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Our Vision and Mission

Vision Statement
Engage, Educate, Empower and Unite people to find a cure for Autism

Mission Statement
We:

- Support Canadians by providing biomedical and behavioural treatment information to help those affected by autism;
- Expand health care professionals’ knowledge and awareness of autism as a treatable illness affecting the whole body;
- Work to influence policy within governments to provide public health initiatives and policy changes;
- Enable research into the causes and treatments for autism.

About Autism

- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a complex neurobiological condition that impacts the brain, as well as many other body systems, leaving most individuals with communication problems, difficulty with typical social interactions and a tendency to repeat specific patterns of behaviour. There is also a markedly restricted repertoire of activity and interests.
- 1 in 110 children are being diagnosed with autism today compared to 4.5 per 10,000 only 20 years ago.
- More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than AIDS, pediatric cancer and diabetes combined.
- Boys are four times more likely than girls to be diagnosed with autism.
- Autism is Treatable! Recovery is Possible!
THIS IS OUR SECOND Annual Report, and it’s a privilege for me to be leading such a dedicated and accomplished Board of Directors. At the start of 2009, it would have been hard to imagine everything we were about to accomplish over the course of the year. It turned out to be a banner year for Autism Canada in many ways.

The support of our board has always been an integral part of our organization, and 2009 was no different. We added two new board members last year in University of Toronto professor Marianna Ofner and holistic nutritionist Mavis Horner. This brought us to where we stand today; nine board members from a broad range of professional backgrounds, all with a personal passion for the cause. It’s amazing how much can be accomplished when a small group of people dedicate their time, treasure and talent to the cause.

Autism Canada’s governance and leadership was stronger than ever in 2009. We developed a number of well-designed policies and processes that helped bring a more consistent model of governance to the organization. These processes include a set of advertising guidelines and a donation acceptance policy, both of which improved the uniformity of regulations throughout the organization and will be significant steps in our future success.

Our Executive Committee started the year with the professional council of not-for-profit expert Holly Benson. With Holly’s help we were able to put an increased focus on strategic planning and fundraising. We applied for more grants and were the charity of choice in more third-party fundraising events, and the end result was an increase in receipts of 60% for the year. Because of this increase, we were able to improve our community involvement and impact more families across the country.

I would like to sincerely thank Bill Shin, John Capozzolo, and Yvette Scrivener from TD Bank Financial Group for championing our charity and supporting our organization. Their gift to the Family Support and Resource Program was instrumental in allowing us to grow. Their sponsorship of the Harmony and Hope event in London, Ontario, was a wonderful partnership. Finally, allowing us the use of their Learning Centre Executive Boardroom for our Annual Meeting provided for a first class venue. They have become one of our most trusted allies in the fight against autism.

I would also like to thank the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation, whose funding made it possible for Autism Canada to hire Tim Dowdall as Manager of Marketing, Communications and Development. Tim’s contribution to the organization allowed us to accomplish projects that otherwise would not have been possible. It would be impossible for me to thank everyone individually, but I would like to give a special thanks to all the volunteers and donors who made 2009 such a great year. Volunteers have put in hours and hours of hard work and dedication and donors from across Canada have contributed financially. Without both, we would never be able to accomplish what we do.

Most of all, I want to thank the thousands and thousands of parents and families across Canada who wake up every morning and push forward in their quest to improve the lives of their children with autism. They are the reason we exist in the first place, and they are the reason we strive day in and day out to effect change. They are the inspiration behind Autism Canada, and as long as they keep pressing on, so will we.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Zahoruk

“Parents are the reason we strive day in and day out to effect change.”

Autism Canada Foundation

2009 Annual Report
A Message from the Executive Director

IT IS A PRIVILEGE to be the Executive Director of Autism Canada. Now approaching my fourth year in the position, I am grateful to be working with such a wonderful board of directors, staff and numerous volunteers. Each year keeps getting better and we are changing the course of autism.

The cornerstone of what we do is support families. The Family Support and Resource Program educates families on the multidisciplinary approach to treatment with a special focus on biomedical and behavioural interventions. We provide free educational resources to parents, assist, where possible, in finding professional support, connect families to others who have paved the way and share stories of recovery that provide hope.

