

2022

# **EVALUATION REPORT**

**8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
Canadian Autism  
Leadership Summit**  
April 4 & 5, 2022



**Dear CALS2022 attendee,**

Thank you for joining us at the 8th Annual Canadian Autism Leadership Summit (CALS2022) on April 4 & 5, 2022, an initiative of the Canadian Autism Spectrum Disorder Alliance (CASDA).

Over the course of this conference, dynamic and through-provoking conversations took place. There were countless stories of meeting new people, engaging with different perspectives and learning new ideas. This illustrates the strength of our community.

This year, we heard presentations on: Equity, Diversity and Social Inclusion in Policy Development: “Nothing About Us Without Us.” The Evolution of Evidence-Informed Supports Across the Lifespan, and Progress in Employment Programs and Disability Supports. We focused on themes that would support the federal government's development of a National Autism Strategy.

In this report, you will learn about who attended, what people thought of the content of this year's Summit, opinions on each session, and highlights from social media. We summarized the responses in this report.

At CASDA, we love to hear from you, the community, as we move your ideas, concerns, and suggestions forward to support the government's development of a National Autism Strategy.

If you would like to review the content of CALS2022, head over to our virtual event page on [Whova](#), where registered attendees can view the presentations until July 2022.

We hope to see you at CALS2023!

**Best wishes,**

**The CALS2022 Planning Committee**  
[summit@casda.ca](mailto:summit@casda.ca)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**01**

CALS2022 Recap

**PG. 3**

**02**

About Attendees

**PG. 6**

**03**

Event Feedback

**PG. 12**

**04**

Whova Analytics

**PG. 19**

**05**

Social Analytics

**PG. 20**

# CALS2022 RECAP

2

**FULL  
DAYS**

16

**SUPPORTERS**

5

**SATELLITE SITES  
ACROSS CANADA**

6

**PANELS**

4

**WORKSHOPS**

60+

**PRESENTERS  
WORLDWIDE**

20+

**POSTERS &  
PRESENTATIONS**

300+

**ATTENDEES**

# CALS2022 RECAP

## THEMES



### **EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IN POLICY DEVELOPMENT:** “Nothing About Us Without Us”

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This theme aims to explore rights-based approaches to policy development (i.e., Making sure the people affected by the policies are included in the design of those policies).



### **EVOLUTION OF EVIDENCE-INFORMED SUPPORTS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN**

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This theme aims to discuss diverse views on evidence-informed supports, and services across the entire lifespan.



### **PROGRESS IN EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS AND DISABILITY SUPPORTS**

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This theme aims to explore federal tax policy, disability, and employment support.

# CALS2022 RECAP

## DELIVERY & TRANSLATION



**VIRTUAL**

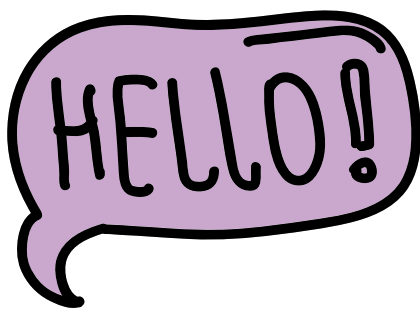
OR



**IN-PERSON**

CALS2022 was delivered through a hybrid virtual and in-person model. Registrants could attend CALS2022 in-person at the following satellite sites, in: Calgary AB, Burlington ON, Durham ON, Brampton ON, and Whitehorse YT.

The goal of this model was to create an innovative, collaborative and pivotal conference for Autistic people, their families, and those who support them.



**ENGLISH**

OR



**FRENCH**

For the first time, both days of the conference were translated, allowing attendees across Canada, whether their preferred language is French or English, to attend CALS2022.

With materials live translated in both English and French, we were able to make our event more accessible than ever before.

# ABOUT ATTENDEES

Total Attendees: **301**

Ontario:	.....	<b>50.2%</b>
Quebec:	.....	<b>16.7%</b>
Alberta:	.....	<b>13.1%</b>
British Columbia:	.....	<b>9.0%</b>
Rest of Canada:	.....	<b>10.2%</b>
International:	.....	<b>0.8%</b>



NOTE: 81.4% of registrants indicated their province location on Eventbrite.

