



NATIONAL AUTISM NETWORK

NOMINATION COMMITTEE PROCESSES OUTLINE

How the Board Election Process Works

Who Helps with the Election?

A group called the Nomination Committee helps review applications and organize the election.

The Nomination Committee will have at least 5 people:

- 2 Autistic volunteers who have experience with nonprofit boards (and are not running in the election)
- 1 family member volunteer (also with nonprofit board experience and not running)
- 1 person from the Sinneave Family Foundation
- 1 person from the Autism Alliance of Canada

What Are the Steps?

The Board election process has 4 main steps:

Phase 1: Applications (July–August)

- People who want to run for the Board fill out the Expression of Interest form.
- Applications are sent to the Nomination Committee without names (it is anonymous).
- Each application is identified by region (like Pacific or Atlantic) and by representation (like Autistic, family member, Indigenous, etc.).

Phase 2: Review and Shortlist (September)

- The committee reviews the applications and chooses a smaller selection of applicants to move forward.

- These applicants are added to a voting matrix (this is explained below).
- These applicants are contacted and asked to approve short bios about themselves to be shared with voters.

Phase 3: Voting (September–October 26)

- Voting instructions and bios are sent to all members.
- Members vote for their preferred applicants.
- Voting ends on October 26, 2025.
- The 15 applicants with the most votes are selected.
- The applicants are told the results.

Phase 4: Results Announced (October 29, 2025)

- Results are shared at the Annual General Meeting.
- Members officially approve the new Board.

Who Supports the Process?

The Network's Interim Corporate Secretary, helps support the process and timeline.

What Is the Voting Matrix?

The voting matrix helps make sure the Board includes people from all regions of Canada and different communities.

Each applicant is sorted into a category:

By Region:

- Pacific
- Prairie
- Central
- Atlantic
- Northern

In each region, up to:

- 3 Autistic people (called 1st-person experience)

- 3 family members (called 2nd-person experience) can be shortlisted

The applicant with the most votes in each region is selected.

By Representation:

There is also a special category to make sure there is:

- Francophone representation
- Indigenous representation
- People of Colour
- 2SLGBTQIA+ representation

This category can include up to 10 candidates (some may also be listed in regions).

Applicants are selected by using a ranked ballot, meaning voters put them in order of preference.

Applicants who are selected from regional categories are removed before choosing the top 5 from this group.

Summary

- The election is fair, inclusive, and thoughtful.
- The goal is to build a Board that represents the diversity of the autism community across Canada.
- You can be part of this process by becoming a member and voting.

Questions?

Email info@nan-rna.ca – we're here to help!