

National Autism Network

Réseau national de l'autisme

Autism Alliance of Canada

Annual General Meeting

April 24, 2025

Financial Contribution from the Public Health Agency of Canada.
Contribution financière de l'Agence de la santé publique du Canada.

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Autism
Alliance of Canada

Alliance canadienne de
l'autisme



Sinneave
FAMILY FOUNDATION

National Autism Network

Governance Structure

Maddy Dever – Board Chair

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Sinneave
FAMILY FOUNDATION

Organizational Structure

- Incorporated under Canada's Not-for-Profit Corporations Act
- Entirely remote / virtual organization
- Funding for staff complement of 9 Full-time Equivalents (FTE)
 - Chief Executive Officer
 - Operations Manager and Bookkeeper
 - Communications Coordinator
 - Network Planner
 - Engagement Manager
 - 3 x FTE Engagement Associates

Will adjust to ensure the needs of the organization are met

Network's Corporate Membership

2 Classes:

- Voting: Made up **entirely** of lived and living experience
 - **A – Autistic individuals (3 votes)**
(first-person experience)
 - **B – Family Members (1 vote)**
(second-person experience)
- Non-Voting: Made up of all other stakeholders

Board of Directors (after October AGM)

12 – 15 individuals elected by the Network's members at AGM

Composition:

- **Autistic individuals**
 - minimum of 51% (**7 or 8**)
- **Family Members**
 - minimum of 30% (**4 or 5**)
- **Francophone**
 - minimum of 10% (**2**)
 - +30% French proficiency/bilingual
- Intersectionality, Diversity & Inclusion:
 - **Indigenous**
 - minimum of 10% (**2**)
 - **Black / People of Colour**
 - minimum of 20% (**3**)
 - **2SLGBTQIA+**
 - minimum of 15% (**2**)
 - **Women**
 - minimum of 50% (**6-8**)
- **Regional Representation** – a minimum of **1 director** per region (Pacific, Prairie, Central, Atlantic, Northern)
- **Board members may represent more than 1 intersection**



National Autism Network

- A Crucial Shift is Our Opportunity
- A Co-Design Process
- An Ever-Living Strategy

Current state - Young tree

- Shallow Roots – limited funds
- Sparse Branches – coalition of the willing
- Fragile Growth
- Strong Engagement
- Potential—but impact is limited by capacity



Aspirational State: A Thriving, Deeply- Rooted Network

- Deep Roots – sustained funding
- Strong Trunk – coordinated infrastructure
- Widespread Branches – pan-Canadian, representative
- Thriving Canopy = tangible impact for Autistic people



National Autism Network



ADVISE

The National Autism Secretariat on Implementing Canada's Autism Strategy.



