

annual report

2021-2022

25

centre FOR
autism
services
ALBERTA

25 years of service



A message from the Board President

This year has been one of milestones for the Centre for Autism Services Alberta. Spring 2022 saw the Centre move locations out of an industrial/commercial area and into a community setting. What an exciting transition - to a neighbourhood location where the teen and young adult programs can access the community through walking and easy public transit, and to a location where an outdoor play and program space for all participants is a reality for the first time. On-site preschool and kindergarten programs have beautiful new classrooms, Quest has a great new apartment space on site, and new staff offices and shared spaces are bright and thoughtfully designed. We have a new Centre that truly has program space for all.

The Centre turned 25 this year. It was in 1997 that the first group of parents formed the Centre for Autism Services Alberta to support other children and families as well as their own who were affected by autism. Since then, the Centre has grown dramatically in many ways. We have expanded programming to include teens and adults. We have extended our reach to southern Alberta by adding a Calgary branch. We have also moved north, providing training, support, programming, and workshops in Northern Alberta and Nunavut.

Year over year, we have continued to build on that original vision of a supportive community for Autistic individuals and their families. We look forward to the next quarter-century of providing the highest standard of autism services and supports in the province. There is so much to be proud of and so much to look forward to!

Samantha Labahn

A message from the Executive Director

I am pleased to say that, despite operating services throughout another year of a worldwide pandemic, we were able to re-launch even more of our programs than the previous year. Families had greater opportunities for community engagements as we offered our holiday season and June Centre-wide events. The Centre's annual Art Show & Sale at the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts returned, showcasing our participant's best works from the years' art programs. The event was a huge success with our artists earning just over \$1000 collectively.

As ever, I am thankful to the board, staff, volunteers, and donors that delivered or supported the work of the agency over the past year. I am always in awe of this group's dedication and commitment to make a difference in the lives of individuals and families impacted by autism. I am also thankful to our members for their patience and understanding over the year as we managed our move to the new location. In many cases, this was less than ideal, and meant operating the preschool and kindergarten classes during partial construction, as well as moving programming to alternate locations for Quest. Any struggles were well worth it now that we have this wonderful new location and venue as our headquarters and program space. I can't think of a better way to celebrate our first 25 years of service and to launch our next 25 years than with an exceptional new space for program participants, families, and staff.

Deborah Allard Usunier

2021 BOARD MEMBERS 2022

PRESIDENT: Samantha Labahn

VICE PRESIDENT: Dani Perl

PAST PRESIDENT: Kiri Wysynski

TREASURER: Miori Matthews

SECRETARY: Weber Lin

MEMBER AT LARGE: Scott Morrow

MEMBER AT LARGE: Sagara Suresh Wijesooriya

1,970 LIVES IMPACTED

Despite entering the third year of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Centre has served 1,970 individuals, their families, and community leaders across our five Pillars of Service - Changing Outcomes, Empowering Families, Enriching Lives, Fostering Independence, and Transforming Community.

PURPOSE

To empower autistic people and their families to thrive.

MISSION

To provide comprehensive and innovative supports and services to those affected by autism spectrum disorder.

VISION

Individuals with autism spectrum disorder lead meaningful, engaged lives.

VALUES

COLLABORATION We build authentic partnerships

PEOPLE-FOCUSED We seek to understand each person's specific context, dreams, and goals to promote their achievement.

AUTISTIC VOICE AND CHOICE Our services reflect what is important to autistic people.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT If better is possible, we do it.

