



Autism
Alliance of Canada

Alliance canadienne de
l'autisme

Become a Member

Working together for the rights of Autistic people in Canada

Message from our Executive Director



Welcome! On behalf of the Board of Directors, the staff, and the members of the Autism Alliance of Canada, I would like to invite you to become a member of our organization.

This is an exciting time to join us, as Canada's National Autism Strategy (NAS) unfolds. The Alliance played a key role in advocating for a strategy, and we continue to be actively engaged in ensuring that what takes shape addresses Autistic rights and the priorities identified by Autistic people and their families.

In the last four years since the Government of Canada announced its commitment to moving forward with a National Autism Strategy, the Alliance has engaged in meaningful work in the autism and disability sectors, at the national, provincial/territorial and local levels.

Our process supports robust collaboration and partnerships, and our members are at the centre of everything we do to promote successful social and economic inclusion for Autistic people in Canada and their loved ones.

Our work together is generated by a shared leadership model where all our members are leaders in the autism and disability communities. From across the country, we convene, catalyze, and collaborate to achieve our collective vision: Autistic people and their families, exercising their full rights and realizing their full potential.

Together, we are making change happen; but there is more to do. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you as we press forward with our advocacy for a strong and sustainable NAS.

Interested? Please [reach out](#) to us. We would be happy to connect you with a Board member or other members of the Alliance to learn more.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Lai', located below the introductory text.

— **Dr. Jonathan Lai**
Executive Director
Autism Alliance of Canada



About Autism Alliance of Canada

Autism Alliance of Canada is a national not-for-profit network composed of 800+ members, including Autistic people, organisations, researchers, policy makers, service providers, and persons with lived experience, working together for the rights of Autistic people and their families.

We broaden our reach and impact through more than 100 Organisation members who serve many of the estimated 850,000 Autistic people across Canada—including more than 650 people who are registered as individual Community or Associate members of Autism Alliance of Canada.

What we do

We address priority issues that Autistic people and their loved ones face across the lifespan.

How we do it

We facilitate dialogue, advance research, and work with governments to develop and implement the National Autism Strategy.

Our priorities

- Advocate with a shared policy agenda
- Accelerate research and learning systems
- Foster community dialogue and engagement
- Build operational excellence

A note on language

Language is a powerful mechanism in shaping our understanding of the world around us and it influences how people perceive themselves and others. The words we use to talk in conversation with and about Autistic people can have a powerful impact in either advancing or undermining disablist attitudes. To learn about why Autism Alliance of Canada uses identity-first language, read our full disclaimer by visiting: www.autismalliance.ca/language-guide.

Join a national movement to foster equity, diversity and inclusion for Autistic people in Canada.

Our Vision

Our vision is a Canada where Autistic people exercise their full rights and realize their full potential.

Our Mission

Our mission is to inform policy and practice at a national level by bringing our members together, identifying priority issues, and developing meaningful ways to address them.

Our Principles

- Respecting and learning from each other
 - Meaningfully including persons with lived experience and sharing leadership
 - Adding value to broader disability community
 - Ensuring equity in representation across all stakeholder groups
 - Encouraging different ideas and perspectives
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Becoming a Member

Membership Types

Organization

CA\$150/year

This membership is for any organization that supports our vision, mission and principles and wishes to receive regular updates.

- ✔ Can vote at our annual general meeting: one vote per organization.

Community

CA\$30/year

This membership is for any individual or smaller-scale organization that supports our mission, vision and principles, and wishes to receive regular updates.

- ✔ Can vote at our annual general meeting.

Associate

FREE

This membership is for any person who supports our mission, vision and principles and wishes to receive regular updates.

- ✘ Cannot vote at our annual general meeting.

Membership Benefits

Benefits vary by type of membership. All members receive access to our newsletter, for updates and to share news of interest to the Network, as well as access to working groups, and opportunities to participate in strong, collaborative and unified advocacy. Organization members benefit through increased profile and broader participation in our work.

- Regular updates via newsletter
- Access to participation in working groups
- Discounted rate at the Annual Canadian Autism Leadership Summit
- Logo displayed (for members affiliated with organizations)



To me, Autism Alliance of Canada means leadership, understanding, education, friendship, and belonging.

As a person who lives with autism, I find that Autism Alliance of Canada strives to create a platform that feels welcoming and safe for all people.



Yvonne Spicer

Autistic advocate, member of Autism Alliance of Canada

Our Current Member Organizations



Our Leadership in Action

Community and Member Initiatives

Canadian Journal of Autism Equity (CJAE)

- The CJAE is an open-access e-journal focused on critically engaging with a variety of equity discussions within the autism community and public policy.
- CJAE seeks to offer a platform to amplify marginalized voices and share these perspectives with decision-makers and Canadians alike.



Employment Initiatives

Ready, Willing & Able (RWA)

- RWA is a national employment initiative, funded by the Government of Canada, and delivered in partnership between Inclusion Canada and Autism Alliance of Canada.
- RWA was designed to increase the labour force participation of job seekers and employees with an intellectual disability or on the autism spectrum.



Research and Data Initiatives

Autism Data Collaborative (ADC)

- The ADC is a diverse group of members from across Canada, united to enhance the use of data to inform autism policy.
- The aim of the ADC is to develop pan-Canadian research projects that address community priorities.



[Learn more about our work](#)

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Learn more about Autism Alliance of Canada

www.autismalliance.ca

E-mail us

info@autismalliance.ca

Become a member

autismalliance.ca/membership

Follow us on LinkedIn, Twitter, and Facebook

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