1.10449241 \times 10^9
18,408,206.8
306,803.447
12,783.477
1,826.211
420
35 years

Autism Society Canada
Société canadienne de lautisme

Interacting for 1,826.211 weeks
1,820,6211 semaine d’interaction

Annual Report

2010-2011
Autism Society Canada
Founded in 1976, Autism Society Canada (ASC) is proud of the leadership role it has played for over 35 years in Canada’s autism community. Our success is built on the partnerships that we created and maintain with our member societies. This positive relationship brings grassroots issues to a national platform, while at the same time informing local societies about important national issues that affect their communities.

Today, 35 years later ASC has grown to become the largest collective voice in the Canadian autism community. Together, let’s hear the stories of dedicated Canadians who have helped shape the view we have of Canadians living with an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

It is because of each of these individual’s courage that provincial and territorial autism societies came to be. These societies and their member groups provide direct support to people with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) and their families all across Canada.

In commemoration of Autism Society Canada’s 35 years of experience in the autism community, you will find a number of stories throughout this annual report aimed at providing individuals on the spectrum and their families with a platform to share their stories. We sincerely hope that by reading these stories about autism, Canadians will understand that the time is now to build a Canadian Autism Strategy to support these individuals and their families.

For 35 years, the provincial and territorial member societies of Autism Society Canada have been actively partnering with their provincial and territorial government representatives to advocate for services and supports for individuals living with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Both the United States and the United Kingdom have legislation to support national strategies for autism. Today, Autism Society Canada calls the Government of Canada to action: Canada must have a Canadian Autism Strategy.

Michael Lewis,
President
ASC Board of Director
**Autism Society Canada's 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**

To work with our many partners to address the national priorities facing the Autism community.

**Goals**

- To 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;
- To 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;
- To increase awareness and understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorders and acceptance and participation of individuals with ASDs in society;
- To promote intervention research that will provide individuals with ASDs and their families with practical support.

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 for people who themselves have received a recent diagnosis. As the only bilingual national organization in the autism community, we are committed to the gathering and dissemination of information on ASDs across the lifespan of the individual.

*Tom became the Chair of the Advisory Committee to lend his voice to the national autism platform, and he is committed to being a positive role model for people living on the autism spectrum. In his role as Chair of the Advisory Committee, Tom keeps discussions on topic, encourages participation by all members, and represents and advocates for the group’s opinions on a national platform. He is also the liaison between his committee and the Board of Directors for ASC. “My experience as Chair has helped me to become more confident when speaking with people about autism. It has also helped me communicate and interact more effectively with individuals both on and off the spectrum.”*
As a child, Leland suffered from convulsions and speech delay, and at the age of three he was diagnosed with Asperger’s Syndrome. Despite the many obstacles he has faced over the years, Leland speaks with great optimism and looks forward to sharing his experiences with others. “I live an independent life and I enjoy sharing my experiences. However, it’s important to understand that what works for me may not work for someone else. Everyone has their own unique way of dealing with their Autism.” Leland is a graduate of the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST) accounting program, and currently works as an accountant at MNP in Saskatoon.

Current List of Board Members

Michael Lewis - (British Columbia) President
Christine Dade - Past President (Director at large)
Vic Douse - (Prince Edward Island) 1st Vice-President
  Vicki Harvey – 2nd Vice-President
Nancy Adams – Treasurer (Director at large)
Elizabeth Oliver -Secretary (Director at large)

Directors at Large

Lynn Elkin (North West Territories)
Dr. Jeanette Holden (Director at large)
  Tom Jackman (Director at large)
  David Jardine (Alberta)
  Leah Davy Ryckman (Yukon)
  Leah Mitchlin - (Ontario)
  Michelle Samagalski   (Manitoba)
  Nicole O.Brien (Newfoundland & Labrador)
  Arden Fiala (Saskatchewan)
  Vicki Harvey (Nova Scotia)

Our Team

Kathleen A. Provost, CFRE, Executive Director
Lynn Andrews, Website Development and Information Services Coordinator
Abhinava Kumar, Web Support
For 35 years, the provincial and territorial member societies of Autism Society Canada have been actively partnering with their provincial and territorial government representatives to advocate for services and supports for individuals living with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

There are vast inequalities in services and supports across all age groups and across the country. Today, Autism Society Canada calls upon all Canadians to work with the provinces to break down the silos and duplication that exist across the country. Together, we can ensure that the same services and access to best-practice treatments are available to all Canadians living with an autism spectrum disorder.

