social Media
 Autism Speaks Canada
 416-362-6227 x212
 Alicia.erz@autismspeaks.org

Christina Reinhardt
Assistant, Web & Communications
Autism Speaks Canada
416-362-6227 x209
Christina.reinhardt@autismspeaks.org