

2016 FAMILY SERVICES COMMUNITY GRANTS

Programs	Collaborating Organizations	Funded Amount
Collaborating on Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autism Services of Saskatoon • Saskatoon Regional Health Authority 	\$40,000
Independent Facilitation and Person-Directed Planning (IFPDP) for Ineligible Adults with ASD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterloo Region Family Network • Citizen Advocacy • Heather Fawcett, MSW • Bridges to Belonging, Waterloo Region • Asperger's Society of Ontario 	\$60,000
Fort McMurray Ambassador Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Autism Services of Edmonton at the Maier Centre • Autism Society Alberta • University of Calgary, Faculty of Social Work • Sinneave Family Foundation • Autism Society of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo 	\$40,000
Effective Personal Support-Aid Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autism Yukon • Yukon College • Partners for children • Network for Healthy Early Human Developmental Yukon 	\$40,000
Outdoor Recreation and Family Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canucks Autism Network • Power to Be 	\$18,000
Virtual Mindfulness Groups for Adults with ASD and Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centre for Addiction and Mental Health • Autism Ontario • York University • Autism Canada 	40,000
Community Outreach Among Faith Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church of the Nazarene • University of Calgary • Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital • Beth Sholom Synagogue • Circle of Friends 	\$40,000
The Art of Being Unique	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Montreal Museum of Fine Arts • Miriam Foundation • The Gold Centre 	\$25,000
Potential Programme Nova Scotia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autism Nova Scotia • Autism Ontario 	\$40,000
St. Michael's Pediatric Developmental Passport Program – Helping Families Find Pathways to Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Michael's Hospital • Holland Bloorview Rehab Hospital • Integrated Services for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders 	\$30,000
Healthy He-ARTS (Artistic Resources Teaching Students)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board of Education of School District #36 (Surrey) • Arts Umbrella • Shiamak Dance 	\$27,000

COLLABORATING ON MENTAL HEALTH - \$40,000

Development and implementation of both **individual and group clinical service models based on the application of Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT)** with children/youth experiencing **co-morbid mental health conditions** along with a diagnosis of ASD. Working collaboratively with the health region partner, parents, other Autism Services staff and collateral organizations, service options that bring lasting results to children and their families which can be expanded and built upon across various settings will be created.

Collaborative working partnerships are the key to long-term success for this program, which will allow for a model that can be replicated and a robust evaluation protocol that produces data that can be used to substantiate the value of the program.



IFPDP FOR INELIGIBLE ADULTS WITH ASD - \$60,000

In 2015, the Ministry of Community and Social Services announced funding for **Independent Planning and Person Directed Planning (IFPDP)** services in Ontario. Unfortunately, many adults with ASD who would benefit from IFPDP are not able to access services through Developmental Services Ontario due to eligibility requirements. IFPDP is a valuable tool to support individuals in achieving their goals and an ideal future. Those who are not eligible for this Ministry funded service would be required to pay out of pocket to access the same service. This grant will **extend this valuable service for individuals deemed ineligible** to access funded support across Waterloo Region and Ottawa to demonstrate the efficacy of IFPDP for those who do not qualify to access funding support for this for this service.



Heather Fawcett, MSW



FORT MCMURRAY AMBASSADOR PROGRAM - \$40,000

This project will make a major difference to the Fort McMurray region and beyond the **Autism Ambassador Program**. Families in this area have been plagued by under developed services and the lack of an informational hub. In addition, the community has been devastated by recent wildfires, resulting in loss of infrastructure and increased individual/family stress. Replication of this program **will increase service support for families in these remote and rural regions with navigation support, peer mentorship and enhancement of services**. This project will build capacity via advocacy for, and access to, services. The initiative will also produce a data repository of resources for continual updating and demonstration of system needs.



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK



EFFECTIVE PERSONAL SUPPORT-AID TRAINING - \$40,000

In the Yukon Territory, the Yukon Government funds several types of support for children on the autism spectrum, including support childcare workers, inclusion works, behaviour support workers, therapy assistants and education assistants. However, many of these support and intervention workers are hired without previous experience in the field, as such experience and relevant training opportunities in the North are rare.

Autism Yukon has partnered with Partners for Children and the Network for Healthy Early Human Development Yukon (NHEHD Yukon) in order to develop a **six-module curriculum which will enable support workers** to, upon hiring, receive the information and skills that they need to effectively support and work with a child and family **within a Yukon context**. As a result, families impacted by autism in the Yukon can look forward to more informed and skilled early intervention supports.