# ABOUT ATTENDEES

Total Jotform Responses: **92**

Professional	72.8%
Family Member / Support Person	40.2%
Neurodivergent Person	32.6%
Autistic Person	28.2%
Person with a Disability	18.4%
LGBTQ2SIA+	13.0%
Racialized Person	6.5%
Indigenous Person	3.3%
Other	4.3%

**NOTE:**

The data presented in this section of "About Attendees" was collected from the 92 registrants that completed the Post-Summit survey. Registrants could select multiple responses.



# ABOUT ATTENDEES

Total Eventbrite Responses: **245**

Professional

62.0%

Autistic or Neurodivergent Person

22.4%

Family Member / Support Person

20.4%

Racialized Person

7.3%

LGBTQ2SIA+

6.5%

Indigenous Person

2.9%

Other

5.3%

**NOTE:**

The data presented in this section of "About Attendees" was collected from the 245 registrants that indicated their demographic when registering on Eventbrite. Registrants could select multiple responses.

# ABOUT ATTENDEES

## 5 Satellite Event Locations

**Calgary, AB**  
Sinneave Family  
Foundation



**Sinneave**  
FAMILY FOUNDATION

**Brampton, ON**  
Kerry's Place  
Autism Services



**Burlington, ON**  
Spero Careers  
Canada



**Durham, ON**  
Autism Home  
Base



**Whitehorse, YT**  
Autism Yukon



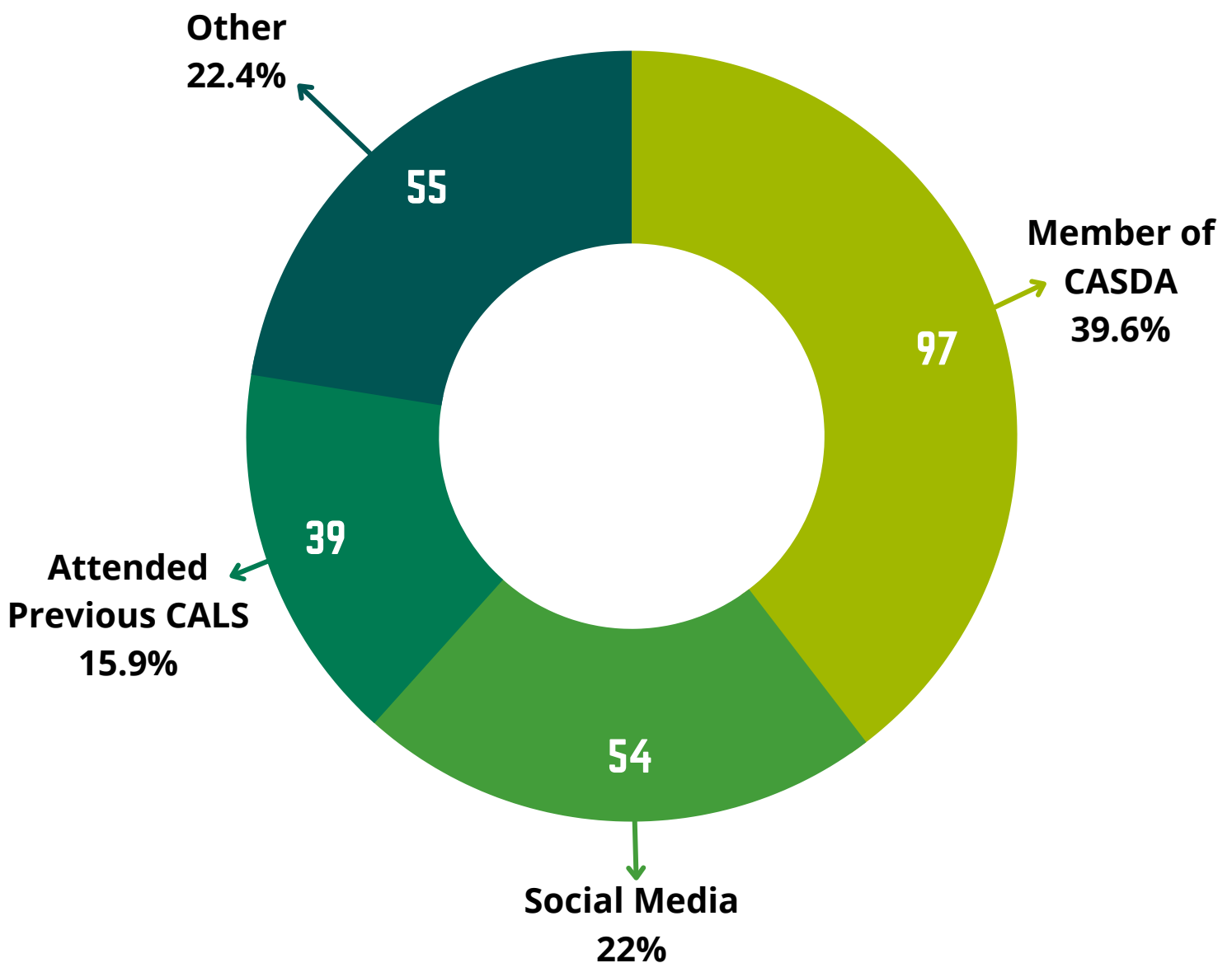
