

Year in Review

April 26, 2022



Launch of the Canadian Journal of Autism Equity

cjae.ca



CANADIAN JOURNAL
OF AUTISM EQUITY

REVUE CANADIENNE DE L'ÉQUITÉ
EN MATIÈRE D'AUTISME

The Canadian Journal of Autism Equity is an open-access e-journal focused on critically engaging with a variety of equity discussions within the Autistic and autism communities and public policy started by CASDA.

The Journal seeks to offer a platform to amplify marginalized voices and share these perspectives with decision-makers and Canadians alike.



Launch of The Inclusive Workplace

theinclusiveworkplace.ca



The **Inclusive**
Workplace

Partnering with Inclusion Canada, we launched The Inclusive Workplace as a resource on employment.

This platform helps people who are on the autism spectrum or have an intellectual disability find jobs or to work during COVID-19 and beyond. It also is meant for companies to hire workers and build an inclusive workplace. It helps employment agencies support job seekers and employees too.



Announcing 7 KBHN-CASDA Policy Development Practicum Fellows

KBHN-CASDA Fellows



For another year, we partnered with Kids Brain Health Network to run policy development working groups in support of the federal government's creation of a National Autism Strategy.

Seven fellows focused on the co-production of policy briefs in the 3 areas of Social Inclusion, Economic Inclusion and Evidence-Informed Supports.



Publishing the Autism Employment Scan

www.casda.ca/autism-employment-scan/

READY	PRÊTS
WILLING	DISPONIBLES
& ABLE	& CAPABLES

We completed an environmental scan of provincial and territorial employment-related programs and policies that support Autistic people living in Canada.

The scan lists the supports available to Autistic job seekers and employees, their employers, and their service providers. These programs are presented by their jurisdiction: national and by province or territory.



Participation at the United Nations Human Rights Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

**Independent Living and Inclusion in
the Era of COVID-19**



At the Caribbean and North American Regional Consultations, CASDA Board Members, Maddy Dever, Rebekah Kintzinger and Corey Walker, share their insights on institutionalization and deinstitutionalization in the times of COVID-19 with other self-advocates and disability organizations across the region.



Disability Confidence in Finance Toolkit

www.ccrw.org/welcome-to-finance-toolkit/



We supported CCRW's research project seeking to understand how community agencies can support and connect jobseekers with disabilities and the financial sector.

We identified potentially relevant resources to inform the Disability Confidence in Finance Toolkit with an autism lens.



Pediatric Autism Research Collaborative (PARC) Study

www.macautism.ca/parc-study



We supported the McMaster Autism Research Team in generating knowledge on the factors contributing to the diverse pathways and outcomes in children on the autism spectrum during the preschool and early school years.

We generated research evidence to help enhance communication between clinician and families as they work to develop more personalized supports.



Nothing Without Us: Towards Inclusive COVID-19 Policy Responses

<https://services.easterseals.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Youth-Mental-Health.pdf>



We collaborated with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) to understand the ways in which young adults with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families and support persons to understand and access various supports and services.



Article published in the Institute for Research on Public Policy (IRPP)

Stability and good governance
needed for national autism strategy.



INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH
ON PUBLIC POLICY

We highlighted the need to engage with the Autistic and autism communities living in Canada in order to develop a sustainable National Autism Strategy.

HEALTH | POLICY-MAKING

Stability and good governance needed for national autism strategy

The money has been earmarked. Now, the first step is creating an advisory committee to help develop a strategy that best supports autistic Canadians.

by Kaela Scott, Jacalyn Guy, Jonathan Lai



Welcoming two Health System Impact Fellows

casda.ca/hsif-2021



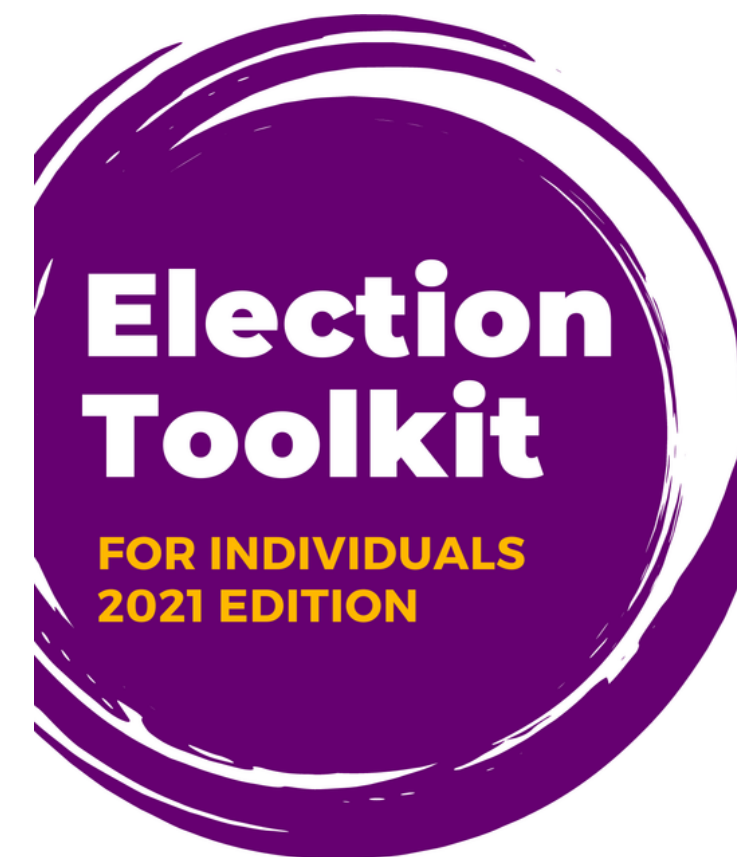
We welcomed two Health System Impact Fellows to build capacity for advancing evidence-informed health system changes that will improve outcomes for Autistic people in Canada and their families:

- Mackenzie Salt, Ph.D
- Sara Lacarte Ph.D (c)



Election Toolkits for Individuals and Organizations

casda.ca/election2021



We developed an election toolkit to help individuals and organizations advocate for swift action on the National Autism Strategy in the 2021 Canadian federal election.



First federal debate on disability issues

casda.ca/debate-disability-election-2021



With the Pan-Canadian Disability Coalition, we called on the major political parties to attend a national election debate on disability issues.

More than 1,300 registered and 700 participants attended the debate, which was live streamed on all CASDA's Facebook page.



Building a Pan- Canadian Autism Data Collaborative: Numbers Speak Louder than Words

casda.ca/cals2021/#AutismData



NUMBERS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS: BUILDING A PAN CANADIAN AUTISM DATA COLLABORATIVE

OCTOBER 5, 2021

On October 5th, 2021, we hosted the inaugural Autism Data Collaborative meeting bringing together over 75 stakeholders from across the country to discuss how to better leverage Canadian data assets to inform autism policy in Canada.



7th Annual Canadian Autism Leadership Summit

casda.ca/cals2021



On October 6, 2021, we hosted the 7th Annual Canadian Autism Leadership Summit. Over 200 participants, presenters, panelists and moderators came together from across the country to learn about and weigh in on autism policy in Canada.



Submission of a policy brief to the Public Health Agency of Canada

Snapshot of CASDA's Work and
Priorities



Public Health
Agency of Canada

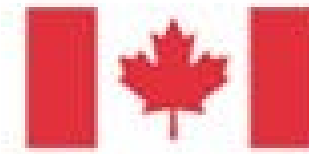
Agence de la santé
publique du Canada

We submitted a policy brief to PHAC which outlined CASDA's work, provides an update on a National Autism Strategy since 2019, as well as description of current projects and a full list of CASDA's outputs and resources.



Submission of an objective brief to Employment and Social Development Canada

**The Importance of Language in a
National Autism Strategy.**



Employment and
Social Development Canada

We prepared a brief which contains guidance related to the use of language related to autism. This brief is aimed to be used as tools for government teams as they develop and implement autism policy and communicate about autism in internal and external stakeholder meetings.



Empowering CASDA members to champion Bill S-203

Empowering CASDA members to
champion Bill S-203

SENATE OF CANADA

BILL S-203

An Act respecting a federal framework on autism spectrum disorder

We submitted a list of 23
recommended witnesses for Bill S-203.

We also put together a document with
a list of talking points to equip our
members as they speak to the
Committee on Bill S-203.



Participation in Bill S-203 as witnesses.

Recording of CASDA's participation in
Bill S-203



We were given the opportunity to testify and comment on Bill S-203

We appreciated the chance to engage with Senators and discuss in detail the impact this Bill can have on the lives of Autistic people in Canada, their families and their communities, and to answer questions from Senators seeking clarity of certain matters related to the Bill.



Secretariat for the Pan-Disability Coalition Grant

In collaboration with 5 other organizations, we were awarded the Secretariat for the Pan-Disability Coalition Grant.

This grant focuses on collective impact and building capacity in the sector.



The Inclusion At Work Webinar Series

Webinar Series

The Inclusion At Work Webinar Series



We collaborated Inclusion Canada, Ready, Willing & Able and The Inclusive Workplace to deliver a three-part webinar series that explores practical, applied strategies to support inclusive hiring and shares examples of how businesses are building accessible and inclusive workplaces that benefit everyone.



8th Annual Canadian Autism Leadership Summit

casda.ca/cals2022



On April 4 & 5, we held our 8th Annual Canadian Autism Leadership Summit.

Over 300 attendees registered, making it the most attended Summit to date!

We announced the first recipient of the Jim and Ginette Munson Autism Leadership Award, Whitney Hodgins.



Expansion of the Ready, Willing & Able program

casda.ca/rwa-budget22



Federal Budget 2022 commits a \$20 million investment to the Ready, Willing, and Able program, jointly sponsored by CASDA and Inclusion Canada

This 3-year investment will enable RWA to expand its work with employers and community agencies to generate employment opportunities for people with an intellectual disability or on the autism spectrum.

Projects in progress

Advancing Research for Autistic Adults



International Autism Policy Scan



Pan-Canadian Autism Data Collaborative

