

At a Glance: Measures and Actions included in Canada's Framework for Autism and Autism Strategy

This table compiles the measures and actions from the Government of Canada's [Framework for Autism](#) and the [Autism Strategy](#) for easier reading.

The government intends for the Framework to set out guiding principles related to national autism policy and programs while the Strategy will support the implementation of the Framework.

Framework Measures	Strategy Actions
<p>Priority Area 1</p> <p>Screening, Diagnosis and Services</p> <p>Vision: "A Canada where Autistic people, their families, advocates and caregivers have access to timely, consistent and accessible screening, diagnosis and neuro-affirming services throughout the life-course."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize the Government of Canada's convening power, to improve information sharing across federal, provincial, and territorial jurisdictions in key priority areas including approaches to improve wait times and promote equitable access to screening, diagnosis and autism services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Working with federal, provincial and territorial partners, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) will advance opportunities to develop and update national guidelines for screening, diagnosis and services. PHAC will also collaborate to assess the current and future outlook of human resources in healthcare and allied • Facilitate the development of and updates to national guidelines for screening, diagnosis and services in gap areas, including for adolescents and adults, while considering opportunities for systems redesign so that mainstream services can meet the needs of Autistic people. • Develop information and communication materials to support human resource strategies at provincial/territorial and community levels. This could include facilitating the development of training materials for health care and service providers on autism, its signs, and available resources, as well as toolkits for hiring and accommodating Autistic employees.

health professions delivering autism services.

- Establish a National Autism Network that will have a mandate to put in place advisory committees with representation of Autistic people, their advocates, families, and caregivers to ensure that their lived experiences inform actions to address wait times and inequitable access to screening, diagnosis and services.

- Recognize workforce capacity as a strategic priority, assessing the current and future outlook of human resources in healthcare and allied health professions delivering autism services, including:
 - The labour market dynamics of recruitment, training, retention, and reasons for exit.
 - Intersectional considerations (e.g. region and traits of both service providers and service seekers).
 - The pathways and obstacles to hiring Autistic professionals.

Priority Area 2

Economic Inclusion

Vision: “A Canada where Autistic people have tailored financial supports and access to education, employment, and housing throughout the life-course.”

- Engage with the Minister of Finance, Minister of National Revenue, and Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Official Languages, to support the identification, development, and implementation of ways to improve programs within the responsibility of these Ministers, which may include tax measures, benefits, and other government programs provided to Autistic people in Canada, their families and caregivers.
- Establish a National Autism Network that will put in place advisory committees tasked with identifying additional financial supports to improve the social determinants of health and determine what tools could provide better support for Autistic people in Canada, their families, and caregivers.
 - The network will also have a mandate to support information-sharing and outreach to autism-focused organizations with the objective of increasing awareness and uptake of tax measures, benefits and other government programs that may be available to Autistic people, their families, and caregivers.
- Engage the Minister of Diversity, Inclusion, and Persons with Disabilities on the Disability Inclusion

- Leverage existing actions in the National Housing Strategy to help address autism priorities in Canada, including:
 - Ensuring that housing is socially inclusive and sustainable through factors such as: accessible housing, housing with supportive wrap-around services and housing located close to services, transit and employment.
 - Addressing the housing needs of vulnerable Canadians, such as persons with disabilities (including Autistic children and Autistic adults with complex support needs).
 - Promoting and sharing housing solutions across Canada through interdisciplinary communities of practice and targeted knowledge sharing.
- Move forward with the implementation of the Accessibility Strategy for the Public Service of Canada which includes the commitment to hire 5,000 employees with disabilities in the public service by 2025.
- Undertake research to better understand the additional costs associated with autism over the life-course, and on the accessibility and completion of post-secondary education for Autistic people.

Action Plan to address priorities for Autistic people in Canada.

- Raise awareness about resources available to support neurodiverse persons and their families through the Registered Disability Savings Plan including the Canada Disability Savings Grant and Bond, as well as other Canadian and provincial/territorial tax measures and benefits.
- Develop materials to promote autism-inclusive workplaces and ensure that employers and coworkers understand the needs and strengths of Autistic workers. These could include evidence-based guidelines for human resources and employers; employer awards and incentives for training; and recommendations on long-term inclusive hiring practices.
- Support mentorship opportunities for Autistic adults and young adults in the workforce to strengthen skill sets and support community building, job acquisition and retention.
- Leverage existing actions in the Disability Inclusion Action Plan to help address priorities for Autistic persons and other persons with disabilities in Canada, including:
- Implementation of an Employment Strategy for Persons with Disabilities, which includes the following goals:
 - Help individuals find and maintain good jobs, advance in their careers or become entrepreneurs;
 - Support employers as they develop inclusive and accessible workplaces; and
 - Aid organizations and individuals who support persons with disabilities in employment.
- Working with the Disability Inclusion Business Council, to improve disability inclusion in Canadian workplaces through its provision of advice and recommendations to support businesses on how to improve disability inclusion in the workplace and the

development of an independent, self-governed disability business network.

- Promoting the Canada Disability Benefit, and encouraging application for those who may be eligible.

Priority Area 3

Data Collection, Public Health Surveillance, and Research

Vision: “A Canada where public health surveillance and research support action to improve health outcomes for Autistic people.”