**Autism Yukon**

### NOTE:

Originally 10 satellite events were scheduled. 5 satellite event sites cancelled due to public health guidelines or lack of registrations.

# ABOUT ATTENDEES

How did you hear about the Canadian  
Autism Leadership Summit?



**NOTE:**

The data presented in this section of "About Attendees" was collected from the 245 registrants that indicated how they heard about CALS when registering on Eventbrite.

**Greetings from Edmonton, Treaty 6 territory and the meeting grounds of the Cree, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Metis, Dene and Nakota Sioux.**

**Good morning from Lekwengun territory.**

**I would like to acknowledge that I live and work in Ottawa, which is built on unceded Algonquin Anishinabe territory.**

**I'm joining today from Treaty 6 Territory and within the Métis homelands and Métis Nation of Alberta Region 4.**

**Greetings from Prince George, BC, the traditional and unceded territory of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation.**

**I am grateful to live, work and play on the traditional territory of the Kwanlin Dun First Nation and the Ta'an Kwach'an Council.**

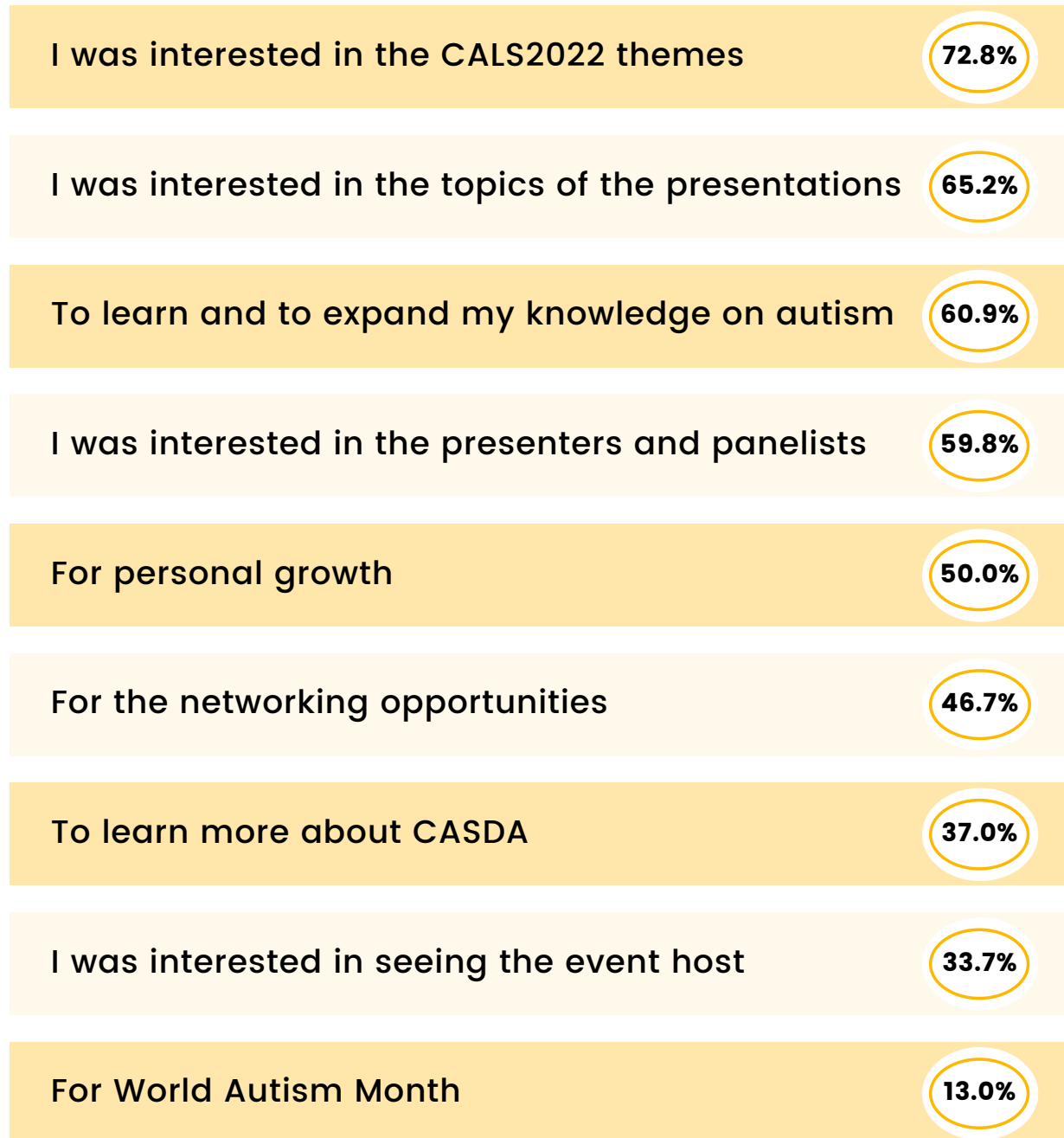
**I would like to acknowledge that I live and work on the traditional territory shared between the Haudenosaunee confederacy and the Anishinaabe nations.**

