

ORGANIZATION	SCOPE	PROJECT	GRANT AMOUNT
<b>McGill University</b>			
<b>World Health Organization</b>			
<b>Montreal Children's Hospital</b> <b>Douglas University Mental Health Institute</b> <b>Clinique de Consultation, Intervention et Formation en Autisme (CCIFA)</b>	INTERNATIONAL	Parent Support for Linguistically and Culturally Diverse Communities	\$68,000.00
<b>Woodview Mental Health and Autism Services</b>			
<b>Hamilton Wentworth District School Board</b>			
<b>McMaster University Autism Research (MacART)</b> <b>Offord Centre for Child Studies</b> <b>McMaster Children's Hospital</b> <b>McMaster University</b> <b>CanChild</b>	ONTARIO	Preparing Youth with ASD for Employment: A Cross-Context Transitions Approach	\$63,051.37
<b>Canucks Autism Network Society</b> <b>Autism Okanagan</b> <b>City of Kelowna</b>	BRITISH COLUMBIA RURAL	Sports, Recreation and Social Programs for Children, Youth and Young Adults with Autism in Kelowna	\$25,000.00
<b>Cariboo Chilcotin Child Development Centre Association</b> <b>University of Calgary</b> <b>University of British Columbia</b> <b>Autism Society Alberta</b>	BRITISH COLUMBIA ONTARIO MANITOBA RURAL NORTHERN CANADA ABORIGINAL	Responsiveness of Services to Rural and Remote Regions: Building ASD Capacity in Regions in Rural Alberta and British Columbia	\$74,857.00
<b>Giant Steps School Montreal</b> <b>City of Laval</b>	QUEBEC	First Responders Training Program - A Bilingual Resource	\$65,000.00
<b>Child &amp; Community Resources</b> <b>Firefly</b>	ONTARIO RURAL	Building Capacity for Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder in Northern and Rural Communities	\$20,000.00
<b>Kenora Rainy River Child and Family Services</b>			
<b>Dehcho Divisional Board of Education</b>	NORTHWEST TERRITORIES ABORIGINAL RURAL	Unlocking the Mystery of Autism in Canada's North	\$20,000.00
<b>South Asian Autism Awareness Centre</b> <b>Developmental Pediatrician-- Mohammad Zubairi</b>	ONTARIO LINGUISTIC CULTURAL	The Walk-In	\$20,000.00
<b>St. Michael's Hospital</b> <b>Toronto District School Board</b> <b>Toronto Foundation for Student Success</b> <b>St. Joseph's Health Centre</b>	ONTARIO	A Model for Improving Educational Achievement and Wait Times for Children with ASD in Inner City Schools	\$19,588.00
<b>Peguis Foundation</b> <b>H.A.L.E. Autism</b>	MANITOBA ABORIGINAL RURAL	Rural Manitoba Outreach Project	\$20,000.00



## 2015 RECIPIENTS



### Sports, Recreation and Social Programs for Children, Youth and Young Adults with Autism in Kelowna

**\$25,000.00**

This program will reduce waitlists and allow fifty more children with autism to participate in a variety of adapted, highly supported multi-week sports and recreation programs in Kelowna during the 2016 program year including swim, soccer, and fitness. These group lessons break down barriers that often prevent children and youth with autism from participating in traditional sports and recreational activities and hinder them from making social connections. This grant will also support the creation and implementation of an online resource library available at no cost to the public. Resources will include video modeling of Canucks Autism Network's sports and recreation programs that break down skills step-by-step and can be used by coaches as supplementary teaching aids, downloadable visual aids that include token boards, first-then, choice boards, countdown strips, and contingency maps, and access to a variety of support strategies used successfully in CAN sports programs.