Autism Yukon



partners for children



NHEHD
YUKON

OUTDOOR RECREATION AND FAMILY EVENTS - \$18,000

This grant will provide highly **supported and adapted outdoor recreation programs** for 80 teens and young adults living with autism on Vancouver Island and in North Vancouver. Additionally, the grant will provide 120 people, including individuals living with autism and their families, with a **day-long family event**, complete with a variety of outdoor activities. The event will include boating, a guided nature walk, outdoor group sports activities and nature themed crafts, while giving families a chance to connect with each other and participate in a safe, supportive, and non-judgmental environment.

This program fills the gaps in recreational programming and empower individuals and families that have autism to participate. The program will employ trained staff and volunteers who assist participants at a high ratio using a broad range of support tools and strategies.



VIRTUAL MINDFULNESS GROUPS FOR ADULTS WITH ASD AND FAMILIES - \$40,000

It is well recognized that individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their families experience high rates of mental health issues, but that **needed mental health services are often inaccessible**.

One way to reduce access barriers is to **offer services and supports using internet technology**. There is an emerging evidence base for **mindfulness-based interventions for adults with ASD and their parents**, however, there are no “virtual programs” where groups meet online in Canada or elsewhere.

Building on previous work, mindfulness based group intervention for adults with ASD and family caregivers from across Canada will be adapted to be offered "virtually" so that participants who live far, are financially constrained, or experience anxiety traveling, do not need to travel to meet or seek child care to participate. Evaluation of the feasibility of this novel approach will be conducted with a plan to scale up across Canada.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH AMONG FAITH COMMUNITIES - \$40,000

This program **will build autism community support capacity among faith communities which will serve as neighborhood-based resources for individuals and families.** This sector traditionally has been under-utilized relative to autism supports and services. The project will initiate interfaith dialogue for knowledge sharing to optimally engage individuals and families in these support communities, and will pilot an approach for faith community development in advancing autism support. Programming will include weekly family drop-in programs, youth programming, peer support, and vocational development.



THE ART OF BEING UNIQUE - \$25,000

Montreal's largest museum and one of the most prominent in Canada will deliver the "Art of Being Unique" program which will consist of the following components:

- Employability at the Museum: hire individuals with ASD.
- Discovering Art Early School Program: 12-18 yr old students with ASD will make art and present at exhibition in museum.
- Young Adults Program (18+ yrs): weekly art training and showcase at museum exhibition.
- Training Program: All 250 museum staff will be trained on ASD.
- Autism Friendly Day at the Museum.
- Development of training manual allowing for replication across Canada.



POTENTIAL PROGRAMME NOVA SCOTIA - \$40,000

Autism Nova Scotia will replicate the Potential Programme, which was developed by Autism Ontario. The Chapter-delivered services will include: **one-on-one parent support, social learning opportunities, information sessions, and community events for families across the province.**

The program also features educational opportunities in **rural and more remote areas of Nova Scotia**; enhanced volunteer base, which will increase program sustainability; coordinated family support and assistance with service navigation; enhanced understanding, acceptance, & inclusion.



ST. MICHAEL'S PEDIATRIC DEVELOPMENTAL PASSPORT PROGRAM – HELPING FAMILIES FIND PATHWAYS TO CARE - \$30,000

When a child is diagnosed with ASD, families often feel lost, and do not have the necessary supports to access care in a complicated system. St. Michael's Hospital is leading a team to develop an **innovative interactive mobile application designed to assist families access resources for their children with ASD.** This project will investigate the feasibility of integrating the App into the daily lives of caregivers of children with ASD.

The usability of the App will be determined through focus groups with key stakeholders, including health care professionals, service navigators, educators, therapists, and beta testing with families through St. Michaels Hospital, Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital and ISAND. The study will elucidate strengths and weaknesses of the App, and allow for the revision and release of an intuitive tool for caregivers to access services and effectively communicate with their child's care team.



HEALTHY HE-ARTS (ARTISTIC RESOURCES TEACHING STUDENTS) - \$27,000

Healthy He-ARTS will provide **structured and specialized art and physical literacy programming for 6-12 year old children with autism directly after school**. Through this collaborative program, children will participate in **healthy physical activity and arts sessions** led by expert instructors from local non-profit arts organizations. Sessions will include **unique progressive movement development sessions** with trained and experienced bhangra dance instructors who specialize in working with children with disabilities and expressive and visual art therapy. Children with autism who have few opportunities to participate in after school skill development programs, will take part in Healthy He-ARTS. The program will be offered at no cost. **Participants will develop arts and movement skills along with language, self-expression, fine and gross motor skills while making new friends in a structured after school program.**



ARTS UMBRELLA