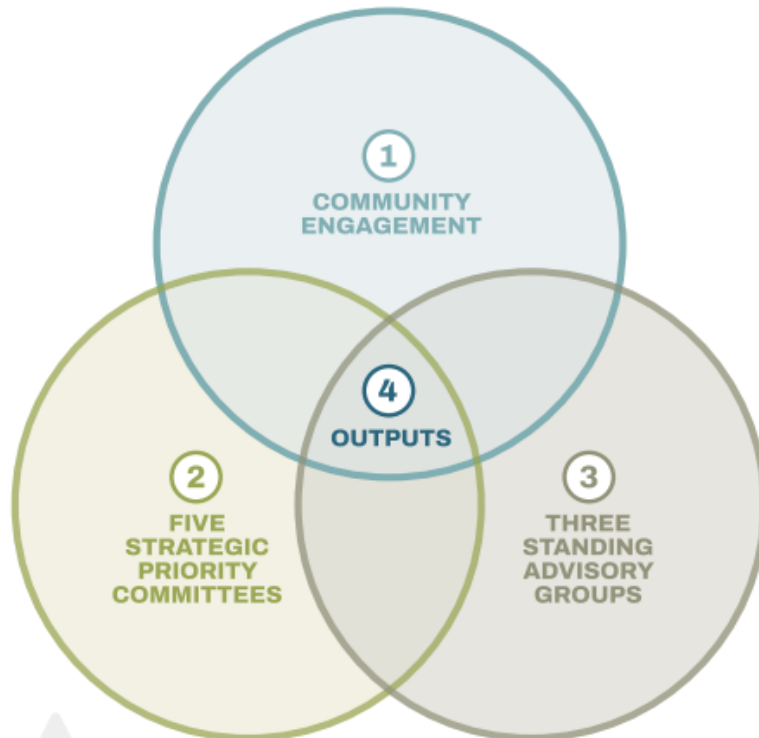
ENSURE

That ongoing community feedback and engagement are central to recommended actions.



SUPPORT

Collaboration between community engagement, standing advisory groups, and strategic priority committees to inform the development of practical and actionable implementation plans and recommendations for each of the five priority areas – plans that could have a tangible, on-the-ground impact.



CANADA'S AUTISM STRATEGY PRIORITY AREAS

1. Screening, Diagnosis, and Services
2. Economic Inclusion
3. Data Collection, Public Health Surveillance, and Research

4. Public Awareness, Understanding, and Acceptance
5. Tools and Resources

1

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

INCLUDES: In-Person; Virtual; Survey; etc. Engagement with Autism Community

PURPOSE: Strive to Ensure that Diverse Perspectives Across the Country are Included and that Information Gathered will Inform Priority Setting and Recommended Actions are Felt at the Community Level

SUPPORTED BY: The National Autism Network Regional Engagement Associates

2

FIVE STRATEGIC PRIORITY COMMITTEES

INCLUDES: 7-12 Systems and Policy Experts and Individuals with Relevant Living Experience in Implementing Initiatives that Align with Each Priority

PURPOSE: Identify Key Mechanisms for Priority Implementation and Make Recommendations that Support the Development of Government's Implementation Action Plans for Each Priority Area

SUPPORTED BY: Autism Alliance of Canada's National Centre for Autism Collaboration (NCAC)

3

THREE STANDING ADVISORY GROUPS

INCLUDES: First Person/Autistic Advisory, Family Advisory, and Indigenous Advisory each having 7-12 Participants with a Diverse Range of Lived and Living Experience

PURPOSE: Assess Network Activities/Direction, Integrate Lived Experience Insights, Perspectives into each Priority and Decision-Making Processes

SUPPORTED BY: The National Autism Network Network Engagement Manager

4

OUTPUTS

Action Plans for Each Strategic Priority to Influence Federal, Provincial & Territorial Governments, and Philanthropic Organizations

SCAN TO LEARN MORE
about the National Autism Network >



PURPOSE

National Autism Network Réseau national de l'autisme



ADVISE

The National Autism Secretariat on Implementing Canada's Autism Strategy.



