



9th Annual Canadian Autism Leadership Summit Program at a Glance

Please note that this preliminary program is subject to change, and will be updated continuously up to CALS2023. All times listed are in Eastern Time (ET).

To register, visit: events.ely.com/CALS2023

For more information, visit: www.autismalliance.ca/cals/

Monday, April 17, 2023: Pre-Summit Afternoon

Bringing Leaders Together

12:30PM - 5:00PM (ET)

The Pre-Summit afternoon will offer roundtable discussions with Canadian leaders in the fields of postsecondary education supports and housing. **Both sessions are free.** Note that spots are limited. To reserve your spot, visit [our registration platform](#), and scroll down to “Events & Other Activities” and select “Pre-Summit Day” in the drop-down options.

12:30 - 2:30 PM Roundtable | **Building Collaboration in Autism Postsecondary Education Supports**

Leaders in the area of postsecondary education supports will engage in a roundtable discussion to identify gaps and challenges within the current system of postsecondary education supports for Autistic students across Canada and to identify collective next steps.

Moderator: Orly Fruchter, Manager, Neurodiverse Initiatives at Azrieli Foundation

Presenters:

- **Andrew Eddy**, Co-founder and CEO of Untapped Holdings
- **Dr. Heather M. Brown**, Associate Professor in Educational Psychology at the University of Alberta
- **Jenna Gauthier**, Manager, Autism CanTech! at NorQuest College
- **Jess Lopez**, Neurodiversity Support Advisor at the University of Calgary
- **Dr. Lee Burdette Williams**, Executive Director, College Autism Network
- **Dr. Megan Ames**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at University of Victoria
- **Dr. Patty Douglas**, Associate Professor of Disability Studies & Inclusive Education at Brandon University
- **Simone Daniels**, Research Assistant at Autism Alliance of Canada

**2:30 - 3:00
PM**

Networking | **Break**
Pop-Up Show | **Ben Animalia**

- **Benjamin Lachapelle**, Autistic artist and author-illustrator of children's books from Quebec, whose art will be awarded to the recipient of the 2nd Annual Jim and Ginette Munson Autism Leadership Award on April 19, 2023.

**3:00 - 5:00
PM**

Facilitated Discussion | **Maintaining Momentum in Autism and Housing**

National and regional governments have recognized the need to consider Housing as part of any Autism Strategy. However, there are no mechanisms currently in place to share successes, leverage ideas and work together to build momentum and inform government policy on housing. Join us for an overview of recent initiatives and action in autism and housing in Canada and information about a new project to create a Housing Knowledge Synthesis and Mobilization Hub using a lens of neurodiversity to advance a National Autism Housing Network in Canada.

Presenters:

- **Tanya McLeod**, Board Member, Autism Alliance of Canada | President, Sinneave Family Foundation
- **Tara Connolly**, Assistant Director, Research & Development, Accessibility Institute (formerly READ Initiative), Carleton University

Tuesday, April 18, 2023: Full Summit Day

Lessons from Abroad: What can Canada Learn, Adopt and Implement?

8:00AM - 4:30PM (ET)

8:00 - 9:30 AM Networking | **Breakfast**

9:30 - 10:00 AM **Opening Remarks**

Presenters:

- **Rebekah Kintzinger**, Co-Chair of Autism Alliance of Canada's Board of Directors, Autistic Advocate
- **Deputy Grand Chief Achneepineskum**, Nishnawbe Aski Nation
- **The Hon. Mike Lake**, PC, MP, Edmonton-Wetaskiwin

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Panel Presentation | **The International Autism Landscape: What can Canada learn?**

International policy experts present details on their national level autism strategies; they also discuss their experiences and learnings with developing and implementing autism policy in their country.

Moderator:

- **Dr. Deepa Singal**, Scientific Director at Autism Alliance of Canada

Presenters:

- **Dr. Alistair de Gaetano**, Administrator of the Maltese Government's Directorate for Disability Issues (DDI), and Chairperson of the Autism Advisory Council
- **Harald Neerland**, President of Autism Europe
- **Dr. Susan Daniels**, Acting HHS National Autism Coordinator at National Institute of Mental Health

11:00 - 11:15 AM

Break

Pop-Up Show | **Ben Animalia**

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM

Keynote Discussion | **A Conversation with International Policy Experts: How do your autism policies help Autistic people?**

International policy experts come together in a moderated discussion to share how autism strategies in their countries have enhanced the lives of Autistic people and their loved ones.

