

Vision:

All Canadians with ASD and their families have full and equitable access to the resources they need across a lifespan where and when they need them.

Deep, broad consultation with the ASD community on design and implementation of a National ASD Strategy

Principles:

Person centred, reflecting needs over a spectrum and lifespan

Inclusive of pan-Canadian stakeholders

Co-designed with first-person perspectives: *nothing about us without us*

Include a separate co-designed Indigenous approach

Culturally responsive and appropriate, especially for vulnerable Canadians

Reflective of different regional needs, especially northern, rural and remote communities

AREA 1: Federal leadership

Federal leadership facilitates pan-Canadian coordinated impact through knowledge exchange and dissemination.

Assemble a multi-ministry federal, provincial and territorial meeting, and commit to a platform to learn, collect, disseminate and gather standards and consensus for a positive impact on the Canadian ASD community.

AREA 2: Immediate Federal Action

Affordability & Access

First steps:

- Reform the Disability Tax Credit
- Build leading ASD support into federal health systems
- Train the next generation of ASD professionals, including with a new CIHR institute
- Consistent recognition of ASD for the Medical Expense Tax Credit
- Enhance the Child Care Expense Deduction



Information

First steps:

- Build a learning network for practitioners and policymakers
- Create awareness of strategies to promote inclusion for Canadians with ASD



Employment

First steps:

- Better labour market information
- Access to pre-employment programming
- Ensure federal training programs are responsive to ASD
- Break down barriers in benefit design



Housing

First steps:

- Invest in the creation of more housing options suitable for the needs of adults with ASD, including supportive housing
- Prioritize innovation in housing options that provide independence and support for people with ASD



Research

First steps:

- Complete the National ASD Surveillance System
- Invest in world-leading ASD research

AREA 3: Cross Government Approach to ASD

A cross-government approach ensures federal action is coordinated and integrated across all policies that affect people with ASD.

Assigning a lead minister, assembling cross-government tables, and mandating all relevant ministers to collaborate.