



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **The Canadian Journal of Autism Equity Officially Launches Inaugural Issue at their Journal Launch on April 6th, 2021**

(Toronto, ON, April 6, 2021) – Voices of the disabled community are rarely included in public policy and mainstream discourse, a reality that is further compounded for marginalized communities and people with intersectional identities. Today, a new platform led by 9 Autistic self-advocates is being launched, with a mission to bring these voices front and centre.

[The Canadian Journal of Autism Equity](#) (CJAE) is launching today, on the first business day after World Autism Acceptance Day. CJAE is a platform for Autistic and under-represented voices within the Autism community with primarily Autistic authors and authors with lived experience. Led by its Autistic Editorial Board, the CJAE has published its first issue entitled, “*Equity*”, with editorials written and created by its Editorial Board. Participants interested in joining the Journal Launch and hearing from the Editorial Board can register online [here](#).

#### Aim & Scope of Journal

1. The CJAE fosters discussions on equity in the autism and disability sector in light of challenges related to equity.
2. The CJAE provides resources to inform decision-makers about barriers to equity faced by members of the community.
3. The CJAE Editorial Board will look primarily for authors with lived experience included in submissions, and, when possible, a majority of published pieces will be authored by Autistic people.
4. The CJAE Editorial Board will develop an annually updated Equity Toolkit based on lessons learned from the Journal to be shared with decision-makers. The first will be an *Equity Toolkit for the Workplace* for employers, in collaboration with [Ready, Willing, and Able](#).

“I applaud the organizers, the supporters, the allies and most importantly, I want to thank all of the members of the Autistic community who have come together to populate this first edition of the journal,” says Senator Wanda Thomas Bernard. “I look forward to reading and I look forward to seeing the voices of Autistic and marginalized children, youth, and adults using this platform to share their stories, to speak their truths...”

The Journal Launch starts on April 6th at 2:30PM ET, with a round of opening addresses, followed by an open question and answer period.

[About the Canadian Journal of Autism Equity](#)



Established in 2021, the Canadian Journal of Autism Equity is an open-access e-journal focused on critically engaging with a variety of equity discussions within the autism community and public policy. Seeking authorship primarily by first-voice Autistic people or people with lived experience with autism and intersectionality, the Journal seeks to offer a platform to amplify marginalized voices and share these perspectives with decision-makers and Canadians alike. A CJAE issue will be released twice each year, once in April following World Autism Acceptance Day and once again in October marking the Canadian Autism Acceptance Month.

CJAE is published by the [Canadian Autism Spectrum Disorder Alliance](#) and is hosted on the [McMaster University](#) Library Press.

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