Moderator:

- **The Hon. Wanda Thomas Bernard**, Canadian Senator

Presenters:

- **Dr. Alistair de Gaetano**, Administrator of the Maltese Government's Directorate for Disability Issues (DDI), and Chairperson of the Autism Advisory Council
- **Harald Neerland**, President of Autism Europe
- **Dr. Susan Daniels**, Acting HHS National Autism Coordinator at National Institute of Mental Health

- 12:15 - 1:15 PM** Networking | **Lunch**
Exhibitors' Booths | **Highlighting our CALS2023 Supporters**
Pop-Up Show | **Ben Animalia**
- 1:15 - 1:45 PM** Audience Questions & Answers | **A Conversation with International Policy Experts: How do your autism policies help Autistic people?**
- 1:45 - 2:30 PM** Small Group Discussion | **Bringing it Back: What Can Canada Do Right now?**
Attendees are invited to discuss and reflect on the lessons learned from our international policy experts and how these lessons can be incorporated into a National Autism Strategy in Canada.
- What is the most powerful idea you have heard this morning? Why?
 - If success was guaranteed, from what you've heard so far, what would you want Canada to adopt in our National Autism Strategy?
- 2:30 - 2:45 PM** **Break**
Pop-Up Show | **Ben Animalia**
- 2:45 - 3:45 PM** Panel Discussion | **Using a Rights-Based Approach to Look at Autism Policies Around the World**
Autism Alliance of Canada and Kids Brain Health Network's Policy Development Practicum Fellows share a summary of international autism policies and how these policies align with the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Moderators:**
- **Sarah Ewart**, Labour and Employment Lawyer, Forte Workplace Law
 - **Dr. Jennifer Zwicker**, Director of Health Policy at the School of Public Policy, University of Calgary, Canada Research Chair in Disability Policy for Children and Youth
- Presenters:**
- **Alexandra Minuk**, Doctoral Student, Faculty of Education, Queen's University
 - **Christiane Roth**, Doctoral Student, School of Public Policy, University of Calgary
 - **Dr. Preeti Kar**, Postdoctoral Fellow, University of British Columbia
 - **Yvonne Spicer**, Ambassador, Autism Canada
- 3:45 - 4:00 PM** Audience Questions & Answers | **Using a Rights-Based Approach to Look at Autism Policies Around the World**
- 4:00 - 4:30 PM** **Summary of the Day**
Presenter:
- **Tanya McLeod**, President at Sinneave Family Foundation

Wednesday, April 19, 2023: Full Summit Day

Looking within Canada: Building on our Momentum

8:00AM - 4:30PM (ET)

8:00 - 9:15 AM Networking | **Breakfast**

9:15 - 10:00 AM **Opening Remarks**

Presenters:

- **Dr. Karen Bopp**, Co-Chair of Autism Alliance of Canada's Board of Directors, Director of Autism Information Services BC, Director of Provincial Outreach at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research and Collaboration in Autism (CIRCA) at The University of British Columbia
- **The Hon. Jean-Yves Duclos**, Minister of Health, Government of Canada

Presentation | **An Update on the National Autism Strategy**

A brief update on the current status of the development of Canada's National Autism Strategy.

Presenter:

- **Mark Nafekh**, Director General, Centre for Health Promotion, Public Health Agency of Canada

10:00 - 11:15 AM

Panel Presentation | **What do our provinces and territories need from a National Autism Strategy?**

Canadian provincial and territorial governments and community partners come together to discuss what is needed at the regional level to improve services and support for Autistic people and their loved ones in the context of a National Autism Strategy.

