1.10449241x10^{9} seconds / secondes

18,408,206.8 minutes / minute

306,803.447 hours / heures

12,783.477 days / jours

1,826.211 weeks / semaines

420 months / mois

35 years / année

Autism Society Canada
Société canadienne de lautisme

Interacting for 1,826.211 weeks
1 8206,211 semaine d'interaction

Annual Report

2010-2011

President's Corner

For 35 years, the provincial and territorial member societies of Autism Society Canada have been actively partnering with their provincial and territorial government representatives to advocate for services and supports for individuals living with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Both the United States and the United Kingdom have legislation to support national strategies for autism. Today, Autism Society Canada calls the Government of Canada to action: Canada must have a Canadian Autism Strategy

Michael Lewis,
President
ASC Board of Director

Autism Society Canada

Founded in 1976, Autism Society Canada (ASC) is proud of the leadership role it has played for over 35 years in Canada's autism community. Our success is built on the partnerships that we created and maintain with our member societies. This positive relationship brings grassroots issues to a national platform, while at the same time informing local societies about important national issues that affect their communities.

Today, 35 years later ASC has grown to become the largest collective voice in the Canadian autism community. Together, let's hear the stories of dedicated Canadians who have helped shape the view we have of Canadians living with an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

It is because of each of these individual's courage that provincial and territorial autism societies came to be. These societies and their member groups provide direct support to people with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) and their families all across Canada.

In commemoration of Autism Society Canada's 35 years of experience in the autism community, you will find a number of stories throughout this annual report aimed at providing individuals on the spectrum and their families with a platform to share their stories. We sincerely hope that by reading these stories about autism, Canadians will understand that the time is now to build a Canadian Autism Strategy to support these individuals and their families.

Autism Society Canada's Vision

That people with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) achieve their individual potential and that they and their families have universal access to the resources they require.

Mission

To work with our many partners to address the national priorities facing the Autism community.

Tom became the Chair of the Advisory Committee to lend his voice to the national autism platform, and he is committed to being a positive role model for people living on the autism spectrum. In his role as Chair of the Advisory Committee, Tom keeps discussions on topic, encourages participation by all members, and represents and advocates for the group's opinions on a national platform. He is also the liaison between his committee and the Board of Directors for ASC. "My experience as Chair has helped me to become more confident when speaking with people about autism. It has also helped me communicate and interact more effectively with individuals both on and off the spectrum."

Goals

- To promote federal policies, programs, and legislation that respond to the needs of the Autism community;
- Promote the rights of families and individuals with ASDs to all treatments and services that work in the best interests of the individual with an ASD;
- To promote the rights of families and individuals to universal access to all treatments and services that work in the best interests of the individual with an ASD;
- To increase awareness and understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorders and acceptance and participation of individuals with ASDs in society;
- To promote intervention research that will provide individuals with ASDs and their families with practical support.

ASC and its website are often the first point of contact for parents and other family members who are concerned about their loved ones or for people who themselves have received a recent diagnosis. As the only bilingual national organization in the autism community, we are committed to the gathering and dissemination of information on ASDs across the lifespan of the individual.

As a child, Leland suffered from convulsions and speech delay, and at the age of three he was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome. Despite the many obstacles he has faced over the years, Leland speaks with great optimism and looks forward to sharing his experiences with others. "I live an independent life and I enjoy sharing my experiences. However, it's important to understand that what works for me may not work for someone else. Everyone has their own unique way of dealing with their Autism." Leland is a graduate of the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST) accounting program, and currently works as an accountant at MNP in Saskatoon.

Current List of Board Members

Michael Lewis - (British Columbia) President

Christine Dade - Past President (Director at large)

Vic Douse - (Prince Edward Island) 1st Vice-President

Vicki Harvey – 2nd Vice-President

Nancy Adams – Treasurer (Director at large)

Elizabeth Oliver -Secretary (Director at large)

Directors at Large

Lynn Elkin (North West Territories)

Dr. Jeanette Holden (Director at large)

Tom Jackman (Director at large)

David Jardine (Alberta)

Leah Davy Ryckman (Yukon)

Leah Mitchlin - (Ontario)

Michelle Samagalski (Manitoba)

Nicole O.Brien (Newfoundland & Labrador)

Arden Fiala (Saskatchewan)

