



Autism
Alliance of Canada

Alliance canadienne de
l'autisme

Accessibility

10th Annual Canadian Autism Leadership Summit

April 2024

Background

Accessibility measures are important in ensuring that everyone can seamlessly engage with their environment. The Canadian Autism Leadership Summit is dedicated to building an inclusive space where every participant feels not only welcomed but also empowered to actively engage with the Summit's content and activities.

This document serves as a resource outlining the diverse accessibility measures implemented at the 10th Annual Canadian Autism Leadership Summit (CAL2024), taking place at the Fairmont Château Laurier in Ottawa and via livestream, from April 17 to 19, 2024. This document includes information about the spaces, the program, as well as guidance on how participants can seek support as needed. If you have any questions or are experiencing barriers related to accessibility, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the CAL2024 Planning Team by e-mail at summit@autismalliance.ca.

Accessibility at the Fairmont Château Laurier

At CAL2024, we are committed to working with the venue, the Fairmont Château Laurier, to ensure that attendees and presenters have a seamless experience throughout the event. The Fairmont Château Laurier is wheelchair-friendly, with ramps and elevators available throughout to facilitate easy navigation for Summit attendees.

Additionally, the CAL2024 Logistics Team has meticulously planned the layout of all of the spaces, including the main room, the breakout room, networking spaces, the eating areas, the quiet area, and the exhibitor hall. There will also be signage in key places so attendees can easily find their way through the different spaces. Each space is intended to provide attendees with ample room to move around, especially for those who are wheelchair users. There will also be a ramp for access to the stage in the main room for presenters who need it.

CAL2024 has also developed a policy for all attendees to avoid using scented products during the event, as many people experience sensitivities or allergies to fragrance. The CAL2024 Logistics Team is working closely with the Fairmont Château Laurier to minimize the use of perfumed products throughout the duration of the Summit to help create a welcoming space for attendees.

Accessibility throughout the Summit

At CAL2024, ensuring the well-being and comfort of all attendees is a top priority. If you find yourself feeling uncomfortable at any point during the Summit or need assistance with anything, please don't hesitate to reach out to a member of our team. You can identify us by our name tags, clearly marked with the name "Autism Alliance of Canada."

Accessibility at the Summit (Version 2024)

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April 17-19, 2024 | #CAL2024 | autismalliance.ca/cals2024

If you ever feel overwhelmed or need a moment to recharge, please feel free to make use of our sensory-friendly space or to retreat in a space where you feel comfortable. At any point during the Summit, participants also have the option to listen in without actively participating in the discussions or networking sessions.

[Click here to view the Program at a Glance](#), which will be continuously updated throughout the Summit.

Accessible options to engage at CALS2024

Livestream viewing: CALS2024 offers a livestream option to increase access to the Summit for participants who prefer tuning in remotely. A special thanks to the [Sinneave Family Foundation](#) for their generous support in making the livestream option available.

Translation: CALS2024 will provide simultaneous English to French translation to foster engagement for participants whose preferred language is French.

Silent applause: At CALS2024, we encourage participants to engage in silent clapping or waving through the duration of the Summit. Opting for silent gestures instead of traditional applause, will ensure a more inclusive environment for those with sensory sensitivities who may find loud noises overwhelming.

Lighting: CALS2024 will prioritize utilizing dim lighting options during live sessions when feasible.


Sensory-friendly Space: CALS2024 will offer a Zen Den for those who may need a peaceful retreat during the Summit. This space is designed for recharging, reflecting, or simply taking a quiet break from the Summit. Signs will be available to guide attendees to access the room easily. A special thank you to [Autism Home Base](#) for making this possible.

Quiet Viewing: The CALS2024 programming will feature a quiet viewing option for the Community Showcase, for in-person attendees wishing to engage quietly with the content. Quiet viewing times for the Community Showcase is scheduled on **Wednesday, April 17 from 5 - 6 PM EST**. We encourage attendees to take advantage of this option to ensure a comfortable and accessible experience for all.

Networking: Networking is an integral part of the Summit experience. Networking sessions have been integrated into the program, providing opportunities for attendees to foster meaningful connections. A visual tool will be available at the reception desk for participants to signal their openness for networking interactions. Additionally, there will be designated spaces where Autistic participants can gather during breaks to get to know another. View the [Program at a Glance](#) for timings of networking sessions at the Summit.

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Autism Alliance of Canada is dedicated to fostering inclusive and safe spaces for our members and the broader community. Your well-being is important to us, and we want to ensure that your experience at CALS2024 is both enjoyable and accessible.

We invite you to [join us](#) in this mission.

About Autism Alliance of Canada

Autism Alliance of Canada is a pan-Canadian network that is composed of a diverse membership, including Autistic people, caregivers, clinicians, researchers, policy makers, and organizations across Canada.

We work together as a shared leadership movement to champion a National Autism Strategy that ensures Autistic people have equal rights and opportunities for full participation and acceptance in Canadian society. We harness the power of collective impact as an inclusive organization whose members, board of directors and staff reflect our commitment to Autistic participation in all aspects of our work.

About the Canadian Autism Leadership Summit

The Canadian Autism Leadership Summit (“Summit”) serves as a gathering for Autistic people, families, community leaders, decision-makers, and researchers to convene and deliberate on matters crucial to advancing a National Autism Strategy. By coming together, we amplify our voices and strengthen our impact.

Autism Alliance of Canada utilizes the Summit as a platform to drive progress on mutual goals, working towards a more inclusive Canada. Through the development of autism policies that embrace the diverse perspectives of Autistic people across Canada and their loved ones, we strive to create a space that values diversity and inclusion.

Fostering an inclusive atmosphere at the Summit is crucial because it brings together people from various backgrounds and abilities. We strive to create an environment where everyone feels respected and valued. By promoting inclusivity, we want to make sure that everyone feels heard and that diverse perspectives contribute to our collective efforts towards meaningful change.

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