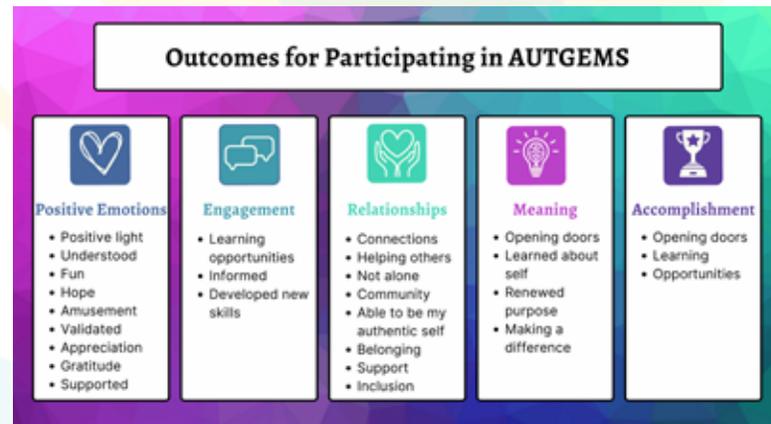
WHAT'S New

AWNNE is now AUTGEMS!

This year, AWNNE (Autistic Women and Non-Binary Network of Edmonton) changed their name to AUTGEMS (Autistic Gender Minorities Supporting Each other).

2021 funding for this project was used to provide an opportunity for members to continue to develop employment tools and resources, with a specific focus on the development of a website launched in Fall 2022 - www.autgems.ca. This website will house employment and workplace resources, as well as resources for employers to learn more about having neurodiverse individuals on their team.

Content creation for the website has kept the group busy. The group has focused on offering employment resources from neurodivergent authors. The goal of the site is to have information and research accessible to all who need them. In addition to the creation of the website as part of Phase II, AUTGEMS membership has grown organically to include Autistic women and gender minorities from Alberta, across Canada, and the United States.



Our New Home

The Centre made a big move this summer! The transition to our new space is exciting for many reasons, especially because we have a space that has been built to suit our needs and wants. We consulted through the design and build process, and the result is a beautiful new Centre for offices and programs with space for everyone.

With the move to our new location, the Centre was able to secure an area in the back of the building for an outdoor play and program space. All aspects of this new space were taken into account and every inch has been put to use. Our Occupational Therapists consulted on different items and materials that would be best for encouraging the development of gross motor skills and coordination, as well as encouraging interactions, conversations, and imaginative play. The new space has a rubberized ground surface throughout to make any falls a little gentler, and includes many different features for play and exploration. This new space will also include a basketball zone for all participants and has been especially designed for Quest. We are thrilled to provide our participants of all ages with an interactive outdoor space in which to belong and thrive.

CHANGING Outcomes

- EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES
- SPECIALIZED SERVICES
- BEHAVIOURAL DEVELOPMENTAL SUPPORTS
- START PROGRAM
- PEERS FOR TEENS
- PEERS FOR ADULTS
- FACING YOUR FEARS

“THE TEAM AT THE CENTRE is very interactive with families to set goals, review challenges, and celebrate successes. They truly want what is best for my son and prioritize what is most important with the family.”

ECS PARENT QUOTE,
2022



Some of our Quest participants joined the PUF classrooms for special interest days.

EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES (ECS)

The Centre has successfully completed its 2nd year of on-site programming for early childhood education. Children between the ages of 2 and 5 attend our on-site preschool and kindergarten classes with two certified teachers, educational assistants and SLP and OT supports in the classroom. In 2021-2022 we had 32 children across 2 different classes. Children attended school for 4 hours a day. Once again we saw the children make tremendous changes in their skill development. From not being able to sit at circle at the start of the year to successfully completing a full circle time at the end of the year! Our PUF program and Quest program also got together for a couple of special interest days that everyone enjoyed. Finally we moved to our new location in late May and the students finished their year in our beautiful new classrooms.

By the end of summer 2022, our new playground was built and the children registered for our 2022-2023 school year are already enjoying their new outdoor space.



One of our new ECS classrooms - beautiful and bright with lots of natural light.



SPECIALIZED SERVICES | BEHAVIOURAL & DEVELOPMENTAL SUPPORTS

Over the past year, the Centre continued to navigate changing health guidelines related to Covid-19 as we provided safe, effective, and flexible therapeutic services to persons served and their families. We consulted with families and participants about the different ways they wanted to access services, which helped ensure that those participating felt safe and comfortable at every step.

