That people with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) achieve their individual potential and that they and their families have universal access to the resources they require.

Autism Society Canada’s mission is to work with our many partners to address the national priorities facing the Autism community.

- Increase awareness and understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorders, and acceptance for the participation of individuals with ASDs.
- Promote federal policies, programs, and legislation that respond to the needs of the Autism community.
- Promote evidence-based services/treatment, best practices and standards.
- Promote intervention research that will provide individuals with ASDs and their families with practical support.
AUTISM SOCIETY CANADA

Who We Are

AUTISM SOCIETY CANADA

BOARD MEMBERS are active at all levels of the Society, and strive to represent provincial interests as well as form a unified voice for the ASD community at a national level. They also help shape issues by participating in Standing Committees. As ASC President, Christine Dade is ex-officio on all committees and Executive Director Kathleen A. Provost acts as support staff.

OUR TEAM

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Kathleen A. Provost, CFRE

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
Lynn Andrews

PRESIDENT
Christine Dade

1ST VICE PRESIDENT
Michael Lewis
(British Columbia)

2ND VICE PRESIDENT
Vic Douse
(Prince Edward Island)

TREASURER
Nancy Adams

SECRETARY
Ginny Pearce
(Ontario)

DIRECTORS
Lynn Elkin
(North West Territories)

Dr. Jeanette Holden
Director at large

Kristian Hooker
Directors at Large

David Jardine
(Alberta)

Jerome McIntrye
(Yukon)

Sandra McKay
(Manitoba)

Brian Rimpilainen
(New Brunswick)

Sherry Gambin-Walsh
(Newfoundland & Labrador)

Lynn Verklen
(Saskatchewan)

Vicki Harvey
(Nova Scotia)

Elizabeth Oliver
Directors at Large
AUTISM SOCIETY CANADA

Standing Committees

ASC STANDING COMMITTEES are the heart of this organization. They represent all facets of the Canadian ASD community and drive the organization’s agenda forward with their tireless leadership and enthusiasm.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF ADULTS ON THE SPECTRUM: providing a critical perspective on adult-specific issues
Kristian Hooker, Chair
Georges Huard
Jason Oldford
Leland Kreklewich
Martine Stonehouse
Jackie Barrett
Tom Jackman
Kevin Stoddart, Ph. D., Advisor

COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS COMMITTEE: guiding the communications strategies to continuously raise awareness
Sandra McKay, Chair
Vic Douse
Michael Lewis
Vicki Harvey
Sherry Gambin-Walsh
Brian Rimpilainen
Kristian Hooker

FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE: overseeing audit and fiscal recommendations for ASC finances
Nancy Adams, Chair
Michael Lewis
Lynn Verklan

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE: upholding ASC by-laws for the Board of Directors and Membership
Lynn Verklan, Chair
Lynn Elkin
Elizabeth Oliver
David Jardine
Ginny Pearce

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: providing advice on strategic issues on Membership
Jerome McIntyre, Chair
Vicki Harvey
Ginny Pearce
Nancy Adams

In 2008 two new committees were created by the Board of Directors;

CONTRACT COMMITTEE: reviewing and assessing ASC contracts
Vicki Harvey, Chair
Michael Lewis
Nancy Adams

OPERATION COMMITTEE: coordinating effective organizational operations
Elizabeth Oliver, Chair
Michael Lewis
David Jardine
Nancy Adams
Autism Society Canada ensures that the needs and opinions of individuals living with an Autism Spectrum Disorder are represented.

We work in close collaboration with the members of our Advisory Committee of Adults on the Spectrum: a group of adults, with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) that represents many provinces and territories across the country. They come together to work and affect changes in our knowledge and our attitudes towards individuals.

VISIT US AT
http://www.autismsocietycanada.ca/life_with_asd_adults_youths/overview/index_e.html
TO READ ABOUT THEIR STORIES.
THIS PAST YEAR has been one of strength, growth, and opportunity for ASC and it has been my pleasure to be President throughout this exciting time.