- Support national autism surveillance, including the development of new data and reporting on indicators beyond prevalence (such as demographics, diversity and equity, co-occurring conditions and including Indigenous health), as well as all jurisdictions and age ranges (children, youth, adults), where possible.
 - Support autism research through the federal health portfolio.
 - Establish a national research network that would support information sharing and collaboration across sectors and jurisdictions, enable improved data collection and promote research on autism.
 - Engage the Minister of Diversity, Inclusion, and Persons with Disabilities on the Disability Inclusion Action Plan to address priorities for Autistic people in Canada.
- Advance guidelines for researchers on inclusive and participatory research approaches that include respectful engagement, direct and intentional inclusion, accessibility and accommodations, individualized approaches, flexible options and being attentive and responsive.
 - Establish a national research network, to support information sharing and collaboration across sectors and jurisdictions, enable improved data collection and promote research on autism.
 - Support interdisciplinary research, capacity development and knowledge mobilization to further our understanding of autism across the life course and support the development of new screening and diagnostic tools, standards of care, and evidence-based supports to meet the needs of Autistic people at all ages and stages of life.
 - Support PHAC’s national autism public health surveillance activities, including the development of new data and reporting on indicators beyond prevalence (such as demographics, diversity and equity, co-occurring conditions and Indigenous health), as well as all jurisdictions, and age ranges (children, youth, adults), where possible.
 - Leverage existing actions in the Disability Inclusion Action Plan to help address autism priorities in Canada, including filling disability (including autism) data gaps by developing a Disability Data Improvement Strategy in collaboration with the disability community.

Priority Area 4

Public Awareness, Understanding and Acceptance

Vision: “A Canada where Autistic people have all their needs met in an environment where they feel safe and accepted, including when accessing services and supports.”

- Undertake a national autism knowledge, understanding and acceptance campaign. The campaign will focus on key sectors including healthcare, education, employment, community services, and public safety, while accounting for intersectionality and autism across the spectrum, to foster inclusivity in all aspects of Canadian society.
- With a focus on information for Autistic people and caregivers, provide and disseminate information regarding autism through the Government of Canada’s webpage and communications, including on World Autism Awareness Day and for Autism Awareness Month in Canada.
- Engage the Minister of Diversity, Inclusion, and Persons with Disabilities on the Disability Inclusion Action Plan to address priorities for Autistic people in Canada.
- Facilitate the advancement of education and training programs to combat negative stereotypes and increase public awareness, understanding and acceptance of autism.
- Support the launch of a national autism knowledge, understanding and acceptance campaign, accounting for intersectionality and fostering inclusivity.
- Leverage existing actions in the Disability Inclusion Action Plan to help address autism priorities in Canada, including:
 - Improving accessibility and inclusion of persons with disabilities in communities and workplaces through renovation, construction, and retrofit projects under the Enabling Accessibility Fund (EAF) which aims to make spaces more accessible.
 - Bringing federal partners, Indigenous partners, regulated entities, the private sector, academia, the disability community and provincial/territorial partners together at events that promote inclusion such as the Canadian Congress on Disability Inclusion.
- Fund Indigenous Organizations as they engage Autistic people in Canada on the Strategy.
- Involve persons with autism, or their advocates in implementing, monitoring and updating the Strategy.

Priority Area 5

Tools and Resources

Vision: “A Canada where accessible and evidence-informed tools and resources are available to support Autistic people, their families, advocates and caregivers, across the life-course.”

- Provide access to updated information on the Government of Canada's webpage with sustained, accessible and culturally relevant resources, with a focus on providing information for Autistic people and caregivers.
- Work with provinces and territories to strengthen the provision of evidence-based information on autism, including effective treatments, and ineffective or harmful treatments, to ensure consistency of information across Canada.
- Support online platforms with evidence-based information regarding autism to support Autistic people, their families, and caregivers.
- Support regular updates to clinical practice guidelines to ensure that the most recent research evidence to improve care for Autistic people is being integrated.
- Establish a National Autism Network that will have a mandate to put in place advisory committees with representation of Autistic people, their advocates, families, and caregivers to provide experience and expertise on the additional resources and tools needed, from a social determinants of health perspective, to provide better support for Autistic people in Canada, their families, and caregivers.
- Develop new tools and resources in gap areas.
- Translate existing tools and resources to additional languages and encourage other organisations to ensure that the tools and resources they develop are accessible to different disability needs (i.e. for hearing, visually, cognitively impaired persons).
- Mobilize research evidence with key groups.
- Improve access to navigation services for current, evidence-based information and resources.
- Work with Provinces and Territories to identify opportunities to provide guidance for service professionals who work closely with Autistic people (for example health professionals, first responders, etc.).
- Support the integration of online resources.
- Ensure sustained, accessible and culturally relevant resources, available online and elsewhere, on best available evidence based information to support autistic persons, their families and caregivers, including information supports and services, through platforms such as AIDE Canada.



Autism
Alliance of Canada

Alliance canadienne de
l'autisme

Learn more about the Alliance

www.autismalliance.ca

Become a member

www.autismalliance.ca/membership

E-mail us

info@autismalliance.ca

Follow us on LinkedIn, Twitter, and Facebook

@AllianceAutism