ENSURE

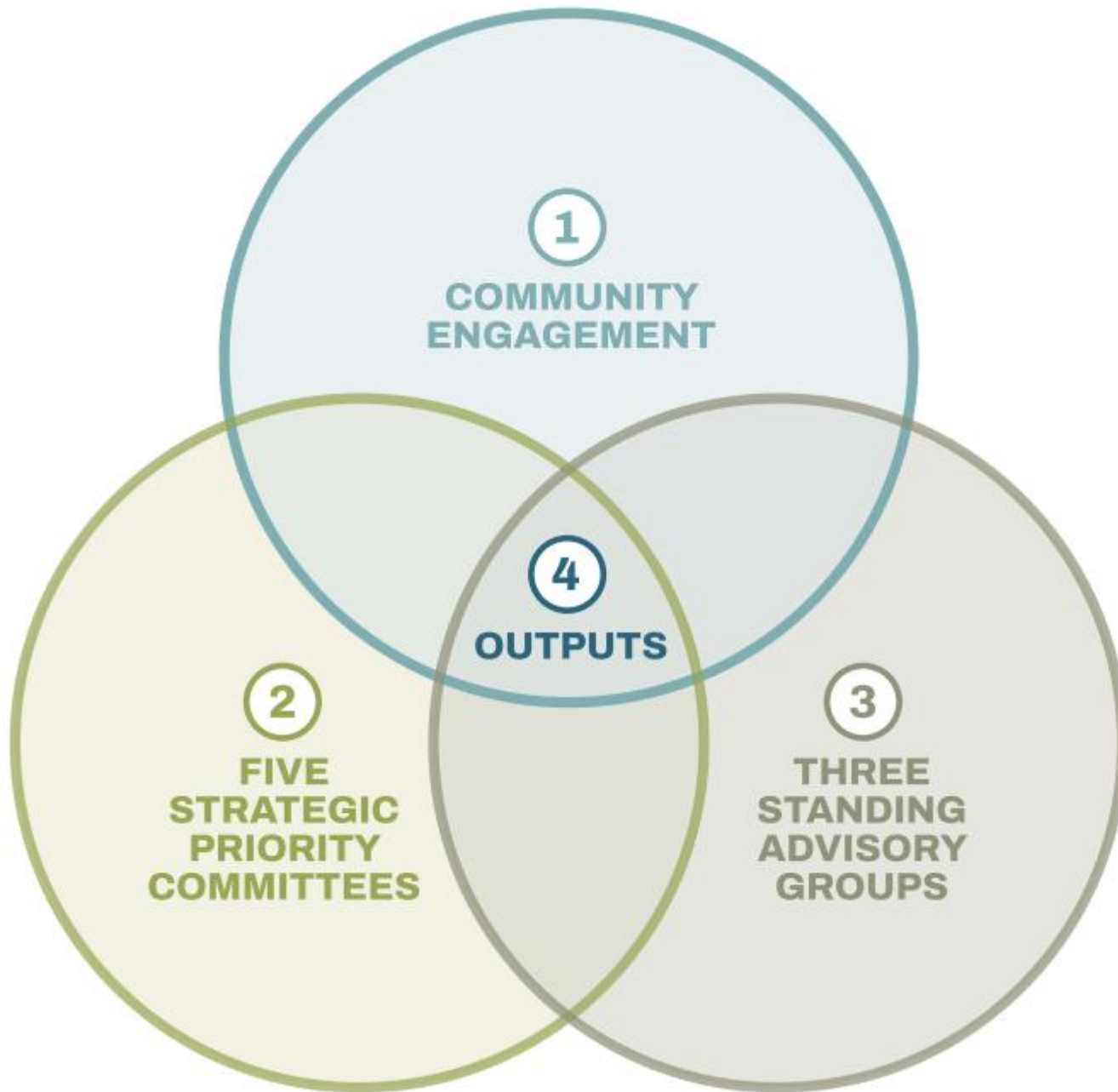
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