**NOTE:**

Comments on this slide were taken from the Zoom chat from the first day of the Summit.

# EVENT FEEDBACK

## Why did you choose to attend CALS2022?



### NOTE:

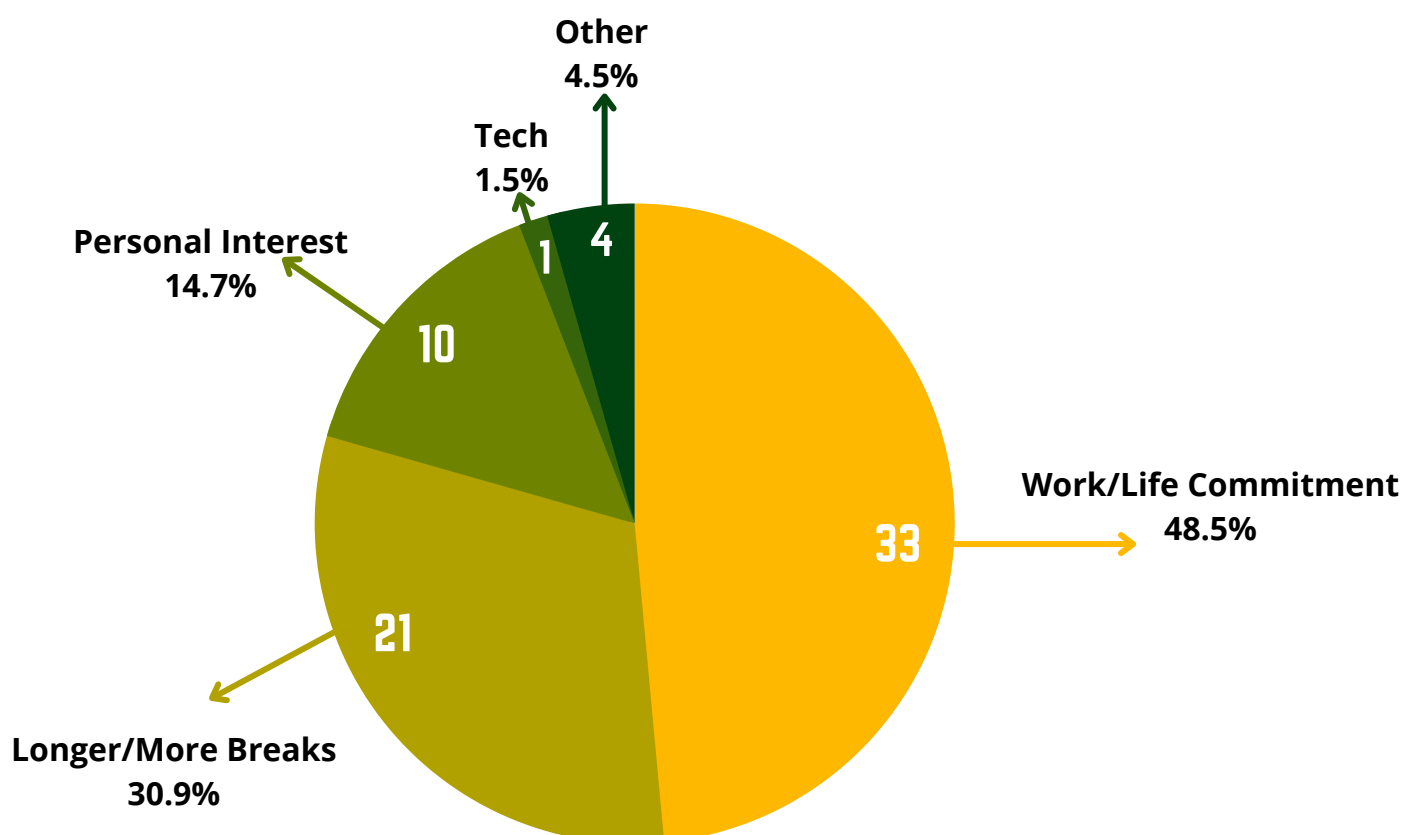
The data presented in this section, "Event feedback" was collected from the 92 registrants that completed the Post-Summit survey. Registrants could select multiple responses.