ASC was... Federally incorporated as a non-profit corporation in 1976 with Letters Patent and registered as a Charitable Organization with Canada Revenue Agency.

- ASC was formed by members of several provincial autism societies
- ASC became a federation of Canada-wide provincial and territorial autism societies or their equivalent.
- ASC was founded in recognition of the need for unifying the efforts of autism support organizations across the country

Early years...

In the seventies...
- Met with families and professionals across the country
- Assisted in developing autism societies in the provinces

In the eighties...
- Promoted a national conference
- Began an inventory of all autism services in the country.

In the nineties...
- Began advocacy with the federal government for increased ASD research, better national data collection, improved collaboration with organizations involved in autism, and national leadership to ensure national treatment and supports for people with (ASD) of all ages.
- ASC participated in inaugural annual meeting of the Canadian Autism Intervention Research Network (CAIRN)
Message from the Executive Director

Kathleen A. Provost CFRE

Autism Society Canada supports individuals and their families living with an Autism Spectrum Disorder by advocating on a national platform on their behalf. After 35 years of experience working with the Canadian autism community, ASC knows that the time is now to develop the foundation of a Canadian Autism Strategy, so individuals across Canada can access high quality services for their Autism related needs.

Our Sincere gratitude to the entire ASC team - volunteers and staff

COMMITTEE WORK

The impact ASC has had in the Canadian Autism Community was made possible because of the sustained volunteer efforts of every member of ASC’s Standing Committees.

ASC’s Committees drafted their annual plan so as to offer support to these areas of focus.

These committees were lead by:

- Finance and Audit Committee – Nancy Adams (Chair & Treasurer)
- Communication, Education and Public Awareness Committee – Brian Rimpilainen (Chair)
- 35th Anniversary Committee – Vicki Harvey (Chair)
- Governance and Membership Committee – Lynn Verklan (Chair)
- Operations and Contracts Committee – Elizabeth Oliver and Vicki Harvey (Co-Chairs)
- Advisory Committee of Adults on the Spectrum – Kristian Hooker (Chair)

Autism Society Canada is a national voice for autism that supports provincial/territorial member societies, and gathers information from across Canada to help reduce the impact of autism spectrum disorders on individuals and their families. Our mandate is to raise public awareness, provide information and referrals, as well as provide direct support to our regional societies.

The time is now for a Canadian Autism Strategy. Canadians must be involved in the dialogue that reminds all governments to work together to establish a Canadian Autism Strategy so that the same services are available to all individuals living with an ASD throughout their lifespan.
At the turn of the century...2000

- ASC hosts first Canadian Autism Research Workshop with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the (U.S.) National Alliance for Autism Research - Bringing together autism researchers, government representatives, research funding agencies and autism societies to develop a Canadian Autism Research Agenda

- ASC becomes active with the Canadian Alliance for Mental Illness and Mental Health, participates in the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addictions (INMHA) inaugural annual NGO round table toward developing collaborative research and communication with other neuroscience related organizations


Continuing its excellent work...

- June 9th, 2004: ASC intervened in the Auton case before the Supreme Court of Canada – advocating for the right of individuals (with ASD) to have scientifically validated treatment provided by their provincial government.

- ASC presented at The Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology Hearings on Autism Treatment, November and December 2006. Two members of ASC’s Advisory Committee of Adults with ASD also presented before the Committee.

- Friends and colleagues across the country joined together with ASC to raise awareness about Autism Spectrum Disorders during Canadian Autism Awareness Month in October 2006. Events were held across the country.

- As a founding member of the Canadian ASD Alliance, ASC heads the steering Committee.
ASC as a Canadian Leader...

- Autism Society Canada continues to play a key role in the Canadian ASD Alliance with a presence on the parliament Hill to celebrate World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) on April 1st 2009 and every year thereafter.

- As a membership of the Leadership Committee for CASDA (Canadian ASD Alliance) ASC takes part in outreaches to CASDA members, designing the CASDA website, as well as participating in essential discussions with CRA (Canada Revenue Agency), CIHR (Canadian Health Institute of Canada) & PHAC and Health Canada.