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 THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



**UNIVERSITY OF**  
**CALGARY**



**AUTISM SOCIETY**  
 ALBERTA

### Responsiveness of Services to Rural and Remote Regions: Building ASD Capacity in Regions in Rural Alberta and British Columbia

**\$74,857.00**

This project will identify ASD information and resource gaps and needs as well as foster capacity building for rural, remote and northern Canadian communities. It will promote knowledge sharing and access to resources within selected rural and remote regions as a prototype for the strategic diffusion of resources and information in communities, based on a participatory action design which explicitly honours and reflects priorities and leadership of local communities. This project will explore how individuals with ASD and their families access and navigate services in rural and northern communities, what would optimize this experience, and what elements in these communities foster (and conversely limit) resource accessibility and engagement.



## **Building Capacity for Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder in Northern and Rural Communities**

**\$20,000.00**

In Ontario's North West Region, Child & Community Resources (CCR), Kenora Rainy River Child & Family Services (KRRFCFS) and Firefly have partnered to build capacity for diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) for young children in their Northern and Rural Communities. CCR will share their expertise in ASD diagnosis through training sessions to a broad range of community professionals in the Kenora Rainy River District and in depth training on assessment and diagnosis to team members from KRRFCFS and Firefly. Partners will work together to increase professional knowledge and competency in screening, diagnosis and assessment of ASD with the ultimate goal of improving and sustaining access to early diagnosis and intervention for young children with ASD and their families. The project will also help inform the unique issues, barriers and solutions for professional capacity building in rural and northern communities.



## **Unlocking the Mystery of Autism in Canada's North**

**\$20,000.00**

Services and professional interventions are practically non-existent for individuals with Autism in remote northern communities in the Northwest Territories. This project is designed to increase understanding in the area of autism for teachers, assistants, community and families by having ASD experts visit rural communities in the Dehcho Region. These experts will provide training for staff as well as work directly in the school to guide program development for students. This model of service delivery will be sustained by the schools through support from the School Board. Parents will also benefit from individual consultations to address the specific needs of their child. In addition, autism community education nights will be held. Through this grant, 100% of staff supporting students with ASD will be trained, 100% of students with ASD will receive individualized support and 100% of parents of students with ASD will be able to meet with an expert to support individualized plans of care for their child.



## **First Responders Training Program – A Bilingual Resource**

**\$65,000.00**

Giant Steps School and its Resource and Training Centre, in partnership with the city of Laval, will develop a comprehensive bilingual *ASD First Responder Training Program*. This program will include video training modules along with other materials, that will be shared on a dedicated website. These resources will result in new and effective training tools available for francophone and anglophone services across the country. We will also develop a voluntary autism identification registry appropriate to the needs and existing infrastructure for each of the first responder services.

In compliment, the project will develop ASD safety resources in two other areas. First, bilingual educational resources will be developed for use by the police and fire safety officers for their school outreach programs and modified to the specific needs of students with ASD. Second, an autism safety kit will be created for use by people with ASD, their caregivers and other people supporting them.



*Dr. Mohammad Zubairi,  
Developmental Pediatrician*

## **The Walk-in**

**\$20,000.00**

This grant will support SAAAC's developmental walk-in clinic targeting low income and recently immigrated families. The goal of the clinic is to increase access for families that are not on a path to diagnosis and early intervention. This program is aimed at intervening at the earliest level for parents that may have some concerns that there may be developmental issues with their child. Economically disadvantaged families and recent immigrants are often unaware of the complex web and process involved in attending a diagnosis and the importance of early intervention. The clinic will take place one weekend a month and include a three step triage process: (i) initial intake, (ii) assessment by team of ABA, SLP and family physician (iii) assessment by developmental pediatrician. The clinic program will be paired with a public education campaign targeting low income and recently immigrated families. By utilizing ethnic media, simple language collateral and illustrations we hope to effectively target an audience that may not normally consume mainstream news media. Outreach materials will be provided in Tamil, Hindi and Urdu. Ultimately, this clinic will not only be a place to have questions answered but a teaching venue for parents to understand the road ahead for those that are looking at the path to diagnosis.