# EVENT FEEDBACK

Were you able to attend all CALS2022 presentations?

**38.4%** of respondents attended all CALS2022 presentations

Remaining respondents noted barriers to attending all presentations:



**NOTE:**

The data presented in this section, "Event feedback" was collected from the 92 registrants that completed the Post-Summit survey. Registrants could select multiple responses.

# EVENT FEEDBACK

How likely are you to **attend** CALS  
in the future?



**8.88**

AVG. RESPONSE

**92**

RESPONSES

---

How likely are you to **recommend** CALS  
to a friend or colleague?



**8.59**

AVG. RESPONSE

**92**

RESPONSES

**NOTE:**

- NET PROMOTER SCORE (NPS) = +54
- DETRACTORS = 11%
- PASSIVES = 24%
- PROMOTERS = 65%

The NPS is the leading metric for calculating client satisfaction.

# EVENT FEEDBACK

## What was the **most valuable** aspect of CALS2022?

Respondents predominantly indicated that the most valuable aspect of CALS2022 was the lived experience from Autistic presenters and diversity of speakers. Many specified the importance of the presentations **“Shifting the Paradigm About Non-Speaking Autistics,” “The Power of Movement,”** and the international panel **“Towards a Canadian National Autism Strategy.”** Respondents shared how they valued the variety in the content and topics covered over the two days. They also indicated how the Summit being hosted virtually was beneficial for them.

## What was the **least valuable** aspect of CALS2022?

Many respondents noted that they did not find any aspect of CALS2022 to be the least beneficial. Some respondents indicated they felt there were not enough **break periods**, or the break periods were not long enough. Others reported that there was too much **repetition** regarding certain topics. Respondents also shared that there was too much content from service providers and/or research based organizations. The Summit being hosted virtually was presented in responses as the least valuable for various reasons, including a lack of opportunities for **Q&A and/or networking**, and navigation of the Whova platform.

