AUTISM SOCIETY CANADA

ANNUAL REPORT 08/09
ASC and its website are often the first point of contact for parents and other family members who are concerned about their loved ones or who have received a recent diagnosis. We are the only national (and bilingual) organization committed to the gathering and dissemination of information on ASDs across the lifespan of the individual. This resource is accessible to all Canadians in both official languages via our website, our toll free phone lines and email.

**Finding Success Through Our Member Societies**

The strength of ASC as a national voice for the Autism Community of Canada is built on successful partnerships with its member societies. Member societies come together to share best practices and encourage communication on complex issues affecting the Autism community. This year’s Annual Report showcases the hard work and dedication of our member societies.

**Goals**

- Promote federal policies, programs, and legislation that respond to the needs of the Autism community;
- Promote the rights of families and individuals with ASDs to all treatments and services that work in the best interests of the individual with an ASD;
- Promote the rights of families and individuals to universal access to all treatments and services that work in the best interests of the individual with an ASD;
- Increase awareness and understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorders and acceptance and participation of individuals with ASDs;
- Promote intervention research that will provide individuals with ASDs and their families with practical support.

**Vision**

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

**Mission**

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

**Founded in 1976,** Autism Society Canada (ASC) is proud of the leadership role it has played for over 33 years in the autism community of Canada. Our success is built on the partnerships that we share and maintain with our member societies. This positive relationship helps bring grassroots issues to a national platform while at the same time informing local societies about important national issues affecting their communities.
WE ARE VOLUNTEERS  We give our time and our energy to improve the lives of individuals living with an ASD in Canada.

WE ARE PEOPLE  We are parents, family members or caregivers of individuals living with an ASD who are dedicated to helping individuals reach their full potential.

WE ARE PROFESSIONALS  In our careers we are lawyers, medical professionals, mothers, fathers, parents, consultants, financial analysts, military personnel. Together we contribute our professional skills and work tirelessly on behalf of Autism Society Canada.

Who We Are

PRESIDENT
Christine Dade
(Director at Large)

1ST VICE PRESIDENT
Michael Lewis
(British Columbia)

2ND VICE PRESIDENT
Vic Douse
(Prince Edward Island)

TREASURER
Nancy Adams
(Director at Large)

SECRETARY
Ginny Pearce
(Ontario)

DIRECTORS
Lynn Elkin
(North West Territories)

Dr. Jeanette Holden
(Director at Large)

Kristian Hooker
(Director at Large)

David Jardine
(Alberta)

Jerome McIntrye
(Yukon)

Sandra McKay
(Manitoba)

Brian Rimpilainen
(New Brunswick)

Sherry Gambin-Walsh
(Newfoundland & Labrador)

Lynn Verklan
(Saskatchewan)

Vicki Harvey
(Nova Scotia)

Elizabeth Oliver
(Director at Large)

OUR TEAM

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Kathleen A. Provost, CFRE

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT & INFORMATION SERVICES COORDINATOR
Lynn Andrews

WEB TECHNICAL SUPPORT
Abhinava Kumar

VOLUNTEER
Nancy Kelly
SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIPS – MEMBER SOCIETIES

The strength of ASC as a national voice for the Canadian autism community is built on successful partnerships with its member societies—encouraging communication and sharing best practices. These regional organizations help shape ASC’s agenda and strengthen its role as a strong unifying society working to meet our common goals.

ASC stays in touch through key electronic tools such as newsletters, newsflashes, and information kits along with conference calls among member societies. These communications empower the provincial and territorial societies with as much available—and time sensitive—information as possible. Our goal is to share all available tools and resources in order to better serve the families living in every province and territory across Canada.

THE HISTORY OF AUTISM SOCIETY CANADA

Autism Society Canada was started in 1976 as a group of parents getting together around a kitchen table to discuss resources, treatments and issues affecting loved ones living with an ASD. Over the years, this grassroots organization has grown into a national umbrella organization representing and supporting its member societies on a national platform. It is now a true Canadian Mosaic of member societies from across the country.