- ASC facilitated the first Canadian Research Meeting between Canadian Researchers and Adults living with an ASD. All Committee members were consulted by York University regarding the integration and support of students living with Asperger. The Committee members were also ask as guest speakers at the University of British Columbia.


- ASC was present at the National Round Table coordinated by the United Nation’s convention on the Rights of persons with Disabilities. The society is an active member of the organizing committee and all ASC societies along with the 8 Advisory Committee members participated in CAIRN’s (Canadian Autism Intervention Research Network) Symposium on Research.

- In the last 2 years, ASC has been working with PHAC’s Surveillance pilot project and we have been consulted by the members of the National Autism Symposium and the Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health (CAMIMH)

Financial Collaborations

Autism Society Canada maintains its activities with the lowest possible operating budget in order to ensure that all its resources can be allocated to help support those who most need them.

We are grateful to many dedicated individuals, corporations and foundations who have made financial commitments to ASC during the past year.

Families and Individuals who supported Autism Society Canada in 2010-2011 include

Adams, John  Chavez, Elizabeth  Fraser, Robina
Aldred, Janice  Collin, David  Gardiner, Anthea
Allan, Olga  Corte, Mario and Geraldine  Geekie, Kathie
Allan, Robert J.  Cowper-Smith, Mary  Gerretsen, John
Allen, Paul  Crocker, James  Gisborn, Isobel M
Amezcuia, Bruno  Crocker, Vicki  Goldman, Evelyn
Antonas, Tony and Effie  Crossley, Carol  Goodman, Marvin and Carol
Archer, Peter and Connie  Currie, Patricia  Graydon, Jim and Penny
Armstrong, Karen  Currie, Shauna  Gresko, Karen
Arrogante, Katrina and  Cutler, Marty and Minden,  Gress, Rose
Disnadice, Brian  Marilyn  Guri, Bernard
Baltman, Deena  Damon, Donna  Hallett, John and Louise
Barker, Brendon  Damore, P  Hamilton, Jamie
Barker, Troy  Dath, D  Hare, Patrick and Valerie
Barnes, Thomas and Heather  Day, Kim  Hayden, William and Della
Bartok, Heather  De Ridder, Barb  Healy, Fatima
Batt, Lucy  Dearman, Nick and Ishbel  Hebert, Donat and Pauline
Beauchemin, Amelie  Deck, Jevon  Hedin, Denise
Bechard, Vern and Marylou  Dewan, Beverly A  Hendin, Kyle
Belo, Brenda  Dilorio, Daniela  Hilton, Mark W.
Beshai, Michael  Donovan, Tara  Holden, Jeanette
Bianchini, Mary  Dougherty, Shirley  Howson, Mary
Blais, Denise  Dumonski, Don  Humphrey, Barry and Norma
Blanchette, Margaret  Duncan, George and Lorraine  Illick, Dawson
Boon, William and Marjorie  East, Les and Betty  Illick, Peter
Breaux, Marguerite M  Easton, Anthony and Sandra  Jamieson, Glenn and Rose-Marie
Breslaw, Howard  Edery-Ilgay, Paula Elisa  Jan, Chien and Helen
Bunch, Megan  Ehrlich, Alan  Kasparian, Chris
Bunte, Norbert  Elliott, Douglas  Kaufman, Karl and Judy
Bureau, Nancy  Englelady, Vanessa  Kavanagh, Jeffrey
Burt, William D  Evangelista, Maurizzio  Keith, Marylou
Caicco, Anita M  Farrell, J  Killam, Dave and Pauline
Caicco, John and Yolanda  Farrell, Janet C  Kitzan, Mervin and Glenda
Caicco, Robert P  Flett, George  Krahm, Darryl and Lesley
Caicco, Shirley  Fost, Shelley L  Kurji, Naheed
Carnevale, Geoff  Fox, Arlene  Laganière, Julie
Carter, Doug  Fox, Laurie Kathleen  Lambin, Ivo and Patricia
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Donations are sometimes made for a special mention of someone who is dear to us.
This year a donation was made to honour the following individuals