Last year alone, Autism Canada reached millions of Canadians through multiple media sources. “Last year alone, Autism Canada reached millions of Canadians through multiple media sources.”

We are committed to having a presence at the federal level. We will continue sending correspondence highlighting the 2007 Senate Report Pay Now Pay Later: Autism Families In Crisis and reminding our government of the recommendations. We will also continue to send correspondence advocating the Public Health Agency of Canada to establish a division responsible for surveillance, epidemiology and policy, specifically a National ASD Strategy.

Autism Canada has many autism allies and we are proud to spearhead the Canadian ASD Alliance. The Alliance came together for World Autism Awareness Day on Parliament Hill to share our vision and mission of ensuring the development and implementation of a Canadian ASD Strategy. We look forward to sitting on the Leadership Committee over the next year and focus ourselves on increasing membership. Together we will guarantee your voice is heard at the federal level.

As Autism Canada grows, it is reassuring to have a special focus on biomedical and behavioural interventions. We provide free educational resources to parents, assist, where possible, in finding professional support, connect families to others who have paved the way and share stories of recovery that provide hope.

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Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is responsible for overseeing Autism Canada’s governance and policies. It is made up of the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Here are a few of the Executive Committee’s 2009 accomplishments:

- **Strategic Planning**  It was a priority at the beginning of the year to formulate a solid strategic plan to guide us into the upcoming year. In January, a meeting with not-for-profit expert and consultant Holly Benson facilitated a strategic planning session that positioned Autism Canada to make great strides in 2009. Holly’s expertise guided us through what would truly be a banner year in terms of receipts and accomplishments.

- **Governance**  The Executive Committee was responsible for putting together a number of policies in 2009, including an Advertising Policy, a Gift and Donation Acceptance Policy, and a Third-Party Fundraising Event Policy. These policies will ensure consistent governance at all levels and facilitate many of our organizational procedures moving forward.

Education Committee

The Education Committee is responsible for spreading knowledge and awareness and providing resources to Canadians, whether it be through speaking engagements, conferences, social media resources or supporting families one-on-one. Some of the Education Committee’s 2009 successes include:

- **Family Support and Resource Program**  This program offers support and resources to families looking for direction on treatments and service providers. Last year over 66,000 families and professionals accessed our resources through this program.

- **Website**  Our website, autismcanada.org, has always been an invaluable resource. In 2009, we gave it the attention it deserves by editing and updating over 140 pages. These improvements will make it easier for parents to get the information they need. We also added reputable advertisers to our website.

- **Facebook**  Launched June 25, 2009, our Facebook group immediately took off, reaching 1,400 fans by the end of the year. Facebook has proven to be a great tool for spreading information and facilitating discussion within the autism community.

- **Twitter**  Launched in September of 2009, our Twitter page is yet another avenue through which we can spread awareness in Canada.

- **Newsletters**  Our e-newsletter continued to be distributed to well over 2,000 subscribers in 2009. With a new layout and a focus on spreading information, we managed to send it more consistently, up to three times a week featuring new research, stories of hope, Autism Canada updates and international news.

- **Toronto Conference**  Autism Canada’s 3-day Toronto conference was a huge success, with 590 individuals attending. More details can be found on page 7.

- **Practitioner Training**  In conjunction with the Toronto Conference, the Practitioner Training allowed physicians to obtain Continuing Education Credits through the College of Family Physicians of Canada. See page 7 for more information.

- **Radio Public Service Announcement**  Thanks to Alex Stephens, we produced a public service announcement that received airtime on radio stations across the country, allowing Autism Canada to connect with millions of Canadians at once.

- **Autism Resource Materials**  Through the Family Support & Resource Program, we donated books to libraries across the nation.

Communications and Government Relations Committee

The Communications and Government Relations Committee is in constant contact with government officials, with a focus on advocating at the federal level through our own initiatives and by way of the leadership committee of the Canadian ASD Alliance. We also partner with others to advocate at the provincial level. Here is a small sampling of the correspondences this committee had in 2009:

- **World Autism Awareness Day**  Autism Canada was on Parliament Hill sharing the vision and mission of the Canadian ASD Alliance on April 1, 2009, in honour of World Autism Awareness Day April 2. It is imperative that our federal government take a leadership role and implement a plan or National strategy.