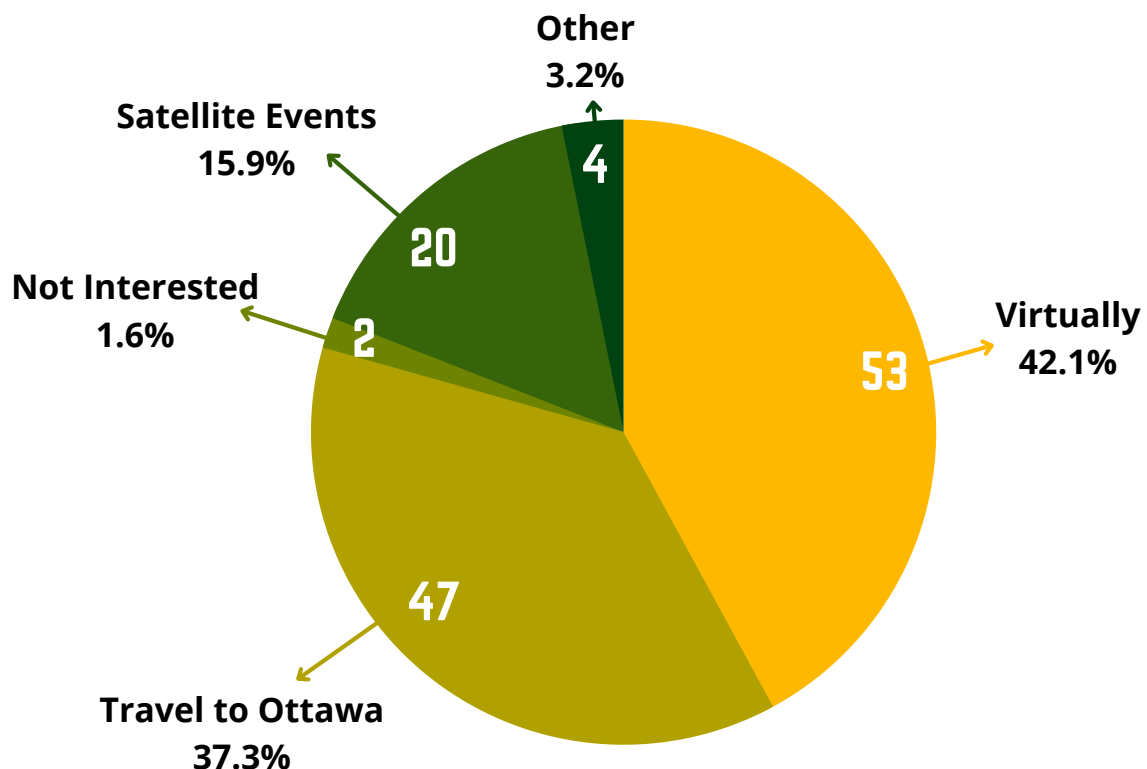


# EVENT FEEDBACK

## What do CALS participants want to see in **the future**?

Respondents voiced wanting to hear from the **researchers** in the field, and highlighted learning about **research-informed approaches** to services, education, policy, and the Autistic lifespan. Additionally identified was the request for content regarding **navigating institutions and services** and the justice system. In a similar manner, respondents also emphasized **education**, educator organizations, and **mental health** in relation to education as topics of interest. There was also a common theme of wanting continued and increased **Autistic representation** in these conversations.

## What would be your preference in attending **future editions** of CALS?



### NOTE:

The data presented in this section, "Event feedback" was collected from the 92 registrants that completed the Post-Summit survey. Registrants could select multiple responses.

# EVENT FEEDBACK

## ZOOM POLLS

### Pîtoteyihtam: A Nehiyaw Perspective on Autism

**99.3%**

THOUGHT  
The Session was  
Inclusive

**100%**

THOUGHT  
The Session was  
Informative

3.3% - somewhat  
satisfied  
14.7% - satisfied  
82.0% - very satisfied

### Employment Initiatives Across the Lifespan: Panel

**95.7%**

THOUGHT  
The Session was  
Inclusive

**98.3%**

THOUGHT  
The Session was  
Informative

0.9% - not satisfied  
7.8% - somewhat  
satisfied  
34.5% - satisfied  
56.9% - very satisfied

### Progress in Employment: Short Presentations

**96.5%**

THOUGHT  
The Session was  
Inclusive

**94.3%**

THOUGHT  
The Session was  
Informative

1.1% - not satisfied  
18.2% - somewhat  
satisfied  
29.5% - satisfied  
51.1% - very satisfied

