



National Autism Network Standing Advisory Council Expression of Interest Overview

About the Network

The National Autism Network is a new, independent community-led group supported by the Government of Canada.

The Network was created to make sure that Autistic people and their families help shape community priorities and guide actions to bring Canada's Autism Strategy to life.

People involved in the Network include:

- Autistic people
- Family members
- Experts
- Community partners from across the country

To read more about Canada's Autism Strategy, visit:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/canada-autism-strategy.html>

What Is the Mission?

The Network's mission is to make sure that Autistic people and their families guide the decisions that shape autism policy in Canada.

What Is the Vision?

A Canada where the real-life experiences of Autistic people and their families shape:

- Policies
- Services
- Communities

So that Autistic people have:

- Inclusion
- Equity
- Opportunities
At every stage of life

What Is a Standing Advisory Council?

Standing Advisory Councils are small groups of people with lived or living experience. They give advice to help guide the Network's work.

Their input helps make sure Canada's Autism Strategy is:

- Inclusive
- Fair
- Based on real experience

There are three Standing Advisory Councils:

1. Autistic Advisory Council – for Autistic people
2. Family Advisory Council – for family members or non-paid supporters of Autistic people
3. Indigenous Advisory Council – for First Nations, Inuit, Métis, or Urban Indigenous people

What Do the Councils Do?

The three Councils help ensure that lived and living experience shapes how Canada's Autism Strategy is put into action.

They follow values like:

- Nothing About Us Without Us – Autistic people and families are part of all decisions
- Diversity – Everyone's identity and experience is respected
- Distinctions-Based Approaches – Indigenous voices are recognized and honoured

The councils will:

- Identify gaps in the system
- Speak up for groups who are often left out

- Make sure lived and living experience guides government decisions

Who Is on the Councils?

Each council will include people with a wide range of experiences.

Autistic Advisory Council

Members may differ in:

- Region (including rural or remote areas)
- Life stage (children, teens, adults, seniors)
- The supports they need
- Communication styles
- Education and income background
- Lived and living experience

Family Advisory Council

Members may differ in:

- Relationship to the Autistic person (e.g., parent, sibling, spouse)
- Region (including rural or remote areas)
- Age or stage of life of the Autistic person
- Support needs of the Autistic family member
- Education and income background
- Lived experience

Indigenous Advisory Council

Members may differ in:

- First- or second-person experience
- Indigenous identity (First Nations, Inuit, Métis, Urban Indigenous)
- Region (including on- and off-reserve, northern or remote communities)
- Life stage
- Education and income background

- Lived experience

This Council will also:

- Use Indigenous-led approaches
- Share Indigenous knowledge and priorities
- Speak to challenges in northern, remote, and culturally distinct communities

Time Commitment and Support

- Each Council will meet about 6 times per year.
- Total time commitment is about 42 hours per year.
- Time includes meeting prep, the meetings, and follow-up.

You will receive financial compensation for your time.

Once the full standing advisory council is selected, it will also be supported by a Committee and Council Engagement Coordinator to help with:

- Scheduling
- Materials
- Follow-up

Who Can Apply?

You can apply if:

- You identify as Autistic (for the Autistic Advisory Council)
- You are a family member or unpaid supporter of an Autistic person (for the Family Advisory Council)
- You are First Nations, Inuit, Métis, or Urban Indigenous (for the Indigenous Advisory Council)

You must be a member of the Network to apply. Membership is free.

The membership and application form are combined into one.

You will be asked about:

- Your background
- Your experiences

You can ask a support person to help you with the form.

How to Apply

To apply online, go to:

<https://redcap.link/kfxofq9k>

Deadline to apply: September 15, 2025

Other Ways to Apply

You do not need to apply online if it's not a good fit for you.

You can also:

- Schedule a phone or video interview
- Email a Word or PDF version of the form
- Mail in a paper copy
- Send a video, audio, PowerPoint, or other creative format
- Suggest another way that works for you

To ask for another method, email:

info@nan-rna.ca

Questions?

If you have questions or want more information, email:

info@nan-rna.ca

We are happy to help.