- **Minister Leona Aglukkaq**  On January 26, 2009, Autism Canada sent a letter to Minister Aglukkaq asking her to support autism and to take part in a meeting with Senator Jim Munson and the Canadian ASD Alliance.

- **Letter to MPs**  On September 10, 2009, we sent a letter to all English corresponding MPs asking that they support a division for autism within the Public Health Agency of Canada responsible for surveillance, epidemiology and policy.

- **Bill S210**  In support of Bill S210, An Act Respecting World Autism Awareness Day, Autism Canada sent a letter dated October 8, 2009, to all MPs in French and English asking them for support. Designating, by law, the second day of April “World Autism Awareness Day” provides a huge and powerful spotlight for attention and awareness to shine on the disorder each year.

- **Ontario Advocacy**  With the support of Taline Sagharian and others, Autism Canada was able to enquire on behalf of Ontario families for explanations on cutoff criteria to ensure families have access to treatments they require.

Fundraising Committee

The goal of the Fundraising Committee is to help ensure a steady flow of funds to the organization. The members of this committee are constantly coming up with new, unique fundraising ideas as well as supporting the wonderful volunteers who put on Third-Party Fundraising Events. Pages 12 and 13 are dedicated solely to these volunteers. Here are some of Autism Canada’s events and initiatives that took place in 2009:

- **Memorial Donations**  Memorial Donations were a wonderful, heartwarming source of income and inspiration. This year, over 20 families chose to support Autism Canada in their time of loss. You can find more details on page 16.

- **Direct Mail Campaign**  Designed and organized by Humber College Fundraising and Volunteer Management student Katrina Cinelli, the October Direct Mail campaign was well received and this year’s campaign saw a 90% increase in receipts from 2008.

- **Prospect Research Student**  University of Western Ontario student Brianne Peters helped Autism Canada by doing research into charitable organizations.

- **“Do You Really Need Another Tie?”**  Sent out in June to our newsletter subscribers, the inaugural Father’s Day fundraiser brought in a number of donations and raised hope for future success.

- **Christmas “In Honour Of” Fundraiser**  Through our newsletter and facebook page, we encouraged our donors to make a contribution to Autism Canada “In Honour of Someone Special” over the holiday season.

- **Blue Marigold**  Jewelry designer Mary Berchard creates and sells beautiful hand-crafted jewelry, donating 50% of proceeds to Autism Canada. Each piece can be customized with either a puzzle ribbon or a single silver puzzle piece.
Third-Party Fundraising Events

THIRD-PARTY FUNDRAISERS ARE an integral part of our receipts, which enable us to execute our mission critical activities. Volunteers across Canada engage in activities from BBQs to garage sales, golf tournaments to galas.

Below is a sampling of some of the events that took place in 2009. We would like to take this opportunity to recognize those who hosted or participated in an event in support of Autism Canada. However, there were so many more events put on that it would be impossible for us to properly acknowledge everyone who took part.

Whether it’s a concert, marathon, black-tie event, car wash, auction, bake sale, or holiday party, no event is too big or too small to be considered for a Third-Party Fundraising Event. These are not simply avenues through which Autism Canada is provided with additional funds. The importance of Third-Party Fundraising Events is that they raise awareness in the community, as the hope is that everyone involved in the event will learn just a little bit more about autism spectrum disorders.

As a charitable organization, our existence is highly dependent on the caring and generosity of others. Those who have put on a Third-Party Fundraising Event have been particularly supportive to our cause, as they have donated of their time and talent in addition to the financial contributions they have made. We encourage all of our supporters to continue to run these events in the future so that we can continue to work towards our goal of Changing the Course of Autism. Together, we know we are making a difference!

NMR Distribution

NMR Distribution is a leading North American supplier to specialty retailers of licensed youth oriented product; specifically posters and calendars. Their staff fundraised all year with a final Christmas Party to raise money for Autism Canada. Laurie Mawlam is pictured here with Elyse, Ashley, & Julie at their Newmarket, Ontario head office accepting a cheque for $4,000 on behalf of Autism Canada.

