



BLUEPRINT FOR A NATIONAL ASD STRATEGY

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

WHAT WE'RE NOT TRYING TO DO



Seek changes to provincial or territorial policies



Ask the federal government to take over from the provinces or territories

**WE NEED
TO DO BETTER.**

Autism is not just a provincial responsibility or a federal responsibility.

It is a Canadian responsibility.

THE PILLARS

- Federal leadership to facilitate cooperation and coordination across the country
- Immediate federal leadership in areas of direct federal responsibility on: affordability and access; information; employment; housing; and research)
- A cross-government approach to ASD to ensure a consistent response from all parts of government that touch the lives of people on the spectrum

PILLAR 1: FEDERAL LEADERSHIP

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

ACTION:
Assemble a multi-ministry federal, provincial and territorial meeting

ACTION:
Commit to a platform to learn, collect, disseminate and gather standards and consensus for a positive impact on the Canadian ASD community.

PILLAR TWO : IMMEDIATE FEDERAL ACTION

First steps in five areas:

- Affordability & Access
- Information
- Employment
- Housing
- Research



AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESS — FIRST STEPS

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

End state: An ASD diagnosis does not carry major financial burden to access the supports people need where and when they need them.



INFORMATION — FIRST STEPS

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

End state: Decision-makers, professionals, individuals and families have access to comprehensive and credible information about ASD to inform their decisions, and community services, employers and businesses are informed to create inclusive environments.



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

End state: Adults with ASD are employed at rates near the Canadian average, supported with the resources they need to succeed, and welcomed into inclusive workplaces.



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

End State: Canadians with ASD and their families have a variety of housing options available to them that are affordable and meet their needs, ranging from supportive housing to independent living in non-profit and market housing.



RESEARCH — FIRST STEPS

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

End state: Professionals and policymakers have access to ASD research that informs their practice including a thorough understanding of ASD prevalence and the diversity of ASD experiences throughout all regions. Canada has world-leading research on ASD that is mobilized to improve the lives of Canadians with ASD.

PILLAR THREE: CROSS-GOVERNMENT APPROACH TO ASD

Political



Lead Minister



Ministers with ASD in mandate letters

Civil service

Assistant Deputy Ministers Table on ASD



Change is coming.



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