The combined total of persons and families served through Specialized Services and Behavioural Developmental Supports has reached higher levels than we have ever seen before, and this seems to be a trend that will continue to increase. With increasing demand for services, we are looking forward to the opportunities this will bring for us to continue improving, expanding, and innovating the types and models of services that we offer.

The Centre was successful in our application to continue providing supports and building the capacities of individuals, families, and educational staff throughout Nunavut. We worked with Jordan's Principle to increase access to therapeutic services for families living in the Northwest Territories. We also provided workshops to remote communities in rural and northern Alberta to share information about autism, learn more about culturally safe practice, and build capacity throughout the province.

“THE COMBINATION OF strategies learned through the program, as well as direct intervention through work with a psychologist has resulted in huge gains in overcoming the co-occurring anxiety disorders that Nathan struggles with, thereby improving the quality of his (and our) lives.”

PARENT QUOTE,
FACING YOUR FEARS



259
**FAMILIES
SUPPORTED**

This year, a total of 259 families were supported by the Centre's therapeutic services throughout Edmonton, Calgary, and Medicine Hat. The Centre worked to build capacity in many rural Alberta communities.

“WITH THE CENTRE'S programs and resources generally being evidence-based, it is usually the first place I look towards when considering what programs I will plan to access.”

PEERS FOR TEENS
PARENT QUOTE

EMPOWERING Families

- EDMONTON FAMILY EVENTS
- CALGARY FAMILY EVENTS
- FAMILY WORKSHOPS
- FAMILY HOLIDAY PHOTOS

THEN & NOW

The Centre for Autism Services Alberta is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2022. We take time to both reflect on a legacy of service and empowering Autistic individuals and their families to thrive, as well as look to the future.

We started small. It all began with a group of 10 parents who knew there must be better ways to support their families than what they currently had access to. They also knew it wasn't just them. There were countless more families out there who were also in need of services, programs, and support. So they decided to create the network that they had envisioned. Thus began a 25 year journey to become the foremost autism service provider in the province and the only CARF Accredited service provider for autism in Alberta.

“ AT THE BEGINNING I was very nervous about taking him out because I didn't want to feel judged. I'm not as self-conscious to go out with him now. We as parents have really felt that the Centre helped lessen that fear and made us feel less alone. We attended the Family Zoo Night, and being there with the other Centre families removed the fear of being judged. My son didn't want to walk and we ended up bringing him to some of the different areas, and it was okay and other people understood. With the Centre, we feel really supported as parents. ”

ECS PARENT QUOTE



SOCIAL SKILLS & PLAY DATES
for children on the spectrum

EARLY ENGAGEMENT TIPS FOR PARENTS

ABOUT THE WORKSHOP
This presentation will be helpful for parents who are looking for ways to gain and/or increase social engagement for children with a formal or suspected diagnosis of Autism.
In this workshop, we will cover the relationship between social connection and the development of early communication skills, by introducing attendees to research-based information from the Early Start Denver Model.
Parents and caregivers will gain practical tools for promoting connection and communication in daily routines, and attendees will leave with ideas that they can use at home, at school, and in community settings.

ABOUT THE PRESENTER
Arianna Bailey, MSc., R.SLP, SLP(c), is a Speech Language Pathologist who has practiced in the Calgary area for over a decade. She specializes in development of communication and social skills in children, and has worked extensively with autistic individuals and their families. Arianna is also a certified provider of the Early Start Denver Model, a research based therapy approach for very young children with a confirmed or suspected Autism diagnosis.

ABOUT THE PRESENTERS
Sally Nandee is a Speech-Language Pathologist and Board Certified Behaviour Analyst. She is also certified in Pivotal Response Treatment at level VI. Trainer of Trainers. Sally has a passion for learning how to effectively teach functional skills to children with autism spectrum disorder and to support parents to be able to do the same.
Christine Peak is a Behavioural Case Manager and has been with the Centre since 2015. She graduated with her Master's degree in Psychology with a focus in Applied Behavior Analysis at Capella University and she has Level III Certification in Pivotal Response Treatment (PRT). She is passionate about supporting children with autism spectrum disorder to grow and be more independent.

MAY 9 2022
6PM - 7:30PM MDT
Join us for this online workshop with a live Q&A throughout.