### Healthcare Inclusion & Mental Health: Panel

**100%**

THOUGHT  
The Session was  
Inclusive

**95.7%**

THOUGHT  
The Session was  
Informative

2.2% - not satisfied  
6.5% - somewhat  
satisfied  
27.9% - satisfied  
64.5% - very satisfied

### Evidence Informed Supports: Short Presentations

**94.9%**

THOUGHT  
The Session was  
Inclusive

**94.9%**

THOUGHT  
The Session was  
Informative

3.8% - not satisfied  
11.4% - somewhat  
satisfied  
31.6% - satisfied  
53.2% - very satisfied

### Shifting the Paradigm about Non-Speaking Autistics

**100%**

THOUGHT  
The Session was  
Inclusive

**98.9%**

THOUGHT  
The Session was  
Informative

1.1% - not satisfied  
1.1% - somewhat  
satisfied  
2.2% - satisfied  
95.6% - very satisfied

#### NOTE:

The data presented in this section of "Event feedback" was collected from registrants that completed the post-presentation polls through Zoom. The number of respondents varies.

# EVENT FEEDBACK

## Towards a Canadian National Autism Strategy: Panel

**96.8%**

THOUGHT  
The Session was  
Inclusive

**100%**

THOUGHT  
The Session was  
Informative

1.1% – somewhat  
satisfied  
20.2% – satisfied  
78.7% – very satisfied

## Housing Stability over the Life Course

**98.7%**

THOUGHT  
The Session was  
Inclusive

**97.5%**

THOUGHT  
The Session was  
Informative

1.3% – not satisfied  
6.3% – somewhat  
satisfied  
29.1% – satisfied  
63.3% – very satisfied

## Advocating with Humility

**98.5%**

THOUGHT  
The Session was  
Inclusive

**97.1%**

THOUGHT  
The Session was  
Informative

2.9% – not satisfied  
14.5% – somewhat  
satisfied  
20.3% – satisfied  
62.3% – very satisfied

## The Power of Movement

**98.9%**

THOUGHT  
The Session was  
Inclusive

**98.9%**

THOUGHT  
The Session was  
Informative

2.3% – not satisfied  
1.1% – somewhat  
satisfied  
12.6% – satisfied  
83.9% – very satisfied

## Gender and Underrepresented Populations: Panel

**98.9%**

THOUGHT  
The Session was  
Inclusive

**96.6%**

THOUGHT  
The Session was  
Informative

8.0% – somewhat  
satisfied  
14.9% – satisfied  
77% – very satisfied

## Equity, Diversity and Social Inclusion: Short Presentations

**98.8%**

THOUGHT  
The Session was  
Inclusive

**98.8%**

THOUGHT  
The Session was  
Informative

1.2% – not satisfied  
3.7% – somewhat  
satisfied  
29.6% – satisfied  
65.4% – very satisfied

## Late Diagnosis: Panel

**100%**

THOUGHT  
The Session was  
Inclusive

**100%**

THOUGHT  
The Session was  
Informative

7.1% – satisfied  
92.9% – very satisfied

### NOTE:

The data presented in this section of "Event feedback" was collected from registrants that completed the post-presentation polls through Zoom. The number of respondents varies.

# WHOVA ANALYTICS

**480**

TOTAL MESSAGES IN  
COMMUNITY BOARDS

**30**

DISCUSSION TOPICS POSTED

**101**

PERSONALIZED AGENDAS SET  
UP BY ATTENDEES

**38,408**

SPONSOR IMPRESSIONS

## Most Popular **Agenda Sessions:**

- Funny, You Don't Look Autistic
- Opening Ceremony & Opening Remarks
- Panel Discussion: Healthcare Inclusion and Mental Health

# SOCIAL ANALYTICS

Here's what people had to say about **#CALS2022**

Total tweets

 289



**Taylor L Johansen** @TaylorLJohansen · Apr 5

...

@Mac\_at\_Mac reminding us of the importance of meaningful engagement in #Autism research. #NothingAboutUsWithoutUs #CALS2022 @ASDalliance



**Mary Alexandrou** @malexa\_ottawa · Apr 5

...

#CALS2022 @ASDalliance was absolutely fantastic! Thank you to all for sharing your amazing stories, research and your hard work with the rest of us! Such important work!



**Maddy Dever (they/them)** 🏳️‍🌈 🗺️ @MattJDever · Apr 5

...