MEMBER SOCIETIES VARY GREATLY IN SIZE AND SCOPE

For example, Autism Society Manitoba services a membership of 425, comprised of individuals with an ASD diagnosis, parents, caregivers, extended families, clinicians, teachers and friends. In contrast, the society in the North West Territories is very small in capacity. Operating out of a family’s home, just like the society in Saskatchewan, their daily challenges include resourcing families within their community and breaking the isolation by reaching out to nearby resources.

SOCIETIES PLAY MANY DIFFERENT ROLES WITHIN THEIR PROVINCES

Each society also works on a number of different activities within its province or territory. For example, Autism Society of Newfoundland and Labrador (ASNL) has embarked on a new partnership with the Department of Education. This partnership has enabled an ASNL board representative to sit on an advisory committee mandated to review a new inclusion model in the school system. In central Canada, Autism Ontario has been working with its provincial government to increase supports covered under the provincial health care system.
As I look back at the end of my three year tenure as ASC’s Board President, I am immensely proud of the hard work that we have accomplished on behalf of our community. Together our Board, our staff, and our member societies have all contributed to build a stronger, more flexible organization that advocates with one voice and on behalf of individuals living with an ASD, their families and their caregivers.

Christine Dade
President

We are frequently contacted by national, regional and local media to share our expertise and respond to specific media requests for interviews, comment and information.

Regionally, ASC continues to advocate on behalf of autism awareness. We maintain our relevance within the Autism community and the public at large through our member societies; it is through their accomplishments that ASC can measure its success. And change is happening: ASC’s member societies have been successfully working with provincial governments; these provincial societies’ hard work may very well serve as a model for future discussions at the federal level on behalf of a Canadian Strategy.

INDIVIDUAL LEADERSHIP:
Together, our Board has also worked diligently on a succession plan to ensure the sustainability of the organization. As we print this report I want to welcome the incoming President Michael Lewis with whom we have all worked with as 1st Vice-President for the last 3 years.

I am ever inspired by this group of dedicated Board members. Their ability to take personal ownership of the issues facing the ASD community, and their dedication and commitment to ASC’s vision is truly inspiring. As my role as Board President comes to an end, I am grateful for their support and encouragement during the past 3 years. I also want to extend my gratitude and thanks to a few Board members who have moved on, namely, Lynn Verklan, Jerome McIntyre and Ginny Pearce.

ASC’S LEADERSHIP:
Nationally, ASC continues to increase its presence in the Canadian autism landscape; our continuing involvement with Canadian Alliance for Mental Illness & Mental Health (CAMIMH), our participation with the Canadian Autism Intervention Research Network (CAIRNS) and its research symposium in the fall of 2008, and our active leadership in the Canadian ASD Alliance (CASDA) demonstrate ASC’s role in shaping the future of Autism policy in Canada.
SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIPS 2008 – 2009

NATIONAL

Our goal as a nationally mandated organization is to be invited to the table where Canadian Autism issues are being discussed. Autism Society Canada’s collaborative approach enables us to quickly identify community needs and seek out concrete solutions. We are proud of our role as a unifying, national voice for the growing Canadian autism community. This year we have participated in many conferences, meetings, and events, many of which will ultimately help shape autism policy in Canada.

CANADIAN ALLIANCE OF MENTAL ILLNESS AND MENTAL HEALTH: ASC sits on the management committee of CAMIMH, an organization with the mandate to ensure that mental health is placed on the national agenda so that persons with a lived experience of mental illness and their families receive appropriate access to care and support.

MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION OF CANADA: ASC attended a Mental Health Commission of Canada consensus meeting in Toronto in October 2008. Participants created a vision, guiding principles and resolution statement for the Commission’s Anti-stigma/Anti-discrimination initiative.

CANADIAN AUTISM INTERVENTION RESEARCH NETWORK: ASC was invited to participate in the preparation and development of a Canadian Autism Intervention Research Network (CAIRN) pan-Canadian conference to seek stakeholder input. Funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), this conference provides an opportunity to review findings from the research to date and to establish research priorities for the future and identify future topics in Autism research. Conference delegates’ participation was requested to ensure that current and future research on ASD is as relevant and useful as possible.

