



Canada's Autism **STRATEGY**

What is autism?

Autism, also known as autism spectrum disorder or ASD, is a lifelong neurodevelopmental condition. Autistic people may:



Communicate and
connect with other
people differently



Have
sensory processing
differences



Focus intensely on
certain interests
or activities

Autistic people may also have other physical, intellectual, learning or mental health conditions which can introduce complexities and challenges. Everyone has different experiences and characteristics, so the type and extent of supports should adapt to individual needs.



Purpose

- Supports the implementation of the *Framework for Autism in Canada*.
- A tool for the Government of Canada to continue advancing autism priorities with key partners and stakeholders.

Scope

- Multi-year strategic plan that outlines short- and medium-term initiatives.
- Builds on existing programs and measures at the federal level.
- To be updated on a regular basis as needs and priorities evolve.

Guiding principles

- Evidence-informed
- Human rights
- “Nothing Without Us”
- Intersectionality and diversity
- Distinctions-based approach
 - Recognizes the unique and differing histories, interests and priorities of Indigenous Peoples
- Life-course approach
 - Improves health and well-being at all life stages
- Working together

Priorities

The strategy outlines federal actions that aim to address 5 priority areas.

1 Screening, diagnosis and services

- Develop information and communication materials to support human resource strategies.
- Develop and update national guidelines for screening, diagnosis and services in gap areas.
- Assess the pathways and obstacles to hiring neurodiverse professionals in healthcare and allied health professions.

2 Economic inclusion

- Improve the key factors contributing to the economic inclusion and financial security of Autistic people in Canada and their families, such as:
 - tax measures and benefits
 - employment
 - financial literacy and planning
 - appropriate housing

3 Data collection, public health surveillance and research

- Advance inclusive research guidelines.
- Establish a national research network.
- Promote Autistic participation in research.
- Include diverse demographics and co-occurring conditions across all age groups and regions when collecting data.

4 Public awareness, understanding and acceptance

- Advance autism education and training programs.
- Support continued engagement with the Autistic community.
- Foster inclusivity through increased public knowledge, understanding and acceptance of autism.
- Make communities and workplaces more accessible for people with disabilities.

5 Tools and resources

- Enhance access to diverse, evidence-based tools and resources, including:
 - translation
 - improved navigation
 - best practices guides
 - culturally relevant online platforms

Related links

[Canada's Autism Strategy](#)