Ready for #CALS2022 Day 2. I'm presenting with @Housinglens @JohnstonPari & Courtney Weaver - "Housing Stability Through #Autistic Agency Over The Life Course" & I'm moderating the panel "Gender & Underrepresented Populations". Busy day, great people to do this with. @ASDalliance



**Steph81** @stephwill81 · Apr 4

...

Super excited to be taking this all in today. #CALS2022



**Horizon Educational Consulting** @HorizonEConsult · Apr 4

...

Great information and panelists from diverse perspectives offering wonderful learning for all at the Canadian Autism Leadership Summit #CALS2022 #AutismAwarenessMonth #Neurodiversity



**Shino Nakane** @shinonakane · Apr 4

...

Here we go! #CALS2022 is about to start. @ASDalliance looking forward to joining the conversation and moving a National Autism Strategy forward!



**Kenneth S Dyson, PhD** @dysonsphere · Apr 4

...

Looking forward to hearing from Canada's leaders in policy, support, and inclusion at this years summit #CALS2022

# SOCIAL ANALYTICS

## Best Performing Content

 CASDA  
@ASDalliance

Please join us in congratulating @WhitneyHodgins, the inaugural recipient of the Jim & Ginette Munson Autism Leadership Award.

Today, at #CALS2022, we recognize your leadership & impact in advancing a better Canada for Autistic Canadians.

Press release: [wp.me/pavHuK-3vT](https://wp.me/pavHuK-3vT)



The graphic features a portrait of Whitney Hodgins on the left. To the right, the text reads: 'CANADIAN AUTISM LEADERSHIP SUMMIT' and 'FORUM CANADIEN DES EXPERTS EN AUTISME' at the top, followed by 'WHITNEY HODGINS' in large blue letters, and 'PRESENTED WITH THE FIRST ANNUAL JIM AND GINETTE MUNSON AUTISM LEADERSHIP AWARD' below. An 'ALT' label is in the bottom left corner.

- Impressions: **3,526**
- Total engagements: **76**
- Detail expands: **23**
- Retweets: **16**
- Likes: **14**
- Link clicks: **11**
- Profile clicks: **9**
- Media engagements: **3**

 CASDA  
@ASDalliance

Jordyn Pallett is an 18yo non-speaking Autistic.

Sharing his experiences of life in an impulsive sensory sensitive body, Jordyn has impacted families across the globe.

At #CALS2022, Jordyn will co-lead: Shifting the Paradigm abt Non-Speaking Autistics 



youtube.com  
Meet Jordyn Pallett, presenter at the 8th Annual Canadian ...  
Meet Jordyn Pallett, presenter at the 8th Annual Autism Leadership Summit. On April 4, 2022, Jordyn will be co-...

- Impressions: **2,608**
- Media views: **15**
- Total engagements: **159**
- Detail expands: **87**
- Profile clicks: **24**
- Media engagements: **15**
- Likes: **13**
- Retweets: **10**
- Link clicks: **9**



# SOCIAL ANALYTICS

## Best Performing Content



A HUGE shout out to our incredibly funny host, [Michael McCreary](#) - Funny, You Don't Look Autistic, who has been holding down the virtual stage at the 8th Annual Canadian Autism Leadership Summit, and keeping us laughing throughout!

Our CALS experience would not be the same without your charisma and talent.

Thank you for making this Summit truly memorable!... [See more](#)



- Reach: **645**
- Total engagements: **27**
- Link clicks: **20**



The keynote panel at the 8th Annual Canadian Autism leadership Summit gathers government approaches on autism policy from across the globe.

On April 5, 2022, tune in for "Towards a Canadian National Autism Strategy: International Learnings and Lessons from Around the World," featuring esteemed guests from Canada, United States, Malta, United Kingdom and Europe.

This highly anticipated panel will be moderated by Dr. Deepa Singal, CASDA's Director of Scientific and Data Initi... [See more](#)



### \*Sponsored post

- Reach: **39,045**
- Total engagements: **49**
- Post clicks: **982**

THANK YOU FOR JOINING THE

**8th Annual  
Canadian Autism  
Leadership Summit**

**CALS2022**



# THANK YOU TO THE SUPPORTERS OF #CALS2022

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