Vicki Harvey (Nova Scotia)

Our Team

Kathleen A. Provost, CFRE, Executive Director
Lynn Andrews, Website Development and Information Services Coordinator
Abhinava Kumar, Web Support

For 35 years, the provincial and territorial member societies of Autism Society Canada have been actively partnering with their provincial and territorial government representatives to advocate for services and supports for individuals living with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

There are vast inequalities in services and supports across all age groups and across the country. Today, Autism Society Canada calls upon all Canadians to work with the provinces to break down the silos and duplication that exist across the country. Together, we can ensure that the same services and access to best-practice treatments are available to all Canadians living with an autism spectrum disorder.

History

ASC was… Federally incorporated as a non-profit corporation in 1976 with Letters Patent and registered as a Charitable Organization with Canada Revenue Agency.

- ASC was formed by members of several provincial autism societies
- ASC became a federation of Canada-wide provincial and territorial autism societies or their equivalent.
- ASC was founded in recognition of the need for unifying the efforts of autism support organizations across the country

Early years…

In the seventies…

- Met with families and professionals across the country
- Assisted in developing autism societies in the provinces

In the eighties…

- Promoted a national conference
- Began an inventory of all autism services in the country.

In the nineties…

- Began advocacy with the federal government for increased ASD research, better national data collection, improved collaboration with organizations involved in autism, and national leadership to ensure national treatment and supports for people with (ASD) of all ages.
- ASC participated in inaugural annual meeting of the Canadian Autism Intervention Research Network (CAIRN)

Message from the Executive Director

Kathleen A. Provost CFRE

Autism Society Canada supports individuals and their families living with an Autism Spectrum Disorder by advocating on a national platform on their behalf. After 35 years of experience working with the Canadian autism community, ASC knows that the time is now to develop the foundation of a Canadian Autism Strategy, so individuals across Canada can access high quality services for their Autism related needs.

Our Sincere gratitude to the entire ASC team - volunteers and staff

COMMITTEE WORK

The impact ASC has had in the Canadian Autism Community was made possible because of the sustained volunteer efforts of every member of ASC's Standing Committees.

ASC's Committees drafted their annual plan so as to offer support to these areas of focus.

These committees were lead by:

Finance and Audit Committee –Nancy Adams (Chair & Treasurer)
Communication, Education and Public Awareness Committee – Brian Rimpilainen (Chair)
35th Anniversary Committee – Vicki Harvey (Chair)
Governance and Membership Committee – Lynn Verklan (Chair)
Operations and Contracts Committee – Elizabeth Oliver and Vicki Harvey (Co-Chairs)
Advisory Committee of Adults on the Spectrum –Kristian Hooker (Chair)

Autism Society Canada is a national voice for autism that supports provincial/territorial member societies, and gathers information from across Canada to help reduce the impact of autism spectrum disorders on individuals and their families. Our mandate is to raise public awareness, provide information and referrals, as well as provide direct support to our regional societies.

The time is now for a Canadian Autism Strategy. Canadians must be involved in the dialogue that reminds all governments to work together to establish a Canadian Autism Strategy so that the same services are available to all individuals living with an ASD throughout their lifespan.

At the turn of the century…2000

- ASC hosts first Canadian Autism Research Workshop with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the (U.S.) National Alliance for Autism Research - Bringing together autism researchers, government representatives, research funding agencies and autism societies to develop a Canadian Autism Research Agenda

- ASC becomes active with the Canadian Alliance for Mental Illness and Mental Health, participates in the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addictions (INMHA) inaugural annual NGO round table toward developing collaborative research and communication with other neuroscience related organizations

- ASC publishes its White Paper based on work of the Canadian Autism Research Workshop in early 2000 outlining the Canadian Autism Research Agenda and a Canadian Autism Strategy.

Continuing its excellent work…

- June 9th, 2004: ASC intervened in the Auton case before the Supreme Court of Canada – advocating for the right of individuals (with ASD) to have scientifically validated treatment provided by their provincial government.

- ASC presented at The Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology Hearings on Autism Treatment, November and December 2006. Two members of ASC's Advisory Committee of Adults with ASD also presented before the Committee.

- Friends and colleagues across the country joined together with ASC to raise awareness about Autism Spectrum Disorders during Canadian Autism Awareness Month in October 2006. Events were held across the country.

- As a founding member of the Canadian ASD Alliance, ASC heads the steering Committee.

ASC as a Canadian Leader…

- Autism Society Canada continues to play a key role in the Canadian ASD Alliance with a presence on the parliament Hill to celebrate World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) on April 1st 2009 and every year thereafter.

- As a membership of the Leadership Committee for CASDA (Canadian ASD Alliance) ASC takes part in outreaches to CASDA members, designing the CASDA website, as well as participating in essential discussions with CRA (Canada Revenue Agency), CIHR (Canadian Health Institute of Canada) & PHAC and Health Canada.

- ASC facilitated the first Canadian Research Meeting between Canadian Researchers and Adults living with an ASD. All Committee members were consulted by York University regarding the integration and support of students living with Asperger. The Committee members were also ask as guest speakers at the University of British Columbia.

- ASC participates at the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology regarding BillS-210 – World Autism Day in Canada. In 2010, Autism Society Canada presented a brief to the House of Commons' Subcommittee on *Neurological Diseases.*

- ASC was present at the National Round Table coordinated by the United Nation's convention on the Rights of persons with Disabilities. The society is an active member of the organizing committee and all ASC societies along with the 8 Advisory Committee members participated in CAIRN's (Canadian Autism Intervention Research Network) Symposium on Research.

- In the last 2 years, ASC has been working with PHAC's *Surveillance pilot project* and we have been consulted by the members of the National Autism Symposium and the Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health (CAMIMH)

- In 2011, ASC launched its National Virtual Directory (*Autism Junction*) for the Canadian public. A first in Canada.

Financial Collaborations

Autism Society Canada maintains its activities with the lowest possible operating budget in order to ensure that all its resources can be allocated to help support those who most need them.

We are grateful to many dedicated individuals, corporations and foundations who have made financial commitments to ASC during the past year.

Families and Individuals who supported Autism Society Canada in 2010-2011 include

Adams, John
Aldred, Janice
Allan, Olga
Allan, Robert J.
Allen, Paul
Amezcua, Bruno
Antonas, Tony and Effie
Archer, Peter and Connie
Armstrong, Karen
Arrogante, Katrina and Disnadice, Brian
Baltman, Deena
Barker, Brendon
Barker, Troy
Barnes, Thomas and Heather
Bartok, Heather
Batt, Lucy
Beauchemin, Amelie
Bechard, Vern and Marylou
Belo, Brenda
Beshai, Michael
Bianchini, Mary
Blais, Denise
Blanchette, Margaret
Boon, William and Marjorie
Breau, Marguerite M
Breslaw, Howard
Bunch, Megan
Bunte, Norbert
Bureau, Nancy
Burt, William D
Caicco, Anita M
Caicco, John and Yolanda
Caicco, Robert P
Caicco, Shirley
Carnevale, Geoff
Carter, Doug
Castonguay, René and Linda
Chavez, Elizabeth
Collin, David
Corte, Mario and Geraldine
Cowper-Smith, Mary
Crocker, James
Crocker, Vicki
Crossley, Carol
Currie, Patricia
Currie, Shauna
Cutler, Marty and Minden, Marilyn
Damon, Donna
Damore, P
Dath, D
Day, Kim
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Ehrlich, Alan
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Evangelista, Maurizzio
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Farrell, Janet C
Flett, George
Fost, Shelley L
Fox, Arlene
Fox, Laurie Kathleen
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Fraser, Robina
Gardiner, Anthea
Geekie, Kathie
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Goldman, Evelyn
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Healy, Fatima
Hebert, Donat and Pauline
Hedin, Denise
Hendin, Kyle
Hilton, Mark W.
Holden, Jeanette
Howson, Mary
Humphrey, Barry and Norma
Illick, Dawson
Illick, Peter
Jamieson, Glenn and Rose-Marie
Jan, Chien and Helen
Kasparian, Chris
Kaufman, Karl and Judy
Kavanagh, Jeffrey
Keith, Marylou
Killam, Dave and Pauline
Kitzan, Mervin and Glenda
Krahn, Darryl and Lesley
Kurji, Naheed
Laganière, Julie
Lambin, Ivo and Patricia

Larivee, Gerald
Lausen, Lorne and Debra
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LeBlanc, Marc
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Lewis, Suzanne
Linde, Marie
Lindenbach, Dean and Danielle
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Little, Cheryl
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MacDonald, Kristy M.
MacDonald, Melissa
MacEachern, Errol
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MacKinnon, Al and Noreen
MacKinnon, Leslie P
Majury, J
Manley, Doreen Y
Marks, Elyssa
Marnicki, Lynda
Maurice, Marcel and Norma
McCawley, Peter and Judith
McDonald, Jamie
McDonald, Johanna
McDonald, Kathleen
McLellan, George Douglas
McLellan, Terry
McPherson, Paul
McSorley, Veronica
Menkism, Eric and Barbara
Michaud, Dominique
Miller, Anita
Mitchell, Christopher
Monteith, Ray
Moos, Tom and Shoshanah
Morantz, Toby
Mortimer, Colleen
Murray, Valerie A
Muscat, Alexander M
Naccarato, John and Georgina
Nelson, Cassie
Neville, Karen
Nicoletti, Sonja L
Nielsen, Norman and Theresa
Norris, Kristen
Norton, Blaine and Irene
Norton, Michael and Dianne
Norville, Darlene
O'Born, Raili
Ochtabienski, Burnice
Odorico, Lidia
Olson, Linda
Oxley, André
Paterson, Bill and Lorraine
Pedersen, Lisa
Pedersen, Susan
Penman, Cynthea
Pettigrew, Suzanne
Peyman, Jason
Pietrobon, Rita
Popovic, G
Popovich, Tatiana
Posner, Gary
Rawlings, Tim
Reevie, Rhea
Reid, Trevor
Reinholtz, Theresa
Reynolds, Persis
Richard, Stella
Richards, James
Ricketts, Nancy
Roach, Cindy
Robbins, Joann
Robertson, Douglas
Robertson, Jennifer
Rocca, Luigi
Rodney, Jennifer
Rosenberger, Howard
Rosenberger, Lillian
Rosenberger, Rhonda
Rosenzweig, Myer and Rose
Roth, Thomas and Pamela
Roy, Marie-Josee
Sanford, Pamela
Saul, Debi
Saul, Jeff
Saul, Kenneth and Barbara
Scarcello, Karen
Schapansky, Darci
Schwartz, Clive and Naomi
Searl, Stuart and Lillian
Sederis, David
Serret, Elisa
Sheppard, Mark and Patti
Shute, Lawrence and Debby
Singer, Mark
Slater, Catherine
Smith, Del H
Spencer, Brian
Spina, Ron and Jeanna
Stabile, Tania
Stark, Glenda
Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. Rae
Striukas, Bob and Louise
Sutherland, William
Taylor, Michelle
Taylor, Norman and Anne
Templeton, Viviane
Terry, Arli
Thomas, Jon and Sheri
Thomas, Robert and June
Thompson, Janice M
Thomson, Dorothy
Tilk, Nancy
Tremblay, Carole
Tremblay, Marie-Anne
Tufford, Phillip
Turcotte, June
Tylbor, Barbara
Tymm, Melinda
Tyrrell, Jeremy and Claire
Van Loon, Richard and Jean
Vanhaverbeke, Edmond
Varey, Lisa
Walsh, Katharina
Warren, Grant R
Wengle, Annette
Westerhaug, Shirley
Wever, Wendy
Whitehead, William
Wilbur, Jennifer
Willick, Joe and Alice
Wilson, Ken and Jan
Wilson, Nicholas
Woodward, Susan
Worrall, Patrizia
Zuke, Art

Donations are sometimes made for a special mention of someone who is dear to us. This year a donation was made to honour the following individuals

In honour of…

en hommage à William Petit
in honour of a beautiful wife, mother and teacher to us all
in honour of Anderson
in honour of Ann, Jim, and Brian
in honour of Arnold and Meredith MacEachern
in honour of Barbara Lebo
in honour of Benjamin McPherson
in honour of Berthe and Colin Morris
in honour of Bill and Heather Stewart
in honour of Bill Reid
in honour of Cassie Nelson
in honour of David LeBlanc
in honour of Debi Saul and her nephew Freddie
in honour of Doreen Levine
in honour of Dr. Allen & Karen Menkis
in honour of Dr. Paul McDonnell
in honour of Emily Garson grade 6 student at Bialik Hebrew Day School
in honour of Gregory Haley
in honour of Jordan McNabb
in honour of Kevin Krzyzanowski
in honour of Kim McArthur
in honour of Lauren and family
in honour of Lisa and Neil's wedding guest
in honour of Marilyn Poirier
in honour of Murray Kitner
In honour of Noah McDonald
In honour of Norbert Bunte
in honour of Parker Coombs
in honour of Rylan Formanski
in honour of Sarah Peyman
in honour of Steve and Maureen Gilbey
in honour of Susan Pedersen
in honour of the 2010 TELUS employee campaign
in honour of The Brown Family
in honour of Trey Wachs
in honour of Vince De Pasquale
in support of Casual Friday's at St.Paul Catholic School

In memory of…

in memory of A. Victor Gordon
in memory of Alda Flett
in memory of Ann Abraham
in memory of Armand Lambert
in memory of Ashley McLellan
in memory of Blain Gaudet
in memory of Carol Linsky
in memory of Cathy Ann Chapin
in memory of Charles Thompson
in memory of Charlie Johnston
in memory of Corine Violet Shepherdson
in memory of David England
in memory of Donnie Ryan
in memory of Elizabeth McGuire
in memory of Gerry Lester
in memory of Gilles Campeau
in memory of Inez Jean Torrance
in memory of Irene Johnson
in memory of John McGunnigle
in memory of Kathryn Staniforth
in memory of Katie Balakowski
in memory of Louise Neath
in memory of Louise St-Onge
in memory of Louise Tyler
in memory of Lucie Gibson
in memory of Margaret Collin
in memory of Megan Stoodley
in memory of Mikel Pastic
in memory of Mrs. Vassaliki Lerikospergantis
in memory of Nancy Anderson
in memory of Noella Mangan
in memory of Pauline Connell Covo
in memory of Pearl Kovalench
in memory of Robert Rider
in memory of Robin White-Holmes
in memory of Rose-Aline Fouillard
in memory of Sean Castonguay
in memory of Spencer Brown
in memory of Susan
in memory of Terry Ryan
in memory of Yvette Arsenault

Corporations, Community Groups and Foundations who have supported Autism Society Canada:

2139770 Ontario Inc.
Adidas Canada Limited - Community Affairs
Alcatel-Lucent
Andy Stieva Trucking Ltd.
ATCO Travel
Autism Society of British Colombia
Azrieli Foundation
Bloom Lighting
BMO Employee Charitable Foundation
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United Way of Greater Toronto
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United Way of Halifax Region
United Way of Peel Region
United Way of Winnipeg
United Way Serving Saint John, Kings and Charlotte
Uponor Ltd.
Urquhart-MacDonald & Associates
Wilson Blanchard Management Inc.
Zeifmans LLP

We are also very grateful to a number of our donors who chose to remain anonymous – thank you all for your continued support.

Treasurer's Report

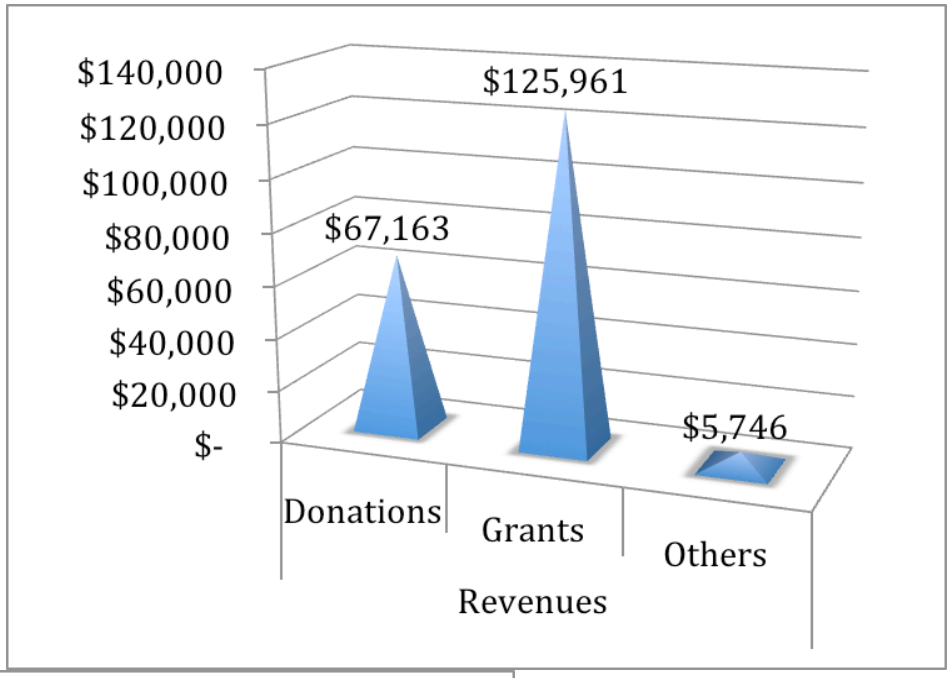
Financial Highlights for 2010-2011

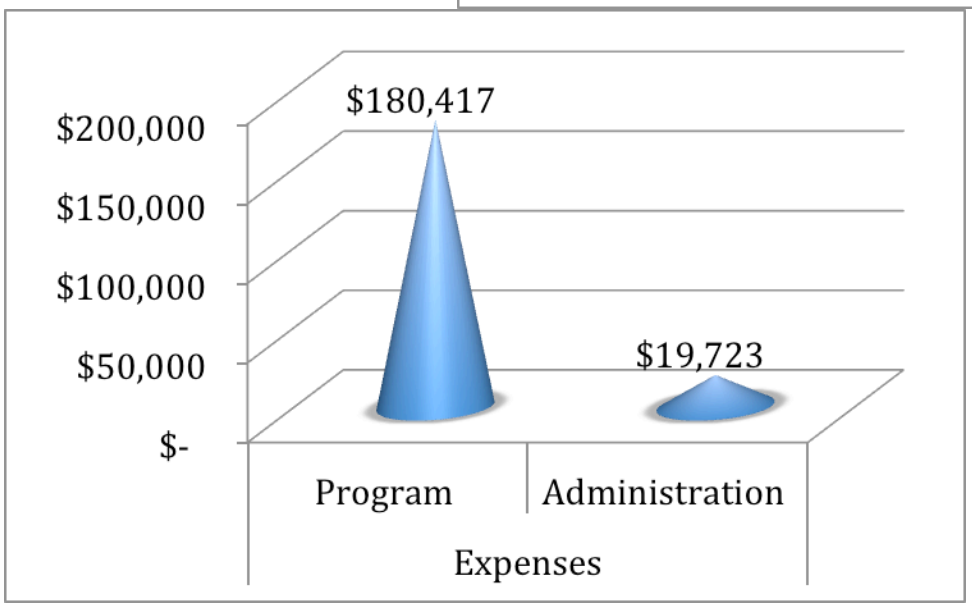
Donations

- Private donations decreased from $107,065 to $67,163.

Grants

- ASC received $65,000 core funding was received from the federal government.
- A grant of $47,000 from Human Resources & Skills Development Canada to develop "*Autism Junction*" a web directory of national services.





Nancy Adams, CA,
Treasurer & Chair of Finance & Audit Committee

ASC's Member Societies across Canada

Autism Society British Columbia - Michael Lewis, President

Autism Society Alberta Colleen Eggertson, President
Includes:
- **Autism Society Edmonton Area** - Deborah Barrett, President
- **Autism Calgary Association** - Lyndon Parkin, Executive Director
- **Autism Society Central Alberta** - Kim Fox President
- **Autism Society Lethbridge**
- **FEAT Alberta**

SASKFeat – Arden Fiala, President

Autism Society Manitoba Sandra McKay, President

Autism Ontario - Margaret Spoelstra, Executive Director
Deborah Kitchen, President

Fédération québécoise de l'autisme et des autres troubles envahissants du développement
Jo-ann Lauzon, Directrice générale, Ginette Côté, President

Autism Society New Brunswick

Autism Society Nova Scotia/Autism Provincial Council

Autism Society P.E.I. - Michelle Pineau, President

Autism Society Newfoundland and Labrador - Trish Williams, Executive Director

Autism Northwest Territories - Lynn Elkin, President

Yukon - Leah Davy Ryckman, Executive Director

Nunavut - No society at this time, contact Autism Society Canada