In 2007 Autism Society Canada implemented changes to its governance structure that resulted in a Board of Directors that has grown in capacity and functions like a well-oiled machine. This Board eliminated the Executive Committee and took over all of the work itself. We now meet every six weeks, and each Director sits on an ASC standing committee. We function as a working board responsible for many operational aspects within the organization. We have also made a commitment to engage new Society members in order to bring fresh expertise and knowledge to our expanding organization, and to build capacity for future leadership.

The enthusiasm and diligence of this Board is truly outstanding, as Directors spend many more hours attending to their responsibilities than in the past. They have shown great leadership, and have taken tremendous personal ownership of the issues faced by members of our ASD community. Their dedication to our common vision is inspiring, and the support they have given me in my role as President has been greatly appreciated. I cannot thank them enough.

I am pleased to report that ASC has increased its presence in the Canadian autism landscape throughout 2007-2008. We are regarded as a key player shaping the ASD agenda, and have been contacted numerous times by national, regional and local media to share our expertise and respond to specific media requests for interviews, comment and information. We have produced open letters on key information about ASDs and the Society’s goals, in addition to sharing our stories. ASC was interviewed on the national television media including the CBC, CTV and Global. We have also spread our message through print media, such as The Globe & Mail, Toronto Star, The Montreal Gazette and many others.

ASC initiated and is leading Canada’s first ASD Alliance to develop a national strategy on autism. It is our hope that this strategy will articulate the critical need to initiate ASD surveillance and reporting, increase support for ASD research, and ultimately convince the federal government to make autism a priority.

We have had several exciting opportunities to network and partner with national organizations in the last year. These relationships allow us to bring the needs of the ASD community into public awareness from a variety of fronts and to have our specific needs understood and included in the agendas of other well-connected advocacy and research groups.
The inevitability of a federal election during 2008-2009 informed the Board’s decision to complete ASC’s key messages, ensuring that they would represent our goals accurately throughout an election. It also requires considerable effort to make certain that a national strategy for autism is placed on the election platform and that each of the federal parties, as well as each MP, receives appropriate communication materials explaining Autism Society Canada’s goals.

In closing, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to our volunteer committee members, especially Luigi Rocca, Doreen Stryde and Lisa Rawlings who have moved on and to our Executive Director, Kathleen A. Provost – without your efforts Autism Society Canada would not have accomplished so much in the past year and shown such leadership in the sector.

Lynn Andrews deserves a special thank you for all her hard work as ASC’s Communications Coordinator over the last 5 years, and we look forward to continuing our relationship with her as her role at ASC changes in the coming year.

And finally, I know that the best wishes of our entire ASC community are with Jonathan Howard as he continues on his Run the Dream campaign. Jonathan began a cross-Canada run in March 2008. He is raising awareness about autism spectrum disorders and is aiming to raise funds for charities helping children with ASD and their families. He is due to arrive in Victoria BC on December 31. Jonathan is an inspiration to us at ASC – with each small step we come closer to achieving our dreams.

OUR GOALS FOR THE NEXT YEAR are dependant upon receiving sustainable funding for our operations. Secure financial support would enable ASC to pursue the following work plans;

1. Continue building relations between provincial and territorial chapters so that they may network and actively support one another. In order for ASC to be a leader, it must support its member organizations as its first priority.

2. Increase public awareness regarding the issues and needs of individuals living with an ASD. Together we can ensure that all members of the ASD community have access to the best possible support.
Since joining the ASC team in June 2007, I have had the privilege to work with provincial and territorial societies to ensure they are all fairly represented at the national level and to have the distinct regional challenges faced by members of their ASD community identified. As an ongoing process and to support ASC’s committees, board and volunteers, making certain that the needs of people living with and affected by ASD are being heard and addressed.

As ASC’s Executive Director, I feel my primary responsibilities are to maintain a strong ASC community and support increased communication within the organization, as well as within our ASD community.

Communication is essential to the success of ASC: we must reach out to Canadians with resources and support, communicate regularly as a community, and engage in projects with compatible stakeholders and partners who can help us advance our cause. To this end, ASC continues to act as a key Canadian information and referral centre on ASD through our website and toll free numbers. More people are logging on or dialling in for information and referral services about autism and autism spectrum disorders than ever before.

Most of our work is made possible by the dedication of our part-time support staff and the exceptional volunteer efforts we receive from across the country. We also value the expertise shared by provincial societies, and we will continue to seek their input and direction to maintain a strong national voice in 2008-2009.

