

PROCLAMATION

I, (name of Mayor or designate) of the city of (city name) do hereby proclaim

April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day

WHERE AS:	World Autism Awareness Day will be recognized for the first time on April 2 nd , 2013, in Canada thanks to Liberal Senator Jim Munson's Bill S-206, <i>An Act Respecting World Autism Awareness Day</i> ; and
WHERE AS:	Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) affects more than 100,000 Ontarians. Autism Spectrum Disorder is now recognized as the most common neurological disorder affecting 1 in every 94 children, as well as their friends, family and community; and
WHERE AS:	ASD is a spectrum disorder, which means it not only manifests itself differently in every individual in whom it appears, but its characteristics will change over the life of each individual as well. A child with ASD will become an adult with ASD; and
WHERE AS:	Autism Ontario (formerly Autism Society Ontario) is the leading source of information and referral on autism and one of the largest collective voices representing the autism community. Since 1973, Autism Ontario has been providing support, information and opportunities for thousands of families across the province; and
WHERE AS:	Autism Ontario is dedicated to increasing public awareness about autism and the day-to-day issues faced by individuals with autism, their families, and the professionals with whom they interact. The association and its chapters share common goals of providing information and education, supporting research, and advocating for programs and services for the autism community; and
THEREFORE:	I (Mayor Name or Designate), do hereby declare April 2 nd as World Autism Awareness Day.

Dated at (municipality), Ontario this 2nd day of April, 2013

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ontario Marks World Autism Awareness Day by Raising the Flag in 444 Communities Across the Province

February 15, 2013 (Toronto, ON) - April 2nd, 2013 will mark an historical day in Canada for the Autism community. For the first time, Canadians will recognize World Autism Awareness Day.

All Ontario municipalities are being asked to Raise the Flag in honour of this historic day. Autism Ontario will send all 444 municipalities the World Autism Awareness Day flag thanks to the generous support of BMO. Communities are being asked to raise the flags at noon on April 2nd, 2013 at all City and Town Halls across the province to raise awareness of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and encourage support and inclusiveness for individuals with ASD.

"This is a monumental day for the Autism community," said Margaret Spoelstra, Executive Director of Autism Ontario. "Autism Spectrum Disorder is something for which many Ontarians require support. Together, with BMO and the Province of Ontario, we look forward to all communities in Ontario showing their support for individuals with ASD."

ASD, which affects an estimated 100,000 Ontarians, is a complex developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life and is the result of a neurological disorder that affects the functioning of the brain. ASD impacts the typical development of the brain in the areas of social interaction and communication skills. Children and adults with ASD typically have difficulties in verbal and non-verbal communication, social interactions, and leisure or play activities.

"BMO's commitment to improving the communities in which we live and work includes fostering an inclusive, supportive and accessible workplace that focuses on promoting diversity and accommodating people with disabilities," said James Kelsey, Senior Vice President, BMO Financial Group. "As someone with a family member affected by Autism, I know first hand the challenges it brings. For that reason, I am delighted BMO is part of this historic occasion to raise awareness of Autism and support Autism Ontario in its Raise the Flag campaign."

Event Details:

When: April 2nd, 2013 @ Noon ET

Where: City or Town Hall in your municipality

Why: To raise awareness of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

About Autism Ontario

Autism Ontario is the leading source of information and referral on Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and one of the largest collective voices representing the Autism community. Members are connected through a volunteer network of chapters across the Province of Ontario. The mission of



Autism Ontario is to promote lifelong access and opportunities for persons within the Autism Spectrum and their families to be fully included, participating members of their communities. Autism Ontario is dedicated to increasing public awareness about Autism Spectrum Disorders and the day-to-day issues faced by individuals with ASD, their families, and the professionals with whom they interact. Autism Ontario shares common goals of providing information and education, supporting research, and advocating for programs and services for the Autism community.

For more information please contact your local chapter.

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AUTISM ONTARIO

Our Vision: Acceptance and opportunities for all individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Our Mission: To ensure that each individual with ASD is provided the means to achieve quality of life as a respected member of society.

Our 6 Key Areas of Focus

- Advocacy and Support
- Research
- Best Practices
- Government Relations
- Public Awareness
- Governance

Autism Ontario (formerly Autism Society Ontario) is the leading source of information and referral on autism and one of the largest collective voices representing the autism community. Members are connected through a volunteer network of Chapters throughout the Province of Ontario.

We are guided by a Board of Directors, composed primarily of parents of individuals with autism, plus a host of volunteers and respected professionals who provide expertise and guidance to the organization on a volunteer basis.

Autism Ontario is dedicated to increasing public awareness about autism and the day-to-day issues faced by individuals with autism, their families, and the professionals with whom they interact. The association and its chapters share common goals of providing information and education, supporting research, and advocating for programs and services for the autism community.

Visit: www.autismontario.com for more information.

OUR PROGRAMS

Autism Ontario supports Chapters in most communities across Ontario, all of which are under the leadership of committed and skilled volunteers who organize and support parent to parent contact, provide official SEAC representation for ASD in boards of education, camps, and public awareness forums. We pride ourselves on our mission to ensure that each individual with ASD is provided the means to achieve quality of life as a respected member of society.

Autism Ontario also delivers the following programs:



The POTENTIAL PROGRAMME is a unique service from Autism Ontario designed to directly support families, parents and children with ASD through greater access to ASD experts in their communities, and to provide a supportive community-based learning opportunities for children with ASD.

These enhanced services and programs are now available across the province.



ABACUS is the first of its kind, specific to Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA), in the Province. It is a self-searched listing of ABA providers in Ontario. Families who are looking at setting up their own ABA program are using this resource to locate and connect directly with providers.

The ABACUS website (www.abacuslist.ca) aims to serve as the best possible source of information so that parents, caregivers, and the general community can be informed consumers of ABA services for individuals with ASD in Ontario.