Moderator:

- **Dr. Karen Bopp**, Co-Chair of Autism Alliance of Canada's Board of Directors, Director of Autism Information Services BC, Director of Provincial Outreach at CIRCA, UBC

Presenters:

- **Carolyn Kamper**, Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Integration, Policy and Legislation Division at Government of British Columbia
- **Cynthia Caroll**, Executive Director at Autism Nova Scotia
- **Jennifer Covey**, Coordinator with the Department of Health and Wellness Government of Nova Scotia
- **Lyndon Parakin**, Vice President at Autism Society Alberta
- **Margaret Spoelstra**, Executive Director, Autism Ontario

11:15 - 11:30 AM **Break**

Pop-Up Show | **Ben Animalia**

- 11:30 - 12:15 PM** **Small Group Discussion | Bringing it Back: What can our members do right now?**
Attendees are invited to discuss the actions that can be taken to work within Canada's federated system to ensure the effectiveness of a National Autism Strategy.
- What is the most powerful idea you have heard this morning? Why?
 - If you had a chance to add something to the federal, provincial & territorial meeting agenda, what topic(s) would you add?
 - What actions do you want the federal, provincial, territorial governments to commit to?
- 12:15 - 1:15 PM** **Networking | Lunch**
Exhibitors Booths | **Highlighting our CALS2023 Supporters**
Pop-Up Show | **Ben Animalia**
- 1:15 - 2:30 PM** **Panel Presentation | Centering Indigenous Perspectives: How can a federal strategy help?**
A panel of leaders and organizations from Indigenous communities share perspectives on autism in Indigenous communities and the current barriers that families face, discussing what the federal government can do to support.
- Moderator:**
- **Sarah Sark**, M.Sc. SLP, Reg. CASLPO, Privacy Officer, Chief Executive Officer, ConnectWell Community Health
- Presenters:**
- **Grant Bruno**, Autism Alliance of Canada's Data2Policy Fellow, Doctoral student in Medical Sciences at the Women and Children's Health Research Institute, University of Alberta
 - **Jennifer Quaille**, Senior Director, Policy and Programs, Native Women's Association of Canada
 - **Charles Brown**, Education Director, Nishnawbe Aski Nation
 - **Bertha Sutherland**, Women's Council Member, Nishnawbe Aski Nation
 - **Kenny Robertson**, Chair, Four Directions Autism and Member, Autism Ontario
- 2:30 - 3:00 PM** **Award Ceremony | 2nd Annual Jim and Ginette Munson Autism Leadership Award**
- Presenters:**
- **Margaret Whelan**, Co-Chair of Autism Alliance of Canada's External Affairs Committee
 - **Ginette Munson** and **The Hon. Jim Munson**, former Canadian Senator
 - **Elizabeth Plouffe & Cyndi Gerlach**: Members of the Award Committee
 - **Recipient of 2nd Annual Jim and Ginette Munson Autism Leadership Award**: To be announced during the Award Ceremony.
- 3:00 - 3:15 PM** **Break**
Pop-Up Show | **Ben Animalia**

- 3:15 - 3:45 PM** [Presentation | Looking Forward at the Alliance](#)
A presentation of Autism Alliance of Canada's Strategic Plan for 2023 to 2028 and current key initiatives.
Presenter:
- **Dr. Jonathan Lai**, Executive Director at Autism Alliance of Canada
- 3:45 - 4:15 PM** [Member Discussion | Moving Forward Together As An Alliance](#)
Autism Alliance of Canada's members are invited to share their feedback and reflections on the 2023-2028 Strategic Plan, and to discuss our collective actions.
- As a member, what Alliance activities resonate with you? What are you excited to take action on?
 - What do you need from the Alliance to stay informed and engaged with the development and implementation of a National Autism Strategy?
- 4:15 - 4:30 PM** [Closing Remarks](#)
Presenters:
- **Shino Nakane**, Co-Vice Chair of Autism Alliance of Canada's Board of Directors, and Provincial Director at Autism Society Alberta
 - **Maddy Dever**, Co-Vice Chair of Autism Alliance of Canada's Board of Directors, and President of Autistic Bridge Inc.

The 9th Annual Canadian Autism Leadership Summit would not be possible without the generous contributions of the following organizations:

[The Azrieli Foundation](#)
[Sinneave Family Foundation](#)
[Kids Brain Health Network](#)
[Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work](#)
[Réseau national d'expertise en trouble du spectre de l'autisme](#)
[Staples Canada](#)
[Kerry's Place](#)
[Geneva Centre for Autism](#)
[Centre for Interdisciplinary Research and Collaboration in Autism \(CIRCA\)](#)
[Autism Nova Scotia](#)
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