ABOUT THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. I was born in a world of two cultures; French & English. After graduating from McGill in Political Science with a certificate in Public Relations, I developed a strong interest in charitable fundraising.

Having worked in the not-for-profit sector for over 14 years, I am happy to contribute my experience in administration, public relations and fundraising. My career path has crossed many charities; CARE Canada, Easter Seals Quebec Society, the Montreal YWCA’s Foundation, St. Mary’s Hospital Foundation as well as Nature Conservancy of Canada.

When I am not with my family, I remain an active volunteer as a Director of Scout Canada Foundation and serve my profession as the Chair-elect to the Board of Directors of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) for the Ottawa Chapter.
Together with Autism Society Canada’s membership, I would like to continue to encourage the federal government to develop an ASD strategic vision, allowing individuals with or affected by an ASD to reach their full potential and receive all necessary services, treatments and support.

At Autism Society Canada, our goals for the coming year are informed by our need to extend our reach further into the Canadian ASD community, and build our financial capacity.

• We will continue to reach out to provincial and territorial societies, as well as our many partners in the Canadian ASD community, with the objective to promote federal policies, programs, and legislation that respond to the needs of the Autism community.

• We intend to grow our funding, to increase awareness and understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorders, benefiting all of our members.

• And finally, we will work strategically and creatively, seeking new ways to represent and advocate efficiently for the ASD community.

Having a united, community-based and Canada-wide coalition that can articulate its needs nationally is fundamental to ASC’s primary goal - making autism a national priority. Together we can work to ensure that all Canadians living with an ASD achieve their individual potential; and that these individuals, their families and caregivers receive the recognition, treatments, services and supports they deserve.
ASC was invited to attend the National Autism Research Symposium which was held November 8th and 9th, 2007 in Toronto. This Symposium was organized by the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR), Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), and was attended by organizations who shared the latest autism-related research findings with each other and the governmental agencies.

ASC also attended the celebration recognizing the creation of the Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC) in October 2007. The Mental Health Commission’s key initiatives include the development of a national strategy for dealing with Canada’s mental health crisis, a national anti-stigma campaign, as well as a centralized knowledge exchange centre. ASC’s work with the MHCC is to ensure that persons living with an ASD are integrated into planned projects, research and anti-stigma campaigns.

In a shared initiative with the Public Health Agency of Canada, Autism Society Canada joined the Canadian Autism Intervention Research Network (CAIRN) and the Autism Spectrum Disorders – Canadian-American Research Consortium (ASD-CARC) for a pilot Outreach Plan to consult with ASD stakeholders. Carried out in April of 2008, the initial survey elicited 1,536 responses from members of our ASD community with a goal to identify information needs, data source options and system models that would enhance ASD surveillance in Canada.

Autism Society Canada participated in two half-day consultation sessions on the proposed draft for the Canada Disability Savings Regulations offered by the Office for Disability Issues. Christine Dade and Ginny Pearce were present in Toronto and Kathleen A. Provost joined the Ottawa group with its ongoing efforts to engage financial institutions and the disability community in an active dialogue.

We have partnered with AutismConnects to develop and promote the group’s virtual community. AutismConnects is an interactive service map that allows individuals and service providers to find geographically-specific ASD services and information. ASC also worked alongside provincial autism societies to help them design position papers and public outreach initiatives and act as a central transfer point for ASD related knowledge and expertise.

As a member of the Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health (CAMIMH), ASC was invited to attend the Mental Health Literacy Symposium in January 2008. Nineteen national member organizations attended and helped inform the Alliance’s future course of action for developing a national mental health literacy strategy. ASC’s presence is to ensure that the framework’s terminology is inclusive of the autism community and to continue to represent the consumer perspective within CAMIMH as they address mental health issues across the lifespan of individuals living with an ASD.

We have partnered with AutismConnects to develop and promote the group’s virtual community. AutismConnects is an interactive service map that allows individuals and service providers to find geographically-specific ASD services and information. ASC also worked alongside provincial autism societies to help them design position papers and public outreach initiatives and act as a central transfer point for ASD related knowledge and expertise.