**In honour of...**
- en hommage à William Petit
- in honour of a beautiful wife, mother and teacher to us all
- in honour of Anderson
- in honour of Ann, Jim, and Brian
- in honour of Arnold and Meredith MacEachern
- in honour of Barbara Lebo
- in honour of Benjamin McPherson
- in honour of Berthe and Colin Morris
- in honour of Bill and Heather Stewart
- in honour of Bill Reid
- in honour of Cassie Nelson
- in honour of David LeBlanc
- in honour of Debi Saul and her nephew Freddie
- in honour of Doreen Levine
- in honour of Dr. Allen & Karen Menkis
- in honour of Dr. Paul McDonnell
- in honour of Emily Garson grade 6 student at Bialik Hebrew Day School
- in honour of Gregory Haley
- in honour of Jordan McNabb
- in honour of Kevin Krzyzanowski
- in honour of Kim McArthur
- in honour of Lauren and family
- in honour of Lisa and Neil's wedding guest
- in honour of Marilyn Poirier
- in honour of Murray Kitner
- In honour of Noah McDonald
- In honour of Norbert Bunte
- in honour of Parker Coombs
- in honour of Rylan Formanski
- in honour of Sarah Peyman
- in honour of Steve and Maureen Gilbey
- in honour of Susan Pedersen
- in honour of the 2010 TELUS employee campaign
- in honour of The Brown Family
- in honour of Trey Wachs
- in honour of Vince De Pasquale
- in support of Casual Friday's at St. Paul Catholic School

**In memory of...**
- in memory of A. Victor Gordon
- in memory of Alda Flett
- in memory of Ann Abraham
- in memory of Armand Lambert
- in memory of Ashley McElhanan
- in memory of Blain Gaudet
- in memory of Carol Linsky
- in memory of Cathy Ann Chapin
- in memory of Charles Thompson
- in memory of Charlie Johnston
- in memory of Corrine Violet Shepherdson
- in memory of David England
- in memory of Donnie Ryan
- in memory of Elizabeth McGuire
- in memory of Gerry Lester
- in memory of Gilles Campeau
- in memory of Inez Jean Torrance
- in memory of Irene Johnson
- in memory of John McGunnigle
- in memory of Kathryn Staniforth
- in memory of Katie Balakowski
- in memory of Louise Neath
- in memory of Louise St-Onge
- in memory of Louise Tyler
- in memory of Lucie Gibson
- in memory of Margaret Collin
- in memory of Megan Stoodley
- in memory of Mikel Pastic
- in memory of Mrs. Vassalikiki Lerikospergantis
- in memory of Nancy Anderson
- in memory of Noella Mangan
- in memory of Pauline Connell Covo
- in memory of Pearl Kovalench
- in memory of Robert Rider
- in memory of Robin White-Holmes
- in memory of Rose-Aline Fouillard
- in memory of Sean Castonguay
- in memory of Spencer Brown
- in memory of Susan
- in memory of Terry Ryan
- in memory of Yvette Arsenault

_Corporations, Community Groups and Foundations who have supported Autism Society Canada:_
We are also very grateful to a number of our donors who chose to remain anonymous – thank you all for your continued support.

Treasurer’s Report
Financial Highlights for 2010-2011

Donations
- Private donations decreased from $107,065 to $67,163.

Grants
- ASC received $65,000 core funding was received from the federal government.
- A grant of $47,000 from Human Resources & Skills Development Canada to develop “Autism Junction” a web directory of national services.

Nancy Adams, CA,
Treasurer & Chair of Finance & Audit Committee
ASC’s Member Societies across Canada

**Autism Society British Columbia** - Michael Lewis, President

**Autism Society Alberta** Colleen Eggertson, President
Includes:
- **Autism Society Edmonton Area** - Deborah Barrett, President
- **Autism Calgary Association** - Lyndon Parkin, Executive Director
- **Autism Society Central Alberta** - Kim Fox President
- Autism Society Lethbridge
- FEAT Alberta

**SASKFeat** – Arden Fiala, President

**Autism Society Manitoba** Sandra McKay, President

**Autism Ontario** - Margaret Spoelstra, Executive Director
Deborah Kitchen, President

**Fédération québécoise de l’autisme et des autres troubles envahissants du développement**
Jo-ann Lauzon, Directrice générale, Ginette Côté, President

**Autism Society New Brunswick**

**Autism Society Nova Scotia/Autism Provincial Council**

**Autism Society P.E.I.** - Michelle Pineau, President

**Autism Society Newfoundland and Labrador** - Trish Williams, Executive Director

**Autism Northwest Territories** - Lynn Elkin, President

**Yukon** - Leah Davy Ryckman, Executive Director

**Nunavut** - No society at this time, contact Autism Society Canada