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Hôpital de Montréal  
pour enfants  
Centre universitaire  
de santé McGill



Montreal Children's  
Hospital  
McGill University  
Health Centre

**Douglas**  
INSTITUT  
UNIVERSITAIRE EN  
SANTÉ MENTALE  
MENTAL HEALTH  
UNIVERSITY  
INSTITUTE



**World Health  
Organization**

## **Parent Support for Linguistically and Culturally Diverse Communities**

**\$68,000.00**

The empowerment of caregivers is increasingly recognized as a critical component of intervention for children with autism. The World Health Organization recommends parent skills training (PST) for management of developmental disorders. However, to date, no such programs have been widely available, especially for use in low-resource communities. Our team is currently undertaking a local adaptation and evaluation of this new evidence-based, affordable, PST program that can be delivered by nonspecialist providers in a wide range of community settings. We will also interlink our local evaluation with field trials in low- and middle-income countries, support global research in intervention design and delivery.

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Toronto District School Board



Toronto Foundation for Student Success



## **A Model for Improving Educational Achievement and Wait-times for Children with ASD in Inner City Schools Program**

**\$19,588.00**

Inner city children in Toronto face numerous social, economic, and transportation barriers to accessing health care. This School Based Health Clinic (SBHC) Program is a partnership between St. Michael's Hospital and the Toronto District School Board aimed at alleviating barriers to accessing health and developmental care. Recently the SBHC has expanded to include St. Joseph's Health Centre. This initiative is the first of its kind in Canada, dedicated to reducing health inequities for inner city children by reducing barriers and providing accessible clinical care to children. As part of our School Based Health Clinic (SBHC) Program, pediatricians attend School Support Team (SST) meetings, held monthly, to identify students needing developmental, mental health and/or medical assessments including autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Identified students are then referred to a SBHC, with 20-30 inner city schools feeding into each clinic. Historically, physicians do not attend SST meetings resulting in long wait times for children in these disadvantaged areas to receive a developmental assessment. This program will allow children with ASD from inner city families to receive timely diagnoses and supports that they may not be able to otherwise access due to social, economic and transportation barriers. The SBHC model is designed to ensure children with ASD receive a developmental assessment quicker to support educational achievement. Based on this model, children are able to receive a diagnosis within 5-6 weeks. Children who go through the SBHC are followed by the pediatrician on a regular basis until the age of 18 years and are also supported into adult services. In addition, preschool age children who are siblings of these students are also supported by the team.



## Preparing Youth with ASD for Employment: A Cross-Context Transitions Approach \$63,051.37

The Job-Train Program (JTP) is a 14 week, evidence-based program providing 12 youth with ASD the opportunity to acquire fundamental work skills by participating in a group learning experience complemented by a work placement supported by a job coach. Comprehensive student assessments will be used to derive youth profiles based on strengths and support needs; these will be matched with a summer job placement linked to a stipend. Workshops for employers and parents will build mentor relationships, a greater understanding of the employability of individuals with ASD and assist parents in short and long term transition planning. This dynamic collaboration between McMaster Autism Research Team (MacART), Hamilton Wentworth District School Board, and Woodview Mental Health and Autism Services will provide information on how an earlier and more systematic approach to learning and practicing employment skills can facilitate a successful transition of youth with ASD into emerging adult roles.



## Rural Manitoba Outreach Project \$20,000.00

Through this grant, H.A.L.E. (Help Autism Live Everyone) Autism in collaboration with the Peguis Foundation of Peguis, Manitoba will expand the First Nations Community Outreach services by running Social Skills Groups, Parent Support Groups and Gentle Teaching. In addition to their First Nations Community Outreach, H.A.L.E. Autism will implement more services in their home communities in Manitoba and provide assistance to low-income families to access these services such as LEGO Based Social Skills Groups, Adult based Social Skills Groups and advocating for children on the Autism Spectrum with regards to acquiring adequate services in the community and school. H.A.L.E. Autism's most visionary endeavor that they will work on implementing in 2016 is a Reverse Job Fair. This innovative program will strive to provide individuals on the Spectrum with the opportunity to empower themselves and showcase their skills and abilities to potential employers in the community. Those leading this grant project will also participate in a national network formed by Autism Speaks Canada to share learnings and practices focusing on rural capacity building.