Autism Society Canada is a strong and tireless voice for individuals and their families with autism at the federal government level. ASC brings together the power of all the provincial and territorial associations to ensure the voices of Canadians impacted by autism from across this country are heard. While we all still have a long way to go, we look forward to continuing our partnership with ASC, as we strive to move our autism agendas forward...so that all individuals with autism can achieve their potential!

– Deborah Kitchen, President of the Board, Autism Ontario

PARTNERSHIPS 2007 – 2008
SPECIAL THANK YOU to TST Overland Express’ 1,100 employees from across the country who helped raise over $35,000. TST Overland Express employees and management partnered with Autism Society Canada in an educational campaign to raise awareness and understanding of ASDs within the company and with its customers and suppliers. They held many fundraising events during October to raise funds for Autism Society Canada.

IN THE FALL OF 2007, Dan Hilton and Sylvie Audet agreed to take on the challenge of climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, in Africa. They asked all their friends and relatives to support their efforts by supporting Autism Society Canada; together they helped raise $9,000.

Thank you from ALL OF US AT AUTISM SOCIETY CANADA
AUTISM SOCIETY CANADA’S
Donors & Supporters

WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR GRATITUDE to the following corporations and foundations for their contribution in support of Autism Society Canada activities, as well as those who choose to remain anonymous.

Algonquin Students’ Association
Astellas USA Foundation
ATCO Travel
ATCO Travel Social Club
Barefoot Venus
Business Insurance Services
Burnhamthorpe Collegiate Institute
Centraide du Grand Montréal
Communications Energy and Paper
Communication Ten Ltd. Atlantic
CUPE Local 1615
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United Way of PEI
University of Calgary
WM Brian Callery Agencies Inc.
Zavitz Insurance

Thank you from
THE DOUSE FAMILY
# Autistic Society Canada's Donors & Supporters

## In Honorarium
- Graydon Aiken
- Samantha Burelle
- Colleen Batstone
- Carolyn and Gary Bachman
- Art and Loma Britton
- Peter Bouna
- Pete and Sam Cocker
- Bernice Chopowick
- Bill and Irene Cocker
- The Connolly Family
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- Karen Babington
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- Jack Raby
- Elaine Ripley
- Patrick Rasley
- Paul Senior
- Grace Welsh
- Olive Warren
- Paul Wilson
- Doug Wilson
- Paul Timothy William
- Peter Zwack (past Chair, ASC)

## We Would Also
We would also like to extend a special thank you to all of our volunteers, especially Kevin Stoddart, Ph. D. for his supportive work with the Advisory Committee of Adults on the Spectrum.
ASC STANDING COMMITTEES

Action and Updates

The Autism Society of British Columbia and myself as its representative are gratified to see the progress that has been made by the Autism Society of Canada in the recent past. The openness and transparency of the Society, coupled with the thoughtful and respectful contribution of all participants has certainly elevated the organization in the eyes of all involved. I look forward to the future with great optimism and am confident we will continue to move our agenda forward to the benefit of all we serve.

WE WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE WORK AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR STANDING COMMITTEES OVER THE LAST YEAR.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF ADULTS ON THE SPECTRUM
Chair – Kristian Hooker, Manitoba

ASC is very proud of its Advisory Committee of Adults on the Spectrum; the first of its kind in North America. This Committee is comprised of adults living with ASD, and provides an important perspective on adult-specific issues that is fundamental to increasing the acceptance and participation of individuals with ASD. Regular conferencing and group discussions provide ASC with critical guidance on issues pertaining to adults living with ASD. Three committee members were profiled on the ASC website and in ASC Today this year, and we intend to keep these valued Committee members at the forefront of our communications in the coming year.

FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
Chair and Treasurer – Nancy Adams, CA

This Committee’s role remains one of fiscal and legal supervision for ASC. As we continue to experience growth in our financial capacity, this Committee’s role becomes instrumental to keep the Society in compliance with its fiduciary obligations. Throughout the past year, Treasurer Nancy Adams and Executive Director Kathleen A. Provost produced monthly Operating Financial Reports for the Board, and the Committee reviewed all budgeting processes, year-end processes and produced the Society’s T-3010 Annual Report to Canada Revenue Agency.

The growth in ASC’s financial capacity is a direct result of increased fundraising activities. These activities and all fundraising proposals are carefully monitored by the Committee. Larger revenues from a variety of fundraising activities are extremely helpful to the work of the Society, and the Committee would like to express its gratitude to all of its new and continuing supporters.

Michael Lewis, President of the Board of Autism Society of British Columbia
COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS COMMITTEE
Chair – Sandra McKay, Autism Society Manitoba

This Committee’s work is essential to ASC, as it articulates the organizations’ key messages and news both within the Canadian ASD community and to the public at large.

The Committee issued several press releases in the past year, including: a special release to celebrate Canadian Autism Awareness Month, a response to the Federal Minister of Health’s November 2007 announcement of new autism initiatives which included a call for government action regarding ASD treatment, service and support needs; and a press release supporting the United Nation’s World Autism Awareness Day.

Supported by Lynn Andrews, Communications Coordinator, the committee worked to significantly update ASC’s website. The site now provides up-to-date information and referral on a variety of topics, including anti-bullying, healthcare and new child-friendly resources.

Autism Society Canada’s Communication Committee is also responsible for working with the media. Throughout 2007-2008 ASC received media exposure and print media coverage on autism-related news. Both staff and Board members were instrumental in providing this coverage.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
Chair – Lynn Verklan, SASKfeat

The role of this Committee is to develop and propose policies and procedures that uphold the bylaws of ASC and to recommend changes when the bylaws no longer reflect the Society’s activities or values. Last year the Committee engaged in a review process that resulted in several changes to ASC’s bylaws.

In the coming year the Governance Committee is looking forward to a joint meeting with the Membership Committee to discuss issues affecting both Committees regarding governance and membership.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
Chair – Jerome McIntyre, Autism Yukon

ASC would like to thank departing Chair, Lisa Rawling, for her past contributions to this Committee. Jerome McIntyre stepped in quickly as the new chair and kept the group on task and moving forward. In the past year Membership has endeavoured to create the Committee’s founding terms of reference. It has also engaged in comprehensive discussions around:

1. The role of ASC’s members and their contribution to the organizations’ goals, and,

2. How members in the ASD Community can help drive ASC’s agenda forward.

In the coming year the Committee will focus on developing key membership policies.
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF AUTISM SOCIETY CANADA supported by its Finance and Audit Committee monitored very closely all expenses and revenues for the Society. The Statement of Operations shows that ASC’s overall 2008 revenues exceeded expenses by $29,025, which reflects ASC’s careful and conservative financial management during the year.

2007–08 was a transition year for ASC and more focus was put on the efficiency of the Society’s operations. Overall Donation Revenues went down by approximately 20%, yet Autism Society Canada Program Expenses went down by 40% from 2006–07. Revenues from corporations did decrease in 2007–08. However, Autism Society Canada witnessed a growth in revenues from individuals and foundations.

On March 31st 2007, Autism Society Canada concluded a three-year funding agreement from the Government of Canada through the Office of Disability Issues of Social Development Canada to support the organization’s operating capacity. ODI has agreed to a one-year extension to provide $65,000 core funding for the 2008–09 year, but have made no commitment to fund ASC after March 31, 2009. A one time additional grant from Social Development Canada (SDC) in the amount of $8,750 was also made available to ASC.
Autism Society Canada has initiated a variety of creative revenue generating and cost-sharing approaches in 2007 – 2008 in light of the uncertainty of securing long-term funding.

• We have pursued many potential private funders, resulting in new donations,
• Autism Society Canada has built an e-philanthropy capacity to promote online donations,
• And lastly, Autism Society Canada collaborated on community outreach projects, which supplemented some of our ongoing operating expense.

LOOKING FORWARD Strengthening Autism Society Canada’s financial base remains a number one goal. Together as a society we will seek out new strategies and methods to ensure financial growth, while remaining fiscally responsible to our membership.

Developing sound fiscal strategies is necessary for Autism Society Canada to continue to respond to the needs of the ASD community and will benefit all of our members. As a national incorporated non-profit charitable organization, this will enable us to continue to commit to public education, information, advocacy, referral, and support for all our regional autism societies.

Respectfully submitted,

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