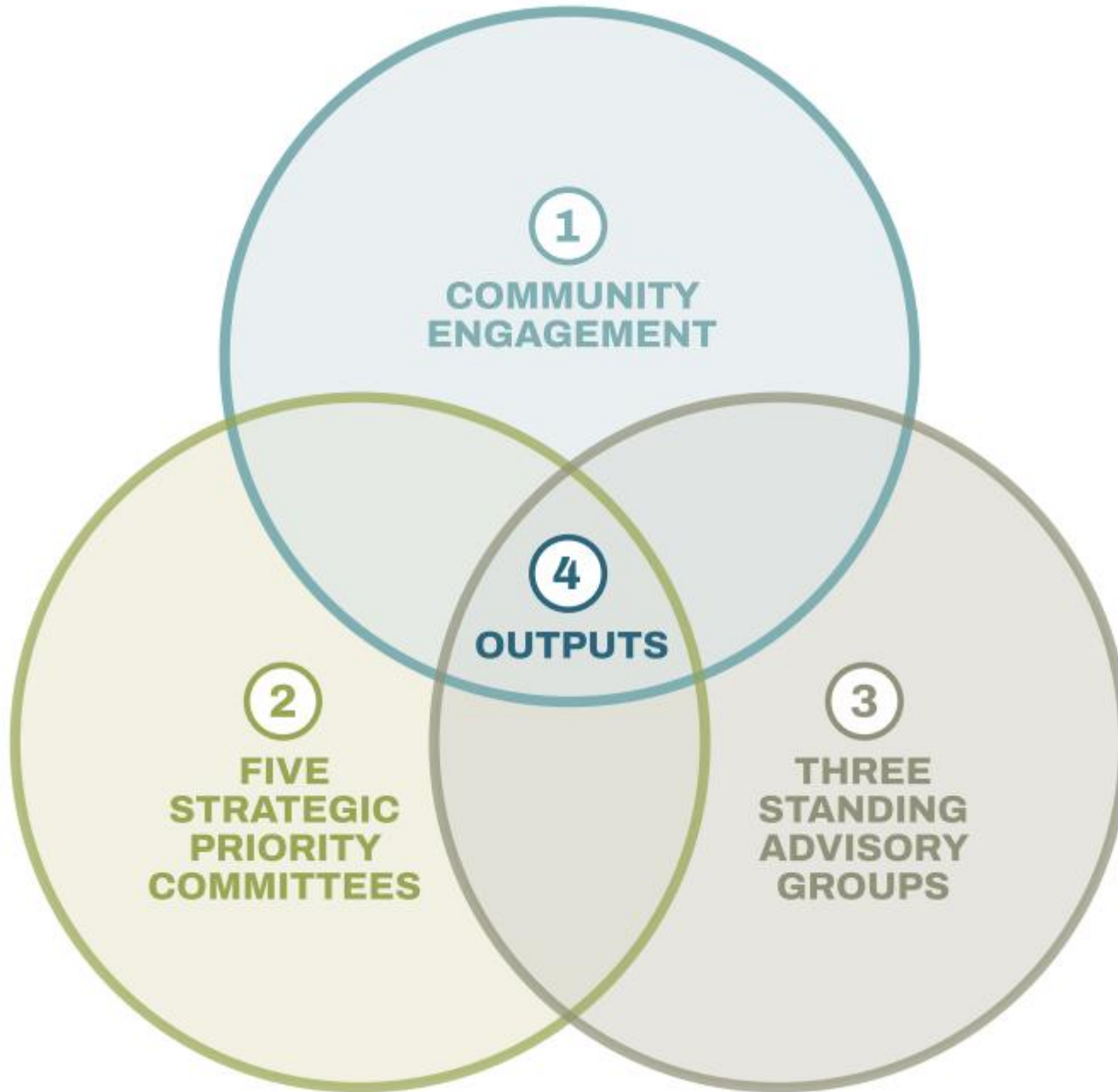
Engagement Circle