2008 FEDERAL ELECTION: This year’s federal election provided a unique opportunity for ASC to advocate for change within the government’s Autism policies and programs. ASC requested responses from Canada’s 5 political parties about their policies and priorities regarding ASDs and posted the leaders’ responses on their website. ASC also welcomed new and returning MPs in a post-election electronic communication.

SENIOR MUNSON AND BILL S-210 (FORMERLY BILL S-237): Senator Munson, a long-time advocate on behalf of the Canadian autism community successfully passed bill S-210 through the senate. The bill is now in committee. ASC’s federal mandate is to advocate and lobby for support for individuals living with an ASD across Canada.

CANADIAN ASD ALLIANCE (CASDA): In keeping with its mission of working with its many partners to address the national priorities facing the Autism Community, ASC is proud of its founding role in CASDA, Canada’s first alliance of autism stakeholders dedicated to developing a national strategy; to articulate to the government and its policymakers the critical needs in our community and ultimately to convince the federal government to make autism a priority. The Steering Committee for CASDA includes Autism Society Canada, Canadian Autism Intervention Research Network (CAIRN), Geneva Centre for Autism, Autism Canada Foundation, Autism Speaks, Autism Treatment Services of Canada, and ASD - Canadian-American Research Consortium (ASD-CARC).
REGIONAL

EMAIL AND TELEPHONE INQUIRIES: A large portion of ASC’s day-to-day operations remains answering the countless emails and phone inquiries that the Society receives daily from concerned parents, adults on the spectrum and recently diagnosed individuals. ASC responds to these inquiries by lending a listening ear to callers and redirecting them to the appropriate provincial or territorial member society where they can connect with their local resource network.

WEBSITE CONFERENCES AND EVENTS LINK:
Our website provides a comprehensive list by province or territory of activities, workshops and conferences taking place across Canada. We continue to communicate through our open letters to our community, press releases, and electronic communications. Member societies and other Autism Stakeholder organizations can readily access the changing Canadian Autism landscape in a digital era.

EMPOWERING MEMBER SOCIETIES: Success for ASC can be measured by the strength of its member societies. ASC contributed to their strength by building an election toolkit outlining how the member societies can lobby their local MPs, by promoting regional events through e-blasts to MPs, by assisting with celebrations for Canadian Autism Awareness Month (CAAM) and by raising awareness and promoting the sharing of best practices among member societies.

INTERNATIONAL

ASC is also beginning to forge partnerships within the International Autism Community; in addition to advocating on behalf of a national autism strategy, we strive to create partnerships within the global autism community to raise awareness on a global landscape. The reach of our organization is no longer limited by our geographic boundaries; ASC now receives communications from the international community which are interested and committed to our mission and goals.

ASC’S FACEBOOK PAGE: The newly created ASC Facebook page is another new communications tool that ASC is using to reach out to our many members across the country. The discussion board provides an opportunity for feedback – we welcome your input on current and emerging issues affecting our community.

As autism continues to be recognized as a growing global issue, Autism Society Canada strives to reach out to other national and international organizations to share best practices and raise awareness about ASDs around the globe.

Examples include Advisory Committee member Georges Huard’s 2008 trip to France to speak at the “Congrès Autism France” as well ASC’s cultivation of a new relationship with Autism Society of America (ASA) to better serve the needs of the North American Autism Community.

GEORGES HUARD, speaking at Autism France’s Congress 2008
ASC STANDING COMMITTEES THE HEART OF THE ORGANIZATION

ASC’s standing committees are the heart of the organization. Each dedicated Board Member participates in at least one standing committee. Committee work includes establishing fiscal responsibility (Finance and Audit Committee), outreaching with the community through effective communications tools (Communication, Education and Public Awareness Committee) and outlining pan-Canadian representation (Governance Committee and Membership Committee). It is our Board Members’ hands-on approach to governance that drives the organization’s agenda forward, and ultimately, helps shape the future and direction of ASC.

FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
Chaired by Nancy Adams

COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS COMMITTEE
Chaired by Sandra McKay

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
Chaired by Lynn Verklan

OPERATIONS AND CONTRACTS COMMITTEE
Co-Chaired by Elizabeth Oliver and Vicki Harvey

ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF ADULTS ON THE SPECTRUM
Chaired by Kristian Hooker

ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF ADULTS ON THE SPECTRUM:

Through the support of the Astellas Foundation USA, ASC’s Advisory Committee—a group of adults with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) that represent many provinces and territories across the country—met face-to-face in May 2008. This committee—a first of its kind in North America—wholeheartedly reflects ASC’s core belief that whenever possible, individuals living with an ASD should be consulted and included in decisions regarding their conditions. The meeting’s agenda ranged from daily life impact of ASDs to selected research topics. The advisory committee continues to provide perspective on adult-specific issues, thereby increasing acceptance and affecting changes in our knowledge and attitudes towards individuals living with an ASD. Last year alone, we increased our membership in this committee by 25%. Autism Society Canada would also like to extend a special thank you to Kevin Stoddart, Ph. D. for his supportive work with the Advisory Committee of Adults on the Spectrum.
THE DREAM—JONATHAN HOWARD

The Run may be completed but The Dream continues…

After running across Canada, through two winters, one spring, one summer and one fall, for a total of 8,020 kilometres and 199 Running Days, Jonathan Howard, the inspiration behind Run The Dream, dipped his toe into the Pacific Ocean in Victoria, British Columbia on December 18, 2008, marking the end of his journey. The impact of this journey has been felt by families affected by ASDs, as well as children attending schools where Jonathan visited, along with Canadians in communities who met Jonathan along the way. Their messages of support demonstrate their appreciation for this historic run. The money raised during the year long run will be divided among ASC’s member societies with the request that it be used to directly impact families living with an ASD in their community. Thank you Jonathan, you are an inspiration for our community and support ASC’s mission to help all Canadians with Autism Spectrum Disorders reach their full potential.

Run The Dream was born out of hope, planned by vision, and executed through action. After running over 8,000 kms, in 199 running days, I can officially say Canada is a country filled with diverse people and places, bound together by dreams.

JONATHAN HOWARD

EXAMPLES OF HOW RUN THE DREAM MONEY WILL BE USED BY MEMBER SOCIETIES ACROSS CANADA:

AUTISM SOCIETY OF P.E.I. hosted a two day workshop entitled “Understanding Autism Spectrum Behaviours.”

AUTISM SOCIETY MANITOBA applied the funds to its social skills program, a program which works on social skills in small groups. This program can now be extended into rural Manitoba.

SASKFEAT offered individuals wishing to attend the Autism Resource Centre ABA 5 day workshop access to ten grants of $500 each. These grants subsidized paid registrations for the workshop.

AUTISM SOCIETY BRITISH COLUMBIA funded its Summer Reimbursement Program, a program that provides ‘grants’ directly to families in order to assist with fees and costs for children to participate in summer recreation programs (either in a camp environment or at local recreation centres).
CORPORATE RELATIONSHIPS

AIR CANADA EMPLOYEE PROGRAM

A special thank you to Air Canada’s Employee Program: employees chose Autism Society Canada as its selected charity of 2008, raising over $3,200.

“Born of its desire to be involved in charitable work, Air Canada Vacations invited its employees to cast their vote for the organization they would be most interested in supporting. While several renowned charities were mentioned, the majority of votes went towards the Autism Society of Canada. Thus, Air Canada Vacations has committed itself to raising not only funds, but also awareness for the cause by carefully planning and executing events that will incite its employees to get involved and spread the word to the community. Together, we feel we can and will make a difference.”