Harmony and Hope

Under the artistic direction of Liska Jetchick, Conspirato Chamber singers hosted the Second Annual Harmony and Hope concert presented by Stevenson & Hunt and TD Canada Trust. London, Ontario’s own radio and television talk show host Jim Chapman was the Master of Ceremonies for the evening, which featured world famous baritone Kevin McMillan, Harpist Jennifer White, Ksara and many other wonderful artists. Over the last two years, this event has raised over $10,000 and plans are in the works for next year.

Noah’s 1st Birthday

Sandra Leal organized a wonderful party for her son Noah’s first birthday. Family and friends were asked to make a donation to Autism Canada in lieu of presents for Noah. Sandra’s nephew has been diagnosed with autism and she knew this would be perfect. Fun was had by all and the cake, designed and decorated to represent Noah’s Ark and pictured to the left, was a real hit!

Contact us today at info@autismcanada.org for more information on organizing your Third-Party Fundraising Event for Autism Canada!

HPG Golf Tournament

Helen and Doug Mader and family, owners and operators of HPG Sales, a division of Hydronic Parts Group Ltd. in Toronto, Hamilton, and London, hosted the second annual HPG Sales & RBI Water Heaters Charity Golf Tournament in the fall. The Granite Ridge Golf Club was a great venue, providing a beautiful golf course and a delicious dinner. A wonderful day was enjoyed by all who attended. Hydronic Parts Group and their wonderful friends are true champions of the cause, and Autism Canada is forever grateful for the hard work they put in to make the tournament such a great success. Autism Canada President Cynthia Zaloruk was on hand at the end of the day to accept a cheque presented to Autism Canada for $12,000.

Changing Seasons Dinner and Dance

Senti Rasa and Rose Jhagroo hosted the second annual “Changing Seasons” Dinner and Dance in honour of Christopher. This dynamic couple knows the journey of raising a child with an autism diagnosis and is on a crusade to make a difference for other families. From the Master of Ceremonies, Anne Beaudry, to an excellent DJ, beautiful flowers and wonderful parting gifts at the end of the night, the entire evening was fantastic. Senti is already busy planning the 2010 version of the event, so we hope to see you there!
Autism Canada would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our donors and sponsors in 2009. Without all of you we would not be able to accomplish the things we do. The listing below represents all our donors and sponsors from January to December 2009 and is recorded as their accumulative donation over the last five years up to $100. We respect our donors and friends, and strive for accuracy. Should there be an error in this listing, please contact us at info@autismcanada.org or call (519) 695-5858.

Donors are listed alphabetically, with companies and organizations listed first, followed by individuals.

$10,000 +
Harry E. Foster Foundation
Hydronic Parts Group
Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation
TD Bank Financial Group

$5,000 +
Elephant & Castle Canada Inc.
N.M.R. Distribution
SickKids Foundation

Harold Hinn

$2,000 +
Alicia & Murray Maitland Foundation
Sam DeCaria - Anew Building Corporation
Kirkton Press Limited
Manulife Financial
Pac-Exhibition Inc.
St. Marcellinus Secondary School
Stevenson & Hunt
Tectona Electronics Inc.

Ellen and Brian Cowie
Mavis and Steve Horner
Senti Rasa
Jonathan and Sarah Stone
John and Amanda Van Dyk

$1,000 +
Community Charitable Foundation
Conspirato Chamber Singers
Cynthia Zahoruk Architect Inc.
ITT Industries
Kisco
Newgen Construction Corporation
Ontario Hyperbaric Oxygen Treatment Centre
Rick Campovari Plumbing & Heating
Spectrum Supplements
Teluco

Don and Audrey Blane
Shahnaz Dar
Sherry Taylor Drew
Wendy Edwards
Michael Hart
Susie Matthias
Laurie and Tom Mawlam
Jane Richardson and Raymond Murrill
Jenny Van Dyk

Andrew Bemeyi
David Brander
Jennifer Bruce
Prescott Busk
Salvatore Cirasolo
Meg Crawford
Carolyn Cross
Maria DeCaria
Robert Dykstra
Charlotte Frolke
Ada and William Hallett
David Hudson
Richard Ivey
Eddie LePage
Elliott Marer
Bob and Martha Mawlam
Blair McDonald
Meghan Monaghan
Lawrence and Kimberly Opoku
Chris Paterson
Suzanne Pavlick
Dale Pettit
Karen Rajpaul
Arlene Reynolds
Jason Serpa
Timothy Smart
Kenny Tan
Carolina Tuck
Emilio and Diane Venditti
Brian Wong

