

HOW CAN WE IMPROVE THE SUPPORT SERVICES AVAILABLE TO NEURODIVERSE PEOPLE AS PART OF CANADA'S **NATIONAL AUTISM STRATEGY**?

The Canadian Autism Spectrum Disorder Alliance (CASDA) is hosting a series of community conversations on autism and neurodevelopmental difficulties (NDDs). We are interested in discussing how best to provide appropriate supports and interventions for persons of all ages whether they are on the autism spectrum or have other NDDs. The outcome will result in a policy brief highlighting key recommendations for the federal government that reflect the priorities and needs of the community.

WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

Our goal is to gain insight into the current landscape of mental health service provision, underserved populations, and service access to identify existing barriers and opportunities. Additionally, we are interested in opening up the dialogue regarding the definition and criteria for what constitutes an evidence-based intervention in Canada, ensuring neurodiverse voices are centered in this conversation. Our hope is to develop policy recommendations that effectively address the needs, priorities, and lived experience of neurodivergent people.

WHOSE INPUT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

We want to bring together people of ***all ages from across Canada*** to help shape future policy that improves access to appropriate supports and interventions for autistic and neurodiverse people.

Specifically, we are seeking insight from:

- Autistic or neurodiverse people and their families.
- Professionals including but not limited to psychologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech language pathologists, social workers, therapists.
- Individuals with policy expertise representing various levels of government.

WHAT TYPE OF INPUT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

- Perspectives regarding existing barriers limiting access and utilization of interventions and supports by autistic and neurodiverse people within Canada.
- Perspectives on services, accommodations, and/or strategies that would facilitate access, utilization, and coordination of support services for Autistic and neurodiverse people within Canada.