



## **National Autism Network Strategic Priority Committee Expression of Interest Overview**

### **About the National Autism Network**

The National Autism Network (the Network) is a new, independent, community-led initiative supported by funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada. It was created to ensure that Autistic people and their families play a central role in shaping community priorities and driving action to bring Canada's Autism Strategy to life.

The Network brings together Autistic people, families, subject matter experts, and interest-holders from across the country to help shape a future where Autistic people can truly thrive in Canada.

### **Network Mission**

Driven by Autistic people and their families, the National Autism Network informs Canada's Autism Strategy and helps shape a future where Autistic people thrive.

### **Network Vision**

A Canada where the lived and living experiences of Autistic people and their families shape policies, systems, and communities to ensure full inclusion, equity, and opportunity at every stage of life.

Information about Canada's National Autism Strategy is available at:

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

### **What Is a Strategic Priority Committee?**

Strategic Priority Committees are responsible for suggesting ways to help turn the goals in Canada's Autism Strategy into real, practical solutions that can be used across the country.

The primary goal of these committees is to provide a collaborative environment to share knowledge, best practices, and innovative solutions. These committees will identify effective and long-term actions, make policy recommendations, and support inter – and

cross-sector partnerships that lead to real and lasting improvements for Autistic people and their communities across the lifespan.

The National Autism Network has five Strategic Priority Committees, each focused on a key area across the lifespan:

1. Screening, Diagnosis and Services;
2. Economic Inclusion;
3. Data Collection, Public Health Surveillance and Research;
4. Public Awareness, Understanding and Acceptance; and
5. Tools and Resources.

Members of these committees must bring relevant experience or subject matter expertise that contributes knowledge specific to one of the five priorities.

## **Overview**

The Strategic Priority Committees draw on the expertise of systems and policy experts, researchers, clinicians, service providers, Autistic individuals and family members with relevant professional expertise to support the development of a practical and actionable Implementation Plan for each of the five priority areas in Canada's autism strategy.

Each committee focuses on one area of the strategy and works to answer the question:

**"What will it take to make this happen across Canada in a fair, effective, and lasting way?"**

To do this, committees will:

- Look closely at each action item in their area;
- Identify what supports, partnerships, or resources are needed;
- Decide which actions are most urgent, most helpful, and most realistic;
- Recommend who should lead the work, when it should happen, and how to measure success;
- Point out any risks, gaps, or chances to work together across areas; and
- Suggest improvements and new ideas where needed

This work combines planning, system design, and meaningful input from people with lived and living experience. It helps turn the strategy's big vision into real action.

## **Time Commitment and Support**

The estimated time commitment for each committee is approximately 42 hours a year, which includes up to 6 meetings per year for a total of 7 hours including preparation time, meeting time, and follow-up.

Once the new Network team is hired, the committees be supported by a dedicated Committee and Council Engagement Coordinator, who will assist with scheduling, background materials, and follow-up to help make participation on a council smooth and well-supported.

### **How to apply**

Anyone who has relevant experience or subject matter expertise that contributes knowledge specific to one of the five priorities is encouraged to apply.

To apply, you need to be a current member of the Network. The membership application is quick and easy, and the Expression of Interest (EOI) forms are combined with the membership application.

You will be asked questions about your background and experiences. You may ask a support person to help you complete the form. Please note, when applying you will also be asked to share some personal information that relates to the council you are applying for.

To start an online application, go to <https://redcap.link/kfxofq9k>

### **Expression of Interest Open to Applications Until September 15, 2025**

#### **Alternative Application Methods**

If you prefer not to complete the form online, you may apply in other ways. Please email [info@nan-rna.ca](mailto:info@nan-rna.ca) to let us know what works best for you. Options include:

- Scheduling an interview
- Emailing a completed Word or PDF version of the application
- Mailing a completed Word or PDF form
- Submitting your application through video, audio, PowerPoint, or another multi-media format.
- Suggest another format that will help you best share your information.

#### **How to Learn More / Questions**

To ask questions or learn more about serving on an Advisory Council, email: [info@nan-rna.ca](mailto:info@nan-rna.ca)