$100 +
Archie Horn & Son Ltd.
Blue Marigold Inc.
Broiss & Massie Mechanical Inc.
D.S.M. Air Ltd.
Jasper Mechanical
Leamington Secondary School
Post Controlled Air
Reiner Associates
St. Mary School
Trinity College Health Outreach
Van Nos Farms
Vincent Massey Collegiate
Alan Alber
Kelly and Nelson Andrade
Allen and Michelle Aptekar
Anna DeCaria Asoor
Sohail Aslam
Joshua Assogna
Don and Diann Barker
Archana and Vijay Bhadwaj
Mary Lou Benton
Richard and Susan Blair
Joseph Bruno
Pam Cape
Nadene Carline
Carol Cassanette
Alexandra Chamberlain
Yisha Chen
Sylvia Corthing
Tara Cree
Leland Davies

Nancy DeCaria
Tony DeCaria
Vito and Maria DeCaria
Diane Desjardins
Frank DeGiulio
Christy Donnelly
Frances and Gord Eagleson
Mark Eckler
Ronald and Dorothy Edwards
Maureen Eggleston
Dawn Erskine
Shanee Fischer
Ralph Forbes
Don and Jan Galati
Alexia Gladdy
Manuel Gouveia
Pamela Hallisey
Brenda and Vincent Hanlon
Philip Hilton
Chris Humber
Alice and Paul Hymus
Janice and Tim Imeson
Michael Jantzi
Ian and Janet Johnston
Lee and Brandy Katz
Israel and Rena Krongozl
Elizabeth Lennie
Ricky Lie Ken Je
Margaret Lindzon
Mike and Jessica Long
Brenda Lynch
Susan and Michael Macek
Naim and Bobby Murjanson

$500 +
C.I.B.P.A. Sault Ste. Marie
Canadian National Autism Foundation
Enzcad Consulting Engineers (1995) Inc.
Gemcast Manufacturing Inc.
Kellogg Canada Inc.
Preferred Nutrition
Parity Professionals
R. E. Hansen Industries Inc.
Regina Properties Ltd.

Robert and Elaine Cook
John Craig
Downall and Evelyn Hudson
Carol Levesque
Franco and Rosa Occhiuto
Marianna O'Nier
Narinder Phawala
Jason Pilling
Leota Shemesh
Kyoung and Anita Shin

Daylight Energy Ltd.
The Hahnemann Centre For health
Hunts Healthcare
Laprise Farms Ltd.
Mano Engineering Ltd.
MIF Hearing & Air Conditioning
Storington Lions Club
Union Boiler Company Of Hamilton Ltd.

Andrew Bemeyi
David Brander
Jennifer Bruce
Prescott Busk
Salvatore Cirasolo
Meg Crawford
Carolyn Cross
Maria DeCaria
Robert Dykstra
Charlotte Frolke
Ada and William Hallett
David Hudson
Richard Ivey
Eddie LePage
Elliott Marer
Bob and Martha Mawlam
Blair McDonald
Meghan Monaghan
Lawrence and Kimberly Opoku
Chris Paterson
Suzanne Pavlick
Dale Pettit
Karen Rajpaul
Arline Reynolds
Jason Serpa
Timothy Smart
Kenny Tan
Carolina Tuck
Emilio and Diane Venditti
Brian Wong

$10,000 +
Harry E. Foster Foundation
Hydronic Parts Group
Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation
TD Bank Financial Group"
IN A TIME OF loss, it is inspiring to know that many people’s thoughts turn to helping others in need.

Over the last year, numerous families contacted us either to set up memorial donations or to inquire about making a donation in memory of a loved one. As a not-for-profit organization, we are humbled and deeply appreciative of the wonderful families who think of us at such a difficult time. The autism community is a tight-knit community of generous, selfless people, and the memorial donations that have poured in just go to further prove that point.

We would like to take a moment below to remember those who have gone before us and to thank their families and friends for supporting Autism Canada. It really speaks to the impact these people have had on their friends and families when you consider the outpouring of support for loved ones has been so great that we have had to set up a special Memorial Donations page on our website in order to help accommodate everyone.