FREE EVENT!
CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

Presented in Partnership with: **aide canada**

Presented in Partnership with: **centre for autism services ALBERTA**

centreforautism.ab.ca | Centre for Autism Services Alberta | @AutismCentreAB

382

Families (871 individuals) provided with activities and support intended to help build community and foster a sense of belonging. This includes:

- ▶ 6 workshops hosted by the Centre
- ▶ Family events at the Zoos in Edmonton and Calgary
 - ▶ The Corn Maze
 - ▶ Family Holiday Photos

JACKIE RYAN PhD Candidate, Faculty of Rehabilitative Medicine, University of Alberta | Director of Neurodiversity Strategy & Education

PARENT | SELF ADVOCATE | CENTRE FAMILY SINCE 2000 | CENTRE EMPLOYEE SINCE 2000

“ I think one of the things I would like to highlight about the Centre over its 25 year history has been its agility, its ability to adapt to new information about autism. Also, that the Centre has expanded its services to meet the needs of the children they originally served as they became teenagers and now young adults. The Quest for Independence program came to be due to a gap in services for Autistic young adults. This has been a strength of the Centre, its innovation in designing services where there are gaps. ”



Participants of all ages and their families gathered at the Edmonton Valley Zoo in June 2022 for a Family Night event.

VISION & PLANNING
FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN
WITH DISABILITIES
FROM BIRTH TO 12 YEARS OLD

ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

This condensed workshop is for families of children with disabilities who are 12 years of age or younger. This presentation will empower families with knowledge, resources, and more.

DETAILS

This 4-part workshop series (condensed into one day) will empower parents and caregivers of children with disabilities from birth-12 years old with knowledge, resources, and a sense of direction for the future.

We will touch on a variety of topics including values and belonging in the community, visioning and planning, various transitions during early elementary school, navigating various systems for families with younger children, as well as advocacy and having difficult conversations.

MAY 28 2022
9:30 AM - 4:30 PM MST
Join us for this interactive online workshop

Zoom link and details will be provided upon registration

FREE EVENT!
CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

Presented in Partnership with:
Gateway Association
Centre for Autism Services Alberta

Questions about the Workshop? Contact Stacy (workshop facilitator) at: stacy@gatewayassociation.ca

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RE-BUILDING CONNECTIONS

With the easing of and eventual lifting of pandemic restrictions, the Centre was able to bring back more family events to build a sense of community and well-being. Despite very cold winter weather, the holiday lights events at the zoos in Edmonton and Calgary were well attended, with 34 families totalling 145 individuals taking in the sparkle. The Corn Maze in Edmonton had 20 families out for harvest fun, and Family Holiday photos were offered with 14 families taking part. The Family Zoo night in June was an absolute smash. A whopping 414 individuals from 127 families attended the event, and it was incredible to see so many families out together. This was a huge reminder of the importance of community and opportunities for connection.

Family learning opportunities presented by the Centre and delivered on the AIDE Canada online platform across the provinces included 4 workshops on the topics of:

- An Introduction to Teaching Independence
- Social Skills & Play Dates
- Picky Eaters
- Early Engagement Tips for Parents

Two additional family workshops presented were Visioning & Planning for Families of Children with Disabilities for families with children ages 0-12 and ages 13+ in partnership with the Gateway Association.

FOSTERING Independence

- QUEST FOR INDEPENDENCE
- EMPLOYMENTWORKS NATIONAL PROJECT
- TEEN AND ADULT SOCIAL GROUPS
- SHOP COOK & LEARN

QUEST FOR INDEPENDENCE added a third apartment at the Shamrock Apartments in Old Strathcona, as well as the new Quest apartment on-site at the Centre.

This summer, all Quest participants moved their headquarters to the Shamrock while our new Centre apartment was under construction. This was a great opportunity for Questers to develop friendships and peer mentoring skills with other participants they would not normally encounter. New connections and friendships were made!