Cynthia Alonso
Human Resources Advisor, Air Canada Vacations

BAREFOOT VENUS

For the past 3 years, Barefoot Venus, a company that “delivers indulgent body and bath pleasures with stylish design and fragrant impact” has been donating 10% of their net profits from their special edition Christmas Collection to Autism Society Canada. Co-founders Cindy Danberger and Myra Murphy say it best: Indulgence is good, but giving to a worthy cause makes you feel even better! This year’s donations totalled $845.

“At age 2 my son Jarrod was diagnosed with Autism. ASC was one of the first sites I visited. I found information, guidance and a sense of belonging to a community I knew little about. It is our pleasure to give back to a community that reaches so many families”.

Myra Murphy
Co-founder of Barefoot Venus and proud mom of a son with Autism

Cindy Danberger
Co-founder of Barefoot Venus and proud Aunt of a nephew with Autism
FOUNDATION RELATIONSHIPS

ASTELLAS USA FOUNDATION: BUILDING STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

Thanks to the generosity of the Astellas Foundation, ASC’s Advisory Committee of Adults on the Spectrum met for a two-day face-to-face meeting in May 2008. Of particular interest to the Astellas Foundation is the Advisory Committee’s work towards affecting changes in our knowledge and our attitudes towards individuals living with an ASD. The importance of these face to face meetings cannot be stressed enough; members of the advisory committee expressed appreciation to the foundation for allowing them to be included in discussions about their conditions, thereby letting their voices be heard.

FROM THE ASTELLAS PHARMA CANADA INC: Michael Tremblay, Vice President Sales & Marketing; Mark Hammar, Director of Sales; Kathleen A. Provost, Executive Director ASC; Christine Dade, President of the Board of Directors of Autism Society Canada (ASC) and Fumiaki Sakurai, President of Astellas USA Foundation.
Autism Society Canada would like to extend its gratitude to the following corporations, foundations, and groups and organizations, as well as families and individuals, including those who choose to remain anonymous, for their contribution in support of our work.

**FAMILIES**
- Arruda & Pavao Family
- Biffis Family
- Bodnar Family
- Boutet Family
- Burelle Family
- Burnett Family
- Ceresino Family
- Davis Family
- Dresser Family
- Fowler Family
- Genier Family
- Gostmann Family
- Graham Family
- Hennigar-Shuh Family
- Hess Family
- Jost & Noob Family
- Kain Family
- Kudeba Family
- Lopez Sacco Family
- MacMillan Family
- Mather Family
- McCawley Family
- Metcalf Family
- Patchett Family
- Pieper Family
- Poirier Family
- Pool Family
- Potter Family
- Reinhardt Family
- Sabourin Family
- Shaw Family
- Shumyk Family
- Zinger Family