Our thoughts and hearts go out to these wonderful individuals and their generous, loving families.

Luella Bilton
Margaret Brown
Edward Carr
George Chard
Anabelle Craig
Joseph DeCaria
Marika Fisher
George Garvin
Lloyd E. Hawke
George Heard

Henry Henson
Tony Kohr
Alma Lostell
Mason MacPhail
Marjorie Mercier
Evelyne Violet Snutch
Maurice Theriault
Jim Van Dyke
Donald Wilson
George Wood
IT HAS BEEN MY pleasure to continue to serve as Autism Canada’s Treasurer for 2009. We have had a terrific year, increasing our revenues by strategically targeting larger donations from corporations and foundations supportive to our cause. In addition, we applied for and received government funding from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation for one full-time position. We managed to accomplish this while continuing to nurture and grow our regular, memorial and third-party event donations.

Below is our Statement of Receipts and Disbursements by source from 2008 and 2009. The growth in our revenues allowed us to complete many key initiatives, including the Canadian Edition of the Autism Physician Handbook, the Toronto Conference, and continued family support.

Thanks to this growth, we were also able to complete many new projects, including a regular e-newsletter, our first annual report, and the development of our Facebook and Twitter pages. We continue to manage our expenses aggressively to minimize our administrative costs. We will continue to ensure your donation dollars are used to support change in the autism community, whether it be helping a parent who just received “the diagnosis,” educating physicians and caregivers, or working for change in government and support services.

We finished the year in our strongest financial position ever, ensuring that we will continue to be able to provide services and resources to Canadians in 2010. We thank you for your continued support.

Don Blane, CMA
Treasurer and Parent

| AUTISM CANADA FOUNDATION
| Statement of Receipts and Disbursements
| Year Ended December 31, 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RECEIPTS</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>$ 63,628</td>
<td>$ 44,697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special events</td>
<td>52,942</td>
<td>29,947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>16,136</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorial donations</td>
<td>11,535</td>
<td>6,910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate donations</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>14,190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merchandise sales</td>
<td>1,828</td>
<td>2,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research donations</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Recei</strong></td>
<td>158,069</td>
<td>99,200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISBURSEMENTS</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family support and capacity building</td>
<td>52,331</td>
<td>56,095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>34,239</td>
<td>2,599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>24,268</td>
<td>26,551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>12,657</td>
<td>12,334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy</td>
<td>9,515</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>1,183</td>
<td>790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Disburse</strong></td>
<td>134,193</td>
<td>98,369</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$ 23,876</td>
<td>$ 831</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Why Support Autism Canada?

Support and Resource Program, a significant increase from the 53,000 we helped in 2008. This does not include the families, professionals and educators we reach when we do speaking engagements and conferences. Clearly there is a growing need for the work we do.

We presently respond to approximately 20 inquiries a week from parents and caregivers looking for hope, support, and direction in helping their children. While some are looking to have specific questions answered, others are just starting this journey and need much more support. We provide parents with free books or direct them to the resources they are looking for. We also direct them to health care professionals in their area or match them with other parents for support.

Autism Canada’s website is unique, as it offers over 140 pages of information on characteristics, treatments and research, making it the premier resource for Autism Spectrum Disorders in Canada. From 2008 to 2009, our website has had an increase in unique visitors of over 24%.

We also share information on current research, treatments, news, and success stories through our newsletter, social media sources, and conferences. We are always reaching out into the community and supporting more families each year.

In 2009 we reported on stories that were heartwarming and heartbreaking, uplifting and discouraging, inspiring and tragic. Through it all, our message has always been one of hope because we know that optimism and dedication will take us a long way in our journey.

Our organization is the embodied spirit of every Canadian family dealing with autism, every family who hopes their child will come to live a healthier and happier life. With your support, Autism Canada can continue to grow, spread optimism across the country, and help these seeds of hope blossom into realities.

Your personal or corporate gift, the proceeds from your event, a tribute gift, or planning for a gift in your estate are all ways to help Autism Canada foundation reach these goals.

Contact us today at info@autismcanada.org or call 519-695-5858 for more information.

“AUTISM CANADA HAS HELPED our family find resources and treatments that have helped our son and made autism treatment a life changing journey rather than a life sentence.”

ANITA AND BILL SHIN