

MEDIA RELEASE
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CASDA LAUNCHES ROADMAP TOWARDS A NATIONAL AUTISM STRATEGY

(Toronto, Ontario) – To commemorate this year’s World Autism Day on April 2, the Canadian Autism Spectrum Disorders Alliance (CASDA) is delivering a public briefing document to the Government of Canada to encourage them to move forward with the development and implementation of a National Autism Strategy.

The Roadmap Towards a National Autism Strategy is a follow-up to the [Blueprint for a National Autism Strategy](#) that CASDA launched on World Autism Day in 2019. Since the launch of the Blueprint, the federal government has committed to proceeding with a National Autism Strategy, with the Hon. Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health and the Hon. Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion as the Strategy leads.

“Every province and territory across Canada are struggling to address the diverse and vast range of issues pertaining to Autism across the lifespan,” says Dr. Jonathan Lai, Director of Strategy and Operations with CASDA. “We have called, since our organization’s inception in 2007, for a National Autism Strategy to unite the efforts taking place across the country, and to clearly outline best practices. We recognize the momentum taking place by the Government committing to the Strategy, and our Roadmap reflects our commitment to supporting them through the whole process.”

News of a National Autism Strategy being developed has given the Autism community hope, but also raised important concerns that the Strategy must be robust, and not just an enhancement of existing approaches and programs. CASDA’s Blueprint document, and now the Roadmap plan, make clear that the organization is ready and willing to work with government and community to find innovative, transformative approaches to addressing the gap in resources and supports impacting Autistic Canadians across the lifespan.

“We have come a long way, we have united our voices, we have been heard! The Roadmap must clearly spell out the governments commitment and the detailed steps that will fill the gap for families living with autism.” – Senator Jim Munson

Dr. Lai will be hosting a public webinar on April 2nd at 2PM EST to walk through the Roadmap towards a National Autism Strategy. The link to register for our free webinar can be found here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-webinar-from-blueprint-to-roadmap-the-national-autism-strategy-tickets-101439945608>. The webinar information can also be found on our Facebook page and Twitter feed @ASDalliance.

The full Roadmap report can be found on CASDA’s website at <https://www.casda.ca/roadmap-to-a-national-autism-strategy-2020-2026/>.

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