The Shamrock apartments also offered some great new employment opportunities for the Quest participants. Several of the Questers have chosen to take on paid building maintenance as well as suite clean-outs. Volunteer opportunities abound for Quest, with Root for Trees initiative, the Bissell Centre, United Way Clothing Drive, and Edmonton Food Bank.

Edmonton is the festival city, and with many festivals returning this summer, the Quest participants took full advantage, attending the Fringe, Street Performers Festival, Taste of Edmonton, and MORE! With the easing and eventual lifting of COVID restrictions, we have seen the participants express in words and actions how happy they are to be connecting and re-connecting with their peers.

153
Teens &
adults

accessed programming related to increasing independence, learning employment skills, and enhancing practical living and social skills.

“ I didn't feel good about what I could do when I left high school, but now I feel better about myself and feel **MORE CONFIDENT TO TRY NEW THINGS.** ”

JORDAN, QUEST PARTICIPANT



A great turnout of Quest participants got together for a barbecue and some early summer fun at Goldbar park in May 2022.



OUR SHOP COOK AND LEARN PROGRAM for teens teaches new skills in the kitchen as well as guides teens on how to create shopping lists and budgets, and how to navigate the grocery store. Participants and their families were excited to register in programs where they were able to pick back up with old friends and make new ones in a safe, supportive environment. If the pandemic has taught anything, it is the importance of connection with peers.

THE EMPLOYMENTWORKS NATIONAL PROJECT (EWNP) is a rebrand from an initial nationwide project called Worktopia. EmploymentWorks National Project is partially funded through the Government of Canada and the Sinneave Family Foundation. EWNP is a proven program that offers employment preparedness training and support, combined with job sampling and hands-on or simulated work experiences to autistic youth, adults and persons with disabilities. With 8 EWNP partner organisations across Canada and other national programs including Ready Willing & Able Canada, the Centre is proud to be part of the solution to change autism employment statistics for the better.

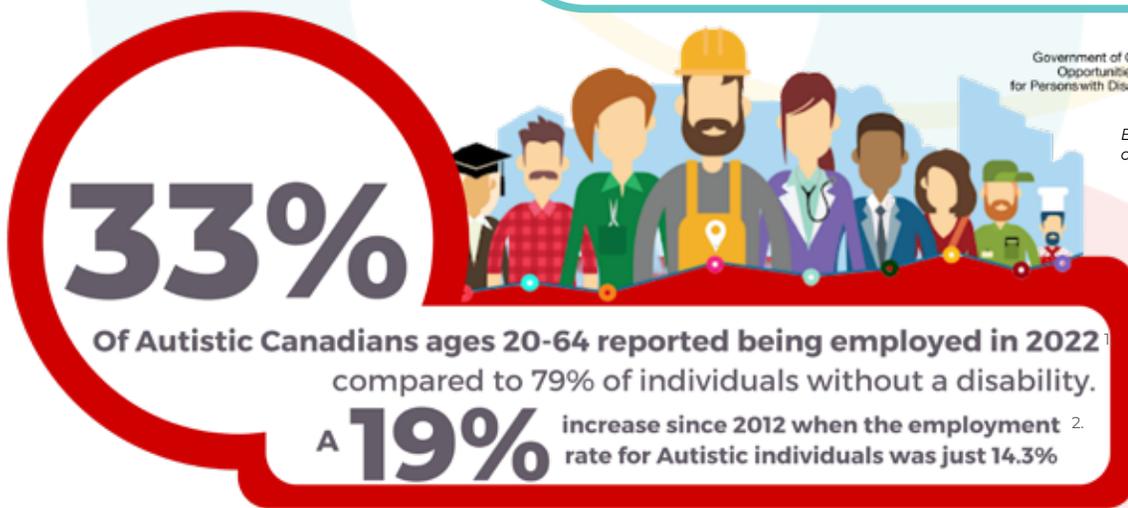
We continue to be innovative in the ways we reach and support participants, offering programs in high schools that can be taken during school, as well as a condensed summer program for individuals who are keen to complete the program at a quicker pace. A total of 54 participants took part in EWNP programs through the Centre for Autism Services Alberta in 2021-2022.

