



Make a Difference Today.



ABOUT CANUCKS AUTISM NETWORK



CAN's vision is for every individual on the autism spectrum to be understood, accepted and supported in all community spaces.

Canucks Autism Network (CAN) was founded in 2008 by Vancouver Canucks Co-Owners Paolo and Clara Aquilini, with the goal of enriching the quality of life of BC individuals on the spectrum and their families.

Today, CAN is recognized as a provincial leader in the field of sports and rec programming for individuals on the spectrum. Through specialized support techniques, parent collaboration, and highly supportive staff and volunteers, CAN is able to ensure that every individual is successful on their own terms, regardless of their level of need.

Beyond sports and rec, we've expanded our programs to include opportunities in arts & technology, life & social skills, mental health and a rapidly growing Employment Services department.

CAN is also committed to promoting understanding, acceptance and inclusion through community engagement and training initiatives across British Columbia.

**CAN programs have
impacted
over 6,600 individuals
on the autism spectrum**

**Over 265 programs
were delivered
in 2020 and over
7,000 program
spots were filled**

**Over 1,100 community
members trained on how
to support individuals on
the autism spectrum**

Programs are delivered across the Interior, Vancouver Island, Lower Mainland and beyond.

6,600+
MEMBERS ON THE
AUTISM SPECTRUM



7,000+
PROGRAM SPACES



267
PROGRAMS OFFERED



1,100+
COMMUNITY MEMBERS
TRAINED



100+
COMMUNITY PARTNERS



150+
AUTISTIC JOB SEEKERS
IMPACTED



369
PROGRAM STAFF



2,791
VOLