



**AUTISM SPEAKS® CANADA** 

It's time to listen. Il faut écouter.

## **FAMILY SERVICES COMMUNITY GRANTS 2014**

Autism Speaks Canada proudly provides funding for service providers across Canada through the Family Services Community Grants program. The purpose of these grants is to support service providers to build their capacity to support individuals and families impacted by Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Family Services Community Grants focus on three key areas of need: education, recreation & community activities and young adult/adult services. Grants are given for up to \$25,000 for a one year duration to support new programs or the expansion of existing programs. Grants are chosen through an extensive review process, including a community panel of individuals with ASD, family members, friends, service providers and research experts across Canada. In 2014, Autism Speaks Canada awarded \$396,140 to 20 organizations across the country. Since the grant program initiated in 2010, Autism Speaks Canada has provided more than \$2.5 million to 131 organizations. For more information on the Family Services Community Grants program, please visit: [www.autismspeaks.ca](http://www.autismspeaks.ca).

### **ACT – Autism Community Training**

#### ***ACT's South Asian Autism Awareness Project (ASAAP)***

Burnaby, BC

\$25,000

The goal of ACT's South Asian Autism Awareness Project (ASAAP) is to increase awareness of autism within British Columbia's South Asian community. The intention is to improve community acceptance and support for South Asian families impacted by ASD and to provide South Asian families with information about the rights of their children to services, including early intervention, an inclusive education, and access to job training. Since 2013, ASAAP has been largely a volunteer effort. This grant will enable ACT to provide a dedicated staff member fluent in Punjabi to build awareness and advocacy efforts in B.C., with materials and resources to share across Canada.

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### **Autisme et TED Haute-Cote-Nord Manicouagan**

#### ***Atelier d'autoprotection***

Gagnon, QC

\$15,000

Action Autisme et TED Haute-Côte-Nord Manicouagan désire offrir une série de douze ateliers d'autoprotection pour les jeunes âgés entre 5 et 17 ans ayant un trouble du spectre de l'autisme. Ces ateliers aideront les jeunes autistes à reconnaître les dangers potentiels, à apprendre comment les éviter et à se protéger à l'aide de moyens adaptés à leur compréhension. Les thèmes abordés porteront essentiellement sur les consignes de sécurité de base et sur l'autoprotection dans les situations d'intimidation verbale et psychologique, de violence physique ou d'abus sexuels. Une partie des ateliers portera sur les techniques physiques d'autodéfense. Nous voulons les aider à reconnaître leurs forces et à prendre confiance en leurs capacités.

**AUTISM SOCIETY ONTARIO**  
***Opening Doors for Adults with ASD***

Toronto, ON  
\$25,000

Both diagnosed and undiagnosed adults often encounter challenges in times of crisis or in daily interactions with a community not experienced in ASD. The goal of this project is to facilitate meaningful knowledge transfer about supporting adults with ASD to targeted sectors of the community who have not previously received or successfully applied such information. This project will work with the legal/justice system, mental health professionals in community settings, and a business that provides customer service to adults. It aims to research how certain sectors access information, and use the results to create and disseminate specific tools that target those interactions. Through this focused engagement, capacity will be built to educate the community to be more responsive and successful in its interactions with adults with ASD.

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**AUTISM NOVA SCOTIA** Halifax, NS  
***Autism eCampus – Creating Respite Solutions for Families in Nova Scotia*** \$25,000

The Autism eCampus and respite database represents a crucial step towards addressing the lack of coordinated respite services in the Central Region of Nova Scotia and the significant gaps in access to respite services province-wide. Autism Nova Scotia has successfully developed a formal curriculum for training respite workers, including modules specifically for supporting individuals on the Autism Spectrum. We have launched an online learning hub, the “Autism eCampus,” to deliver this training to respite workers, as well as support a database for matching workers with families. Before respite workers can be uploaded into the database, they must complete the mandatory curriculum modules online. This enhances their level of understanding and knowledge about ASD and expectations when working with families. As a result, families will get qualified respite workers who have a baseline knowledge of ASD. This process currently does not exist in the province and represents a coordinated respite solution for Nova Scotia.

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**AUTISM SOCIETY OF CAPE BRETON** Sydney, NS  
***Social and Life Skill Development*** \$17,820

This program will offer social and recreational programs to children, youth and young adults. Programs such as the science of making friends, purple circle, and free to be you will all be offered to our participants, teaching appropriate social boundaries, how to make and maintain social relationships and friendships, emotion regulation and more. Autism Cape Breton is thrilled to be able to offer this much needed programming to our community. All of our programs are highly demanded and well utilized by the entire Cape Breton Regional municipality.

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**BONNECHERE UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY** Eganville, ON  
***Autism Awareness Education Collection*** \$400

The Bonnechere Union Public Library (BUPL) is excited to announce its new Autism Awareness Education Collection. This collection of materials for children, teens and adults will serve to educate, enlighten, and entertain BUPL’s patrons and community through inclusion and bibliotherapy. It is the library’s hope that by seeing autism reflected in literature, our community will be more open to diversity in our population and inclusive.

**HOLLAND BLOORVIEW KIDS REHAB HOSPITAL**

Toronto, ON

***Development of a Training Program in Advocacy for Parents/Caregivers of Children with ASD***

\$5,000

When a child receives a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), parents discover that accessing services, treatments and supports for their child is a significant challenge. As navigating the various service systems and advocating for supports can be a daunting and difficult task, developing effective advocacy skills can help parents be more successful in accessing the services their children require. A team at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, including research staff and parent leaders/advisors, is developing an advocacy skills training program for parents of children with ASD. Once the training program has been developed, a series of pilot training sessions will be led by parent leaders at Holland Bloorview. The training will subsequently be evaluated and a manual developed so that training can be provided to other families.

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**THE HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN**

Toronto, ON

***Educating Paediatric Health Care Providers about ASD***

\$24,662

Youth with ASD are a vulnerable population who experience many challenges to their health. Children and youth with ASD who require hospital services may require specialized supports in order to deliver services safely, and to optimize care experiences and outcomes. However, studies have shown that healthcare providers (HCPs) are often not sufficiently informed or trained to provide appropriate care for patients with ASD. Therefore, the goal of this project is to develop, implement, and evaluate an online training module to educate HCPs about ASD, and provide them with strategies to promote positive healthcare experiences for individuals and their families.

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**INTEGRATED SERVICES FOR AUTISM AND NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS (ISAND) & ABLE2LEARN INC.**

Toronto, ON

***Visual Recipes with Video Modelling***

\$25,000

ISAND and Able2learn Inc. will be creating an online video-based modeling resource to teach teens and adults with autism spectrum disorder how to prepare appropriate servings of nutritional recipes. The proposed program is to create and pilot a 3 week healthy meal plan which includes an inventory of 126 recipes to apply to breakfast, lunch, dinner, dessert and two snacks. The weekly meal plan will be high in protein and healthy carbohydrates. It will allow parents to be proactive in addressing the tendency for teen obesity. Supplementary related educational material will also be made available free on the internet.

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**LANSDOWNE CHILDREN'S CENTRE**

Brantford, ON

***Path to Successful Integration: Instructional Swim Program***

\$5,500

Swimming is an excellent physical outlet and lifesaving skill for youth with ASD. It is an activity that promotes social togetherness and can be a great leveler to promote pleasure in a non-competitive environment. Our ten-week instructional swim program will help participants develop a basic understanding of swimming skills and water safety, practice social skills, and build on skills that transfer to integrated settings such as community swim lessons, or social swim times. Also included is the development of a Training Manual, and a comprehensive training program for community swim instructional staff.

**MCGILL UNIVERSITY HEALTH CENTRE, AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS PROGRAM**

***The Autism Family Navigator Toolkit***

Montreal, QC  
\$25,000

Despite advances in autism research and improvements in practice, families still experience serious delays and complications in access to care. This situation creates family suffering, and ultimately increases the long-term costs to health systems and society. Our partnership among researchers, families, and health systems focuses on developing the Autism Family Navigator. A navigator is a member of a care team who supports families in making difficult and time-sensitive decisions, and works with them to identify and remove barriers to care access and coordination. The recent expansion of the project focuses on development of a Navigator Toolkit, including a resource repository, progress evaluation, and tracking tools to monitor gaps in care. By exposing the true burden on families, our long-term hope is to transform health systems and policy through such community-based solutions.

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**OUR PLACE FAMILY RESOURCE AND EARLY YEARS CENTRE**

***Integrated Autism Support Program (IASP) in the Early Years***

Kitchener, ON  
\$25,000

This initiative will enhance integration and support opportunities in community based, universal settings and for development of ASD support toolkits to strengthen organizational capacity to provide services. Autism-specific and integrated program delivery, outreach, child development/parent education, sibling integrated programs, will be provided in universal settings along with capacity building training for staff /volunteers. The model was designed to address needs expressed by families facing barriers in participating in universal, community-based settings and their need for parenting support, integrated learning and social skills building, opportunities to reduce social isolation, and access to service and resources unavailable in specialized settings.

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**QUICKSTART – EARLY INTERVENTION FOR AUTISM**

***KickStart***

Kanata, ON  
\$24,198

Our KickStart program begins with an early identification and assessment protocol. The child and parents begins sessions with a Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) and an Occupational Therapist (OT), 'kick starting' learning while providing immediate strategies to help the child. An Early Intervention Specialist then works with the child and family, coaching and empowering/reinforcing parents in the intervention strategies they are learning, while monitoring progress against the objectives for the child. The SLP, OT and Psychologist remain available to provide supervision and ongoing support.

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**SHUSWAP CHILDREN'S ASSOCIATION**

***Autism Spectrum Disorder Family Support Outreach Worker***

Salmon Arm, BC  
\$25,000

Shuswap Children's Association will offer emotional, informational, and social support to families who either have, or are waiting for an Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnosis. A Family Support Worker will be available two days a week to assist families to understand the diagnostic process, educate families, and develop an Autism Funding plan to determine the best use of funds. Plans include continuing to offer Autism Support Group meetings in Salmon Arm and establishing outreach group meetings in rural areas, as well as updating the popular ASD Resource Guide.

**SOUTH ASIAN AUTISM AWARENESS CENTRE**  
***Ecological Multi-Modal Employment Training (ECOMMET)***

Scarborough, ON  
\$25,000

ECOMMET is an intensive employment skills intervention for a group of young adults with autism. It will provide participants, their families and employers with comprehensive supports to encourage sustainable employment. This will be done through components such as goal setting; job preference assessment; social skills assessment; situational skills and employment skills training. ECOMMET will focus on connecting small-businesses and entrepreneurs with participants in a Master-Apprentice model so as to allow for supported skill development in a range of trades/disciplines. Upon completion, we will be sharing a manual of our experiences with this model with local community agencies.

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**SOUTH SLAVE DIVISIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL**  
***Building the Scope of Educators and Trainers***

Fort Smith, NWT  
\$25,000

The intent of the South Slave Divisional Education Council is to use the funding to support the training of staff in evidence-based strategies using the Social Communication, Emotional Regulation, and Transactional Support (SCERTS) framework to help our students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). We will work to build capacity among teachers, program support teachers, education assistants, parents and others. Given the high level of staff turnover and growing number of students with ASD it is necessary to spread and entrench effective practices and create a durable network of knowledge, experience and resources.

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**SPECTRUM PRODUCTIONS AND APPLE HILL FOUNDATION**  
***Employment Opportunity Program (EOP)***

Montreal, QC  
\$25,000

Our EOP was born out of a desire to meet the growing need for creative and meaningful educational and employment opportunities for youth and young adults with ASDs in the film and media production sector. This program provides access to tools and equipment, specialized training to build technical skills and the opportunity to gain practical experience in film and video production by working on various projects of a professional nature. By building on existing passions, these projects encourage our participants to expand their planning, collaboration, communication and professional abilities, thereby developing and honing social and life skills valuable for employment success.

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**THE CITADEL FOOTE THEATRE SCHOOL**  
***I Can Pretend drama class***

Edmonton, AB  
\$3,560

The Citadel's Foote Theatre School will be offering specially-designed theatre classes for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder starting in 2015. We will be replicating a program called, "I Can Pretend" that began in Winnipeg four years ago and has been extremely successful. By introducing classes designed specifically for children with autism, we are looking to help children learn to play with peers, form relationships and socialize with other children, all while building their confidence and making them more comfortable working with others.

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY, VOCATIONAL INNOVATION LAB**

Edmonton, AB

***The Development of a Repository of Evaluation Metrics for Employment Support Programs in Autism Spectrum Disorder***

\$24,662

There is urgent need to build opportunity for employment among youth and adults with ASD. Such advancement rests on being able to offer and document the effectiveness of employment initiatives including assessing outcomes of employment support resources/interventions. To date, we have lacked extensive access to such measures. This study will consist of collecting and classifying existing measures relative to population focus, topic, and psychometric quality. It will further identify gaps and priorities for measurement/evaluation tool development in this substantive area. Accordingly, this project will provide important vocational service evaluation resources for communities across Canada.

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**UNIVERSITY OF REGINA, FACULTY OF KINESIOLOGY**

Regina, SK

***Sports for All-Inclusive Movement Opportunities for Children with ASD***

\$25,000

Many children with ASD have difficulty performing movement skills needed to participate successfully in physical activity. During the summer, opportunities to learn and practice these skills are limited by the availability of programs. To help children with ASD (7-10 years) learn the movement skills that will help them to participate more successfully in physical activity, an 8-week program will be offered at the University of Regina. Based on the components of pivotal response teaching, this project will train undergraduate students to deliver effective instruction to children with ASD. Resources for training staff will be disseminated more broadly to improve community-based programming for children with ASD.