We have made some really excellent work placement partnerships with local businesses this year, and we look forward to nurturing relationships and mutual learning with all of our partners.

EMPLOYER HIGHLIGHT General Motors reached out to connect with us earlier this year. As part of their new company mandate, GM aims to become the most inclusive company in the world. They generously offered tours of their Edmonton site to our cohorts, and ended up hiring one of our EWNP grads! It has been a really great partnership so far and we are looking forward to what comes next!



EWNP PARTNERS ACROSS CANADA



Government of Canada
Opportunities Fund
for Persons with Disabilities

Canada

EWNP is funded in part by the Government of Canada Opportunities Fund

1. Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada. Infographic: Developmental Disabilities or Disorders in Canada - Highlights from the 2017 Canadian Survey on Disability, 2021.
2. University of Calgary School of Public Policy SPP Communiqué (Volume 9:14, Nov 2017) Improving Our Understanding of Unmet Needs Among Adults with a Developmental Disability.

ENRICHING Lives

- **SUMMER CAMPS FOR 4 AGE GROUPS**
LITTLE ACES (3-5), JUNIOR ACES (5-8), CAMP ACE (9-12), TEEN CAMP (13-17)
- **ART PROGRAMS FOR 3 AGE GROUPS**
FUN WITH ART (6-12), EXPLORING ART (13-17), CREATIVE EXPRESSION (18-29)

PROGRAMS BEGINNING TO RETURN

signalled hope for participants, families, and staff that more regular activities and services would continue to come back. The always-popular art programs in partnership with the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts retained full numbers of participants even with limited registration due to COVID.

A highlight of teen camp was the Citadel drama camp's play at the end of their week. The teens showcased so many talents, from incredible artistry in creating props and sets, to creative writing for their script, to shining in the spotlight on stage.

We look forward to supporting more connection opportunities with the relaunch of programs like Basketball and Soccer for children and teens, and Centre-based Respite in the fall of 2022.

269

Children, teens, & young adults

on the spectrum participated in art programs (57 individuals) and summer camps (212 campers).

WHAT WERE THE BEST PARTS OF CAMP?

“

COMPUTERS and Virtual Reality Games

CAMP ACE PARTICIPANT



MY SON LOVED SUMMER CAMP

He said he wished he could take summer camp all year long!

MICHELLE, TEEN CAMP PARENT

THE CAMP LEADERS WERE FANTASTIC!

My son cried the first few mornings, but they had experience and were confident to just take over. Their confidence reassured him.

KRISTIN, LITTLE ACES CAMP PARENT

GETTING TO SEE FRIENDS

and do fun activities.

JUNIOR ACES CAMP PARTICIPANT

”



CARLA LEHMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

SUMMER CAMP HIGHLIGHTS



Junior Aces Junior Scientists camp participant Nathaniel with camp counsellor Ayesha enjoying some outside time.



Drama camp is serious business! Star Dreams Drama Camp (at the Citadel) camper Noah preparing his props takes a break for the camera.



The trampoline in our CFASA gym was a favourite activity for many Little Aces campers, including Blake (pictured above and taking part in Mess Makers camp)



Teen campers and counsellors taking part in the Meadows Rec Centre Athletics camp posed for a picture before jumping back into the pool.



Junior Aces Junior Scientist campers Mahan and Marshall taking a lap around the field at Fulton Place School



Camp Ace Superhero Alliance campers take a science experiment break to make slime!



You can tell which camp Little Aces Mess Makers camper Angelo was in by looking at his fingers!

CARLA LEHMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

TRANSFORMING Community: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

907

Educators,
Community
Leaders, and
Employers

were engaged in 42 workshops throughout the year given by Centre staff on a variety of topics.

