

November 4, 2016

Paula Williams
Organization Chair
South Surrey-White Rock EDA
Liberal Party of Canada

David Hurford
Policy Secretary
Liberal Party of Canada

Dear Paula and David,

We understand that the Liberal Party of Canada will be meeting with government of Canada representatives to discuss the resolution on evidence based early intervention for individuals living with autism spectrum disorders. This letter serves as our formal support of the resolution. We are encouraged that the Liberal Party of Canada understands the importance of having the medically necessary behavioural interventions available to all Canadians living with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Limited access to Intensive Behavioural Intervention means many Canadians are paying for these interventions out of pocket and those who cannot afford to do so are on waitlists that, depending on where you live in the country, are often measured in years.

Multiple studies have shown early intervention with a minimum of 20 hours of treatment per week improves outcomes for children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder. The impact of this intervention can foster growth and development leading to a productive and independent life as opposed to an individual requiring different levels of support and care throughout their lifespan.

The time has never been better to negotiate a solution with the Health Accord being ratified. We need to ensure that all provinces and territories receive funding for science based treatment. This can happen with the support of the federal Ministries of Health and Finance. Having evidenced based early intervention more universally accessible to all Canadian families living with autism spectrum disorders will make a demonstrable impact on the quality of life for individuals and their families.

Thank you again for this great initiative.

Yours truly,



Don Blane
Chair
Autism Canada



Vicki Harvey
Vice-Chair
Autism Canada



Cc: Tom Jackman, Chair, ASD Advisory Committee and Director, Autism Canada
Dr. Suzanne Lewis, Chair, Professional Advisors Committee and Director, Autism Canada
Denise McKee, Chair, Provincial and Territorial Council and Director, Autism Canada
Provincial and Territorial Council Members:
Anya Walsh, Executive Director, Autism Society British Columbia
Deborah Barrett, President, Autism Society Alberta
Lyndon Parakin, Executive Director, Autism Calgary
Carole Anne Patenaude, Executive Director, Autism Edmonton
Arden Fiala, President, SaskFEAT
Marcy Tschetter, President, Autism Society Manitoba
Marg Spoelstra, Executive Director, Autism Ontario
Jo-Ann Lauzon, Executive Director, La Fédération québécoise de l'autisme
Nathalie Walsh, Executive Director, Autism Society PEI
Cynthia Carroll, Executive Director, Autism Nova Scotia
Darlene Pugsley, Director, Autism Society New Brunswick
Scott Crocker, Executive Director, Autism Society Newfoundland and Labrador
Denise McKee, President, Autism Society Northwest Territories
Leslie Peters, Executive Director, Autism Yukon