OUTPUTS

Action Plans for
Each Strategic
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Engagement Circle

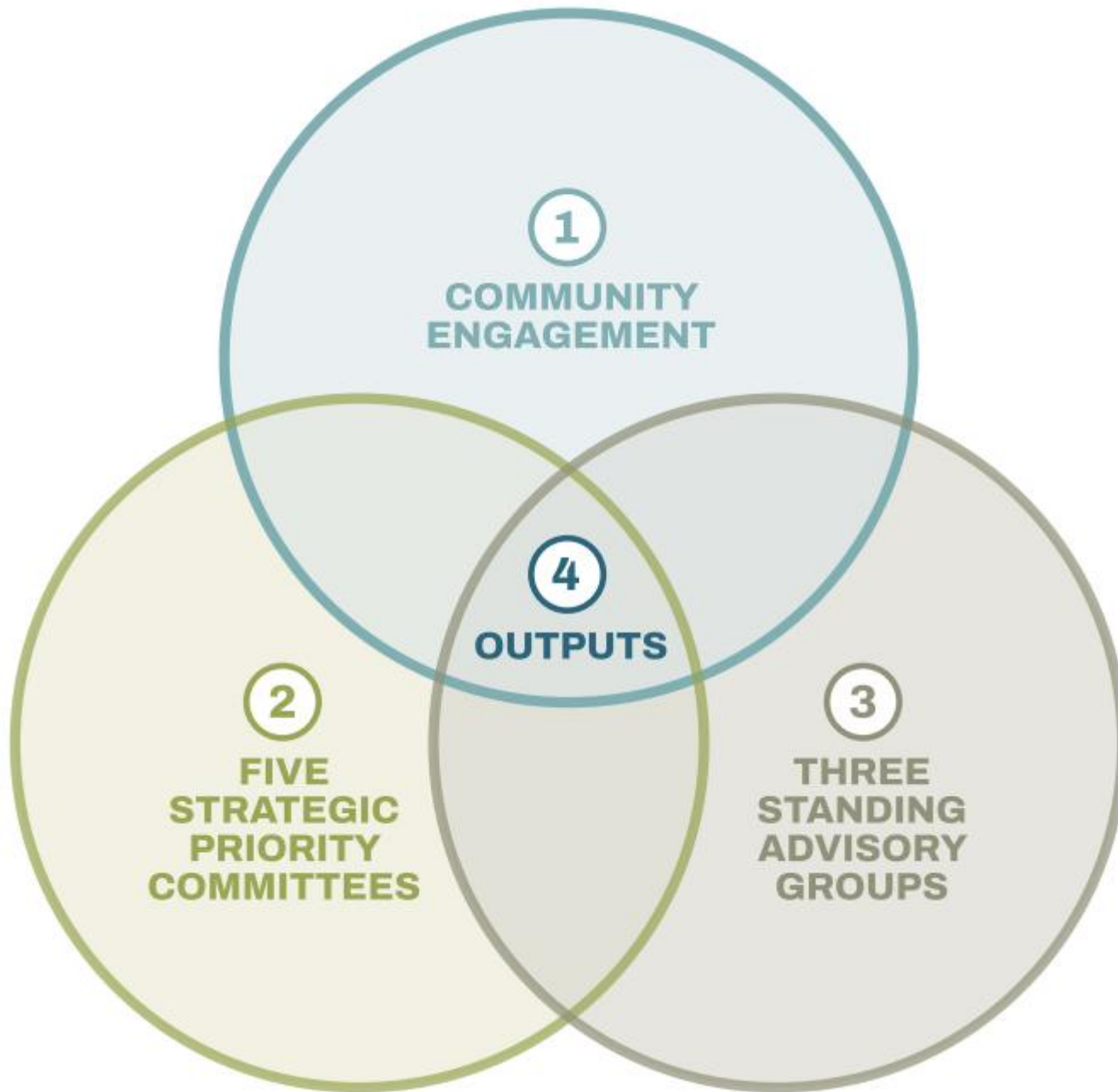


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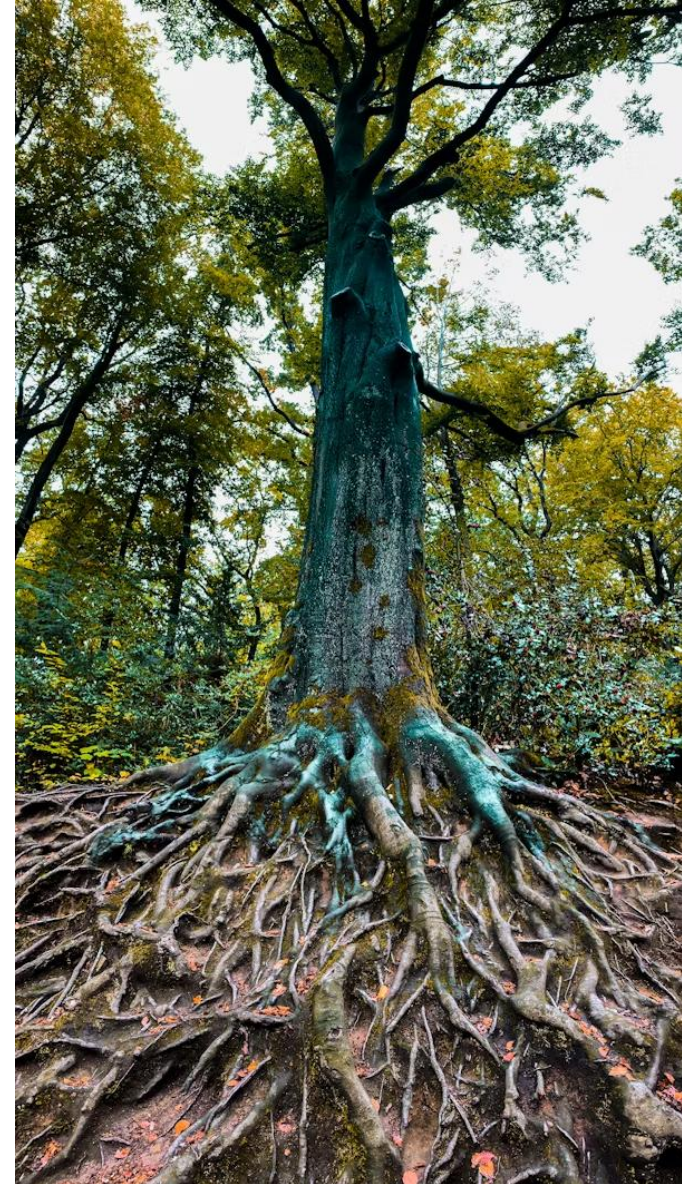


Strategic Priority Committees

Identify Key Mechanisms for Priority Implementation and Make Recommendations that Support the Development of Government's Implementation Action Plans for Each Priority Area

Strategic Priority Committees

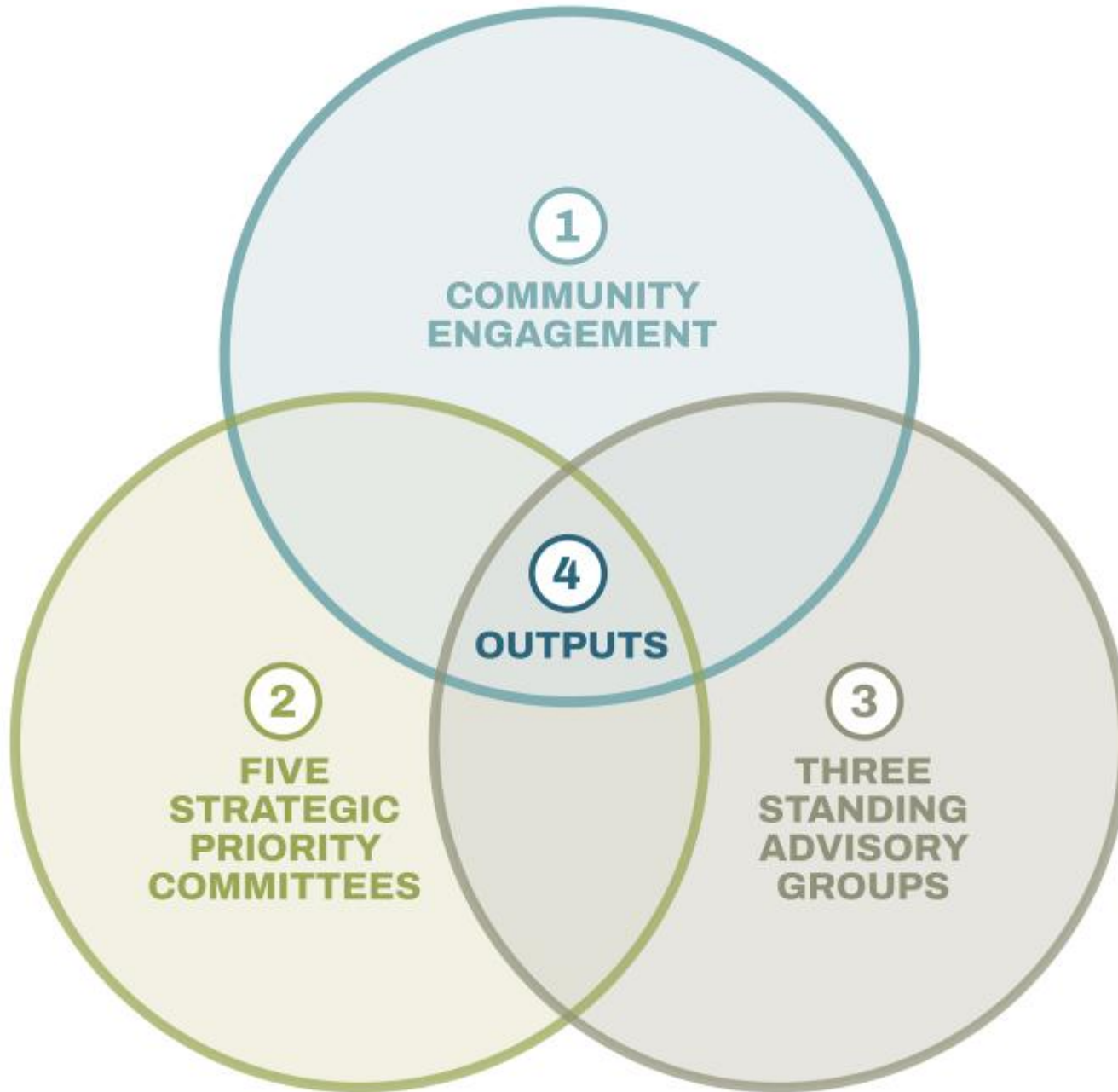
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Strategic Priority Committees

- Purpose:
 - **Draw on the expertise** of systems and policy experts, researchers, clinicians, service providers, Autistic individuals and family members with expertise in each of the five priority areas.
 - Provide **a forum and collaborative environment** to share knowledge, best practices, and innovative solutions.
 - **Identify sustainable and effective actions**, make policy recommendations, and foster inter – and cross-sector collaborations that lead to meaningful and positive outcomes for the Autism community.

Engagement Circle



Standing Advisory Groups

1. First Person/Autistic Advisory
2. Family Advisory
3. Indigenous Advisory

Assess Network
Activities/Direction, Integrate
Lived Experience Insights,
Perspectives
into each Priority and All
Decision-Making Processes

Standing Advisory Committees

- Autistic first-person experience
- Second-person experience (family member: parent/guardian, grandparent, sibling, spouse, other non-paid supporter)
- Indigenous (First Nations, Métis and Inuit)



Standing Advisory Committees

- Purpose:
 - **Bring the insights and perspectives** of individuals who have direct, personal experience with specific issues to the Networks strategic planning, initiatives, and decision-making processes
 - Ensure that policies, services, and initiatives are more empathetic, effective, and **grounded in real-world understanding**
 - Strengthen the Network's **connections with the Autistic community** and underscore its commitment to inclusive, community-centered work
 - Stay informed about community issues and present a range of perspectives that **reflect the diversity of community perspectives**

Infrastructure Support

- **Community Engagement** supported by The National Autism Network Regional Engagement Associates
- **Strategic Priority Committees** supported by Autism Alliance of Canada's National Centre for Autism Collaboration (NCAC) and the National Autism Network Engagement Manager
- **Standing Advisory Committees** supported by the National Autism Network Engagement Manager

Committee and Group Details

- A minimum of 10 to a maximum of 15 members from across the country
- Serve only one-year terms, with a maximum of three years
- Group and Committee members with first- or second-person experience or Indigenous individuals are eligible for hourly compensation
- Meet virtually every two months (?)
- Selection Process – TBD



Co-creating a stronger future together: Growing into our aspired state

We need shared action, by bringing:

- Investment to move from planning to action
- Expertise from lived and living experience and system leaders
- Collaboration across communities and systems
- Courage to lead together

Questions

Learn more about the
NATIONAL AUTISM
NETWORK