INTRODUCTION to AUTISM
ABOUT THE WORKSHOP
 Help maximize your child or student's...
 In this online characteristic surround aut more about valuable kno the classroo
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JUNE 3, 2022
9:00 AM - 11:30 AM MDT
ZOOM FORMAT
 Zoom link and details will be provided upon registration

SUPPORTING AUTISTIC STUDENTS IN THE CLASSROOM
ABOUT THE WORKSHOP
 This two-day workshop will provide Teachers and Administrators (e.g., Learning Coaches, Principals, etc.) with information, tools, and strategies to promote inclusion. You will learn how best to support the independence and participation of students with autism in the classroom.
 Workshop content will be delivered by an autistic Ph.D. candidate in rehabilitation science, Registered Psychologist, Speech-Language Pathologist, Occupational Therapist, and Behaviour Analyst, all with expertise supporting autistic students in a classroom environment. There will be many opportunities for questions and answers, and you will leave with strategies that can be put into practice immediately.
MARCH 21 & 22, 2022
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM MDT
ZOOM FORMAT
 Zoom link and details will be provided upon registration

DAY 1 TOPICS:

- Introduction to Autism
- Neurodiversity
- Self-Determination
- Skill-Based Assessments
- Modification and Adaptation in the Classroom
- Building Positive Relationships

DAY 2 TOPICS:

- Introduction to Behaviour, Communication, and Strategies for Increasing Independence
- Evidence-Based Practice

REGISTRATION FEES
 DAY 1: \$99
 DAY 2: \$99
 FULL WORKSHOP: \$198
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH 19

ZOOM FORMAT
 9AM - 4PM
 MDT

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

centreforautism.ab.ca/events-workshops/
 centreforautism.ab.ca Centre for Autism Services Alberta @AutismCentreAB @AutismCentreAB

WORKSHOPS TOPICS INCLUDED:

- INTRODUCTION TO AUTISM
- NEURODIVERSITY
- PIVOTAL RESPONSE TREATMENT
- ADAPTING THE CLASSROOM
- BUILDING COOPERATION
- SUPPORTING AUTISTIC STUDENTS IN THE CLASSROOM
- AUTISM, NEURODIVERSITY, AND TIPS FOR INCLUSIVE EMPLOYMENT

KENNY ELIASON PHOTOGRAPHY



TRANSFORMING Community:

EDUCATING YOUNG LEADERS AND CHANGING THE AUTISM LANDSCAPE



We have continued our partnership with two post-secondary student associations, as well as offered workshops and support to educators, aides, administrators, community leaders, and employers across the prairies and Canada's North.

THE CENTRE FOR AUTISM SERVICES

Alberta's Students Association at the University of Alberta showed great innovation in finding creative ways to reach into the community at the university and beyond. This included many virtual events to adapt to changing COVID restrictions including:

- a virtual paint night
- virtual games nights
- Placing Autism facts on signs around the university campus for an information scavenger-hunt

In addition they began a podcast that has gained an impressive reach, and presented their virtual 9th annual Discovering Autism Conference with fabulous keynote speakers and great attendance.

MACEWAN AUTISM ACCEPTANCE

Club changed their name from MacEwan Autism Awareness Club in response to the changing autism language landscape.

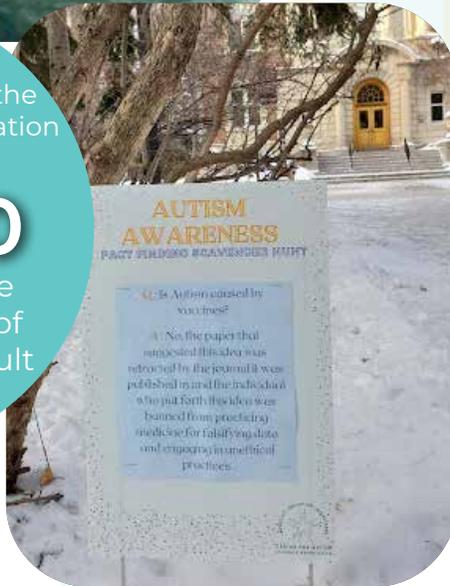
The group welcomed a self-advocate on board who has been a great resource for the group and has encouraged many positive changes. Some of the group's activities included:

- Halloween on campus event
- Neurodiversity training
- Collaboration meeting with UofA exec team
- Took part in virtual university club expos (in place of in-person events due to COVID) in September and January to promote awareness and recruit new members.