**INDIVIDUALS**
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- Adams, Nancy
- Aldred, Janice
- Alexander, Isabella
- Alexander, Lincoln
- Alexander, Sharon
- Alexanderor, R.
- Allan, R.J.
- Ambrogiano, Sandra
- Anbar, Benny
- Antal, Carl
- Arsenault, Jenny
- Aubin, Rejean
- Auget, Réjean
- Augustus, Rhian
- Bagley, Sharon
- Bajon, Zdzislaw & Patricia
- Baker, Lee
- Baldwin, Ann
- Ball, Brenda
- Ball, Daryl
- Ball, Penny
- Ballantyne, W. Grant
- Battle, Gary & Katherine
- Beare, Murray
- Bédard, Claude
- Bedding, Kate
- Begin, Brenda
- Belobaba, Mary
- Bergman, Rhonda
- Bernier, Virginia
- Bertelsen, Christian & Ngan Trinh
- Bhérer, Antoinette
- Bilodeau, Simon
- Bilokreli, Harold
- Bliault, Walt
- Blinco, Sandra
- Boissonneault, Edith
- Boland, Lynn
- Bowes, Victor Alan
- Bradshaw, Geraldine
- Bragg, Cynthia
- Brindley-Macro, Louis
- Britton, Marion
- Brotherston, Stephen
- Brouillette, Gisele
- Brown, Carla & Joe
- Brown, Guy
- Brown, Nicholas
- Brown, Penny
- Brown, Roger
- Browne, Enid & Vernon
- Bryant, Janis
- Bulmer, Tammy
- Bunte, Norbert
- Bunz, Valerie
- Burgess, Douglas
- Burgess, Linda
- Butler, Anthony
- Bye, Tamilee
- Byers, Danielle
- Cadarette, Melinda
- Cameron, Nancy
- Campbell Wachs, Heather
- Campbell, Catherine
- Campbell, Donna
- Candy, Carey
- Cardy, Derek
- Carlson, Sue
- Carpenter, Gina
- Carson, Laura
- Carter, Ann
- Casey, Judy
- Casey, Judy
- Cenerini, Rhonda
- Cevallos, Javier
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- Challinor II, John
- Champion, Tara
- Chand, Rose
- Chapman, Lyn
- Chase, Hannah
- Chatigny, Adrien
- Chaytor, Welford
- Cherubin, Sara
- Chiasson, Raymond & Lois
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- Chistensen, Jill
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- Chorostkowski, Elise
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- Clarke, Sharon
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Pape, Virginia
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Parenteau, Raphaele
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Petten, Shirley
Pettus, Jill
Pflafl, Janice
Pickell, Gordon
Pickell, Shannon
Pierce, Maril
Piers, Lisa
Plette, Bernadette
Pilz, Carolyn
Pinchuk, Gail
Plourde-McKay, Susan
Poirier, Carole
Popowich, Hank
Potter, Roy
Powell, Ruby
Power, Edward
Pratt, Dale & Sandra
Prinsen, Richard
Provost, Kathleen
Prychitka, Tom
Quaid, John
Ranciere, Paul
Ramos, Grace
Rance, Sandra
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Randall, Jane
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SUCCESSFUL DONOR RELATIONS

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Roy, Robert
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Suzick, Cathy
Svirhan, Katrina
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Talbot, John
Talbot, Marcella
Talbot, Susan
Tan, Laura
Tang, Mark
Tatchell, Harry
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Taylor, Jane
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Thompson, Stacey
Thompson-McGuire, Wendy
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Tomiyoshi-Marsom, Tricia
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Tremblay, Simon
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Twardek, Kathy
Urquhart, Hugh
Vaillancourt, Stéphane
Van Der Wal, Arjen
VanDam, Tracey
Vansickle, Terry
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Vaskor, Terry
Verschuur, Sandra
Vidolovics, John
Vieira, Jay & Lucy
Viveiros, Joseph
Voyer, Réjean
Wade, Gabrielle
Waggoner, Debbie
Wagner, Erin
Wainright, Janice
Wakeling, Donna
Walewicz, Mary Jane
Walker, Erin
Walker, Robin
Walsh, Sheryl
Wang, Lihong
Warillow, Emma
Wasay, Saad
Watchorn, Evelyn
Waylon, Steve
Weaver, Roy
Wengle, Annette
Westerhaug, Shirley
Weston, W Galen
Whatley, Doreen
Wheatley, Larry
White, Dwayne
White, Jodi
Whitehead, Joanna
Whitehead, Terry
Weibe, Naomi
Wilcox, Betty
Wilkinson, Graham
Wilkinson, Ken
Wilson, Amanda
Wilson, Deanna
Wilson, Eleanor
Wilson, Sheila
Withey, Keith
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Woodward, Susan
Wright, Chris
Wright, Donna
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Zenger, Carl
Zister, Shelly
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2148843 Ontario Ltd.  
931154 Ontario Ltd.  
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Air Canada Vacations  
Akuna International Corporation  
Ambulatory Footwear  
Akuna International Corporation  
Annapolis East Elementary School  
Astellas USA Foundation  
ATCO I-Tek  
ATCO Travel Social Club  
Audrey S. Hellyer Charitable Foundation  
Azrieli Foundation  
BMO Employee Charitable Foundation  
Boomi’s Beads  
Bightworks  
Buddies Toy Store  
Centra Exteriors Ltd.  
Centre Du Grand Montreal  
City Of Hamilton  
Clarkson Village BIA  
CN (Dept. Of Public Affairs)  
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Corus Entertainment – The New Country 95.3  
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Creative Learning  
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Foundations the Toy Shack  
Fun to Grow On  
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Squirt’s Toys  
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St. Paul Catholic High School  
Stella Maris Academy  
Streetville Pipes and Drums Student BBQ  
Summerland Secondary School  
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The Corporation of the Town of Orangeville  
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The Friendship Group – St. Stephens on the Hill United Church  
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The Queen of Angels Academy Foundation  
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Travellers Guarantee Company of Canada  
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Yellowknife Ukrainian Association
SUCCESSFUL DONOR RELATIONS

Donations were made to Autism Society Canada in honour of a special event in someone’s life or to remember someone special. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

Adam Rylott
Aileen Lewellyn
Alex Gall
Ana Carina Costa & Carlos Murudumbay
Andrew & Cathy
Andrew Menzies
Anna Remillard Gauthier
Arianna Ambrogiano
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Barbara Leichnitz
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Richard Harrison
Ronald Hui
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Sharon Dembo
Shawn Kennedy
Slater Worth
Sophia Soile
Students & Staff at Mountain View School
Terry Robinson
The employees of the TD Life Group
The Vanstigt/McFadden Family
Thomas Pisani
Thomas Smith
Toby McKeon
Trevor Martin Mallard
Trey Wachs
Tyler Lazaruk
Virginia Silkstone
Zev Kniznik
CONTINUED SUCCESS

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we move into 2009, and towards our 35th anniversary as an organization in 2011, I look forward to another exciting year with Autism Society Canada. My rewarding work as ASC’s Executive Director is enhanced by our part-time staff and dedicated Board members who provide invaluable feedback and advice. We all work together towards Autism Society Canada’s mission—to address national priorities facing the Canadian Autism community. Kathleen A. Provost CFRE

Executive Director

For more than 30 years ASC has been providing information, services and resources to the Autism Community of Canada. ASC and its website are often the first point of contact: we are committed to gathering and disseminating information on ASDs across the lifespan of the individual which is accessible to all Canadians. The emails I receive from concerned parents about their children, and the phone conversations I have with individuals living with an ASD from all across Canada only reinforce my belief that ASC has an important role to play in the autism landscape. It is their stories and experiences that inspire me to advocate on their behalf. The strength of ASC as a national voice for the autism community of Canada is built on successful partnerships with its member societies; it is our member society’s feedback that makes ASC’s voice on the national platform relevant. I envision our role within the community as that of a leader—to urge the federal government to develop a Canadian Autism Strategy.

I strive to respond and reflect the needs of the autism community by:

• Partnering with Canadian member societies, autism stakeholders and governmental organizations;

• Shaping Canadian Autism policy—from grassroots to national and international platforms;

• Designing and implementing strategies and policies to help shape the future of the Canadian autism landscape.

I would like to take a moment to thank our departing Board Chair, Christine Dade, for her tireless commitment to ASC and for her unwavering support. The past three years, through her guidance and support, have been one of growth and expansion within the organization. I also look forward to working with a new team with new ideas and objectives. 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.
SUCCESSFUL FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

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.

As Chair of the Finance and Audit committee, together with the members of the committee, we continue to act as the eyes and the ears of the Board, along with our bookkeeper at Henshell and Associates and our external auditors, Cloutier & Brisebois.

Nancy Adams CA
Langley, British Columbia

OVERVIEW
Again this year, ASC remained a low-cost and efficient organization: while total program expenses increased by approximately 14%, general and administrative expenses decreased by almost 15%. This year also exemplifies many instances of partnerships between autism stakeholder groups. For example, in its leadership role, ASC and its finance and audit committee reviewed financial agreements between ASC and Run the Dream, and participated on the ASC-Run the Dream committee that made recommendations to the Board on the disbursement of charitable donations raised by Run the Dream to member societies. Similarly, ASC embarked on an initial small-scale partnership with Canadian ASD Alliance with the goal of collaborating on an awareness-raising campaign. The successful result provided economies of scale and efficiencies for all organizations involved. ASC is committed to seeking out future partnerships and outreach projects to supplement some of our ongoing operating expenses.

OTHER FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS
• Individual donations increased by 37%. This increase reflects ASC’s hard work during the past few years of engaging and securing new donors. In addition, ASC can now count among its donors some members of the international autism community. Through our website and e-philanthropy capacity, we are now accessible to donors from all over the world.
• Corporate donations decreased by 35%, reflecting a general downturn in world economic markets.

LOOKING FORWARD
ASC was successful in securing 3 years of core program funding of $65,000 per year from the Government of Canada through the Office of Disability Issues. While ASC remains committed to exploring new and creative sources of funding, the security of multi-year funding cannot be highlighted enough – it provides the organization with some financial means to continue important core programming while also investigating other funding options.

Strengthening Autism Society Canada’s financial base remains a number one goal. By remaining fiscally responsible to our membership and by seeking and engaging new prospective donors we can ensure financial growth for the future. As we move into 2010, ASC’s structure, governance and financial base are now in place to react quickly and effectively to future challenges and changes. By maintaining our fiscal responsibility we can uphold our leadership role within our community and engage in public education, advocacy, and support on behalf of all our regional autism societies.
SUCCESSFUL STRATEGIES OF ASC’S MEMBER SOCIETIES

AUTISM SOCIETY ALBERTA
Partnering with other organizations

Autism Society Alberta partners with other autism organisations within the province to create one strong provincial organization.

AUTISM YUKON
Working with limited resources

With limited resources, Autism Yukon supports a geographically isolated community with great success.

AUTISM ONTARIO
Maintaining relevance

In a densely populated—and therefore saturated—market, Autism Ontario maintains its relevance by strategically targeting different sections of the Autism community—adults, seniors, mental health—to keep educating its public.

LA FÉDÉRATION QUÉBÉCOISE DE L’AUTISME ET DES AUTRES TROUBLES ENVAHISSANTS DU DÉVELOPPEMENT
Serving a unique market

With limited resources due the language barrier, La Federation Quebecoise successfully supports and maintains resources for French speaking individuals living with ASDs.

AUTISM SOCIETY NOVA SCOTIA
Building a national strategy

In partnership with their provincial government, Autism Nova Scotia is working to implement a provincial health care plan that includes comprehensive treatment and resources for individuals living with an ASD. This program might serve as a model for a National Autism Strategy.

SASKFEAT
Breaking isolation

Located outside the mid-sized towns of Saskatoon and Regina, Saskfeat maintains a strong regional connection with all local autism groups, along with providing resources and sharing best practices for the province.

AUTISM SOCIETY OF NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR
Developing key partnerships

Partnering with a local research organization, ASNL successfully produced “Lighting the Way”, a symposium and white paper dedicated to identifying emerging Autism research priorities within Newfoundland.
ASC’S MEMBER SOCIETIES FIND SUCCESS IN cont’d

AUTISM P.E.I.
Presenting special events
The ever popular 2nd Annual Delectable Delightful Evening for Autism is a successful community event that raises funds, promotes awareness and acceptance of individuals with an ASD.

NEW BRUNSWICK
Planning leadership succession
Societies change regularly and need to look at ways to ensure a good succession for the organization. In New Brunswick, the autism society is working very hard at rebuilding its core business—and it is doing so with great success.

AUTISM SOCIETY BRITISH COLUMBIA
Offering tailored programs and services
Through targeted initiatives such as services for adults and parent support groups, BC’s programs and services provide successful resources for individuals living with an ASD in BC.

AUTISM SOCIETY MANITOBA
Branding and positioning
Using a contest as a provincial outreach initiative, ASM has redesigned a logo for their society in the image of its stakeholders.

AUTISM NORTH WEST TERRITORIES
Building from the ground up
For the first time, Autism NWT has identified an adult from within its territory to sit on the Advisory Committee of Adults on the Spectrum.
ASC’S MEMBER SOCIETIES ACROSS CANADA

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