Over the last 10 years, the CFASA Student's Association has raised nearly

\$16,000

in donations to the Centre in support of teen and young adult programming.



Part of the Autism Information scavenger hunt created by the CFASA Student's Association at the University of Alberta that was set up around campus.



PARENT Perspective

As a Board member at the Centre for Autism Services Alberta from 2009 to 2019, as well as a parent of a (now) young adult living with autism who is a Centre client, I can speak from direct experience about how the Centre has positively impacted my son's life and our whole family's lives.

The vision for the Centre of providing services to individuals and families across the lifespan was so welcome for the families the Centre serves, like ours. One of our greatest concerns as families was the lack of support for our children once they passed elementary school age. Once our children grew into teenagers and, later, adults, there was very little available for them that was more than daycare in terms of its engagement and stimulation. Frankly, it was little better than warehousing.

Centre leadership and staff have worked with community partners and volunteers to develop several different programs based on science and evidence to meet a variety of needs, including: social interaction, fitness/activity, pre-employment and employment, and daily living. Teen (and later) adult social groups provided a safe and nurturing environment for our sons and daughters to develop lifelong friendships, something everyone should have the opportunity to do. Numerous community partnerships, including with the City of Edmonton and YMCA, allowed our children to learn about nutrition, fitness, teamwork and discipline in programs as diverse as Young Masters tae kwon do, figure skating, basketball and Active for Life. With respect to employment readiness, the Centre delivers EmploymentWorks programs to help deal with the massive rates of unemployment and under-employment that exist for individuals with ASD.

Finally, and perhaps most innovatively, the Centre delivers Quest for Independence, a program that develops both independent living skills and community integration. This program has grown from being housed solely in a small mock apartment located in a renovated portion of the Centre's primary location to a community apartment building with (now) three individual apartments for clients and staff to use. To my knowledge, there is no other program similar to Quest in the province or country. It is cutting edge!

All of these programs and initiatives would never have been possible without the Centre's unceasing and unwavering commitment to high quality service and uncompromising excellence in programming. The Centre team develops and delivers evidence based programs that meet often previously unmet needs. There is usually no roadmap to follow, so Centre leadership provides the team with the support and direction they require to navigate the hills and valleys of their trip from idea, to development, to delivery, to improvement.

Don Kwas

DON

And his family

have been involved at the Centre for the past 20 years. His son David has been in programs and services at CFASA since he was in preschool. David is now 24 years old and takes part in the Quest for Independence program.

THANK

You!

A SPECIAL THANKS TO

Albert and Ophelia Jarligo
and friends.

FOR DONATING GOODIE BAGS
(AND ALL THE GOODIES INSIDE)
FOR CENTRE CHILDREN AT
CENTRE FAMILY EVENTS.

YOU MAKE THESE EVENTS
EXTRA-SPECIAL AND IT IS SO
APPRECIATED.

Volunteers

A huge thank you to our **117** amazing volunteers who gave their time, talents, and care to our programs, services, and summer camps.

Our volunteers delivered an incredible 3,491 hours of service on behalf of the Centre!

Our Supporters

Throughout the year, a total of **\$94,042** was generously donated to the Centre. These funds helped us expand programming and provide subsidies to families who would otherwise be unable to access programs and services.

Grants

Kinsmen Club of Edmonton: **\$10,000**

Employment & Social Development Canada: **\$34,623**

Stollery Charitable Foundation: **\$50,000**

Canada Summer Jobs Grant: **\$85,266**

Donors

\$500 - \$999

Donna Gowin
Andrew & Jackie Ryan

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Don Kwas
Laurie Bronson
Paul Nahirney
Debra Cerny

\$10,000 +

Monita Cheng
Brune & Rick Sinneave
Anonymous

Corporate Donors

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Detheridge Family Fund
Ross McBain Charitable Gift Fund

\$10,000 +

Altaland Foundation



Sinneave
FAMILY FOUNDATION



Kin Canada
Kinette Club
of Edmonton



centre FOR
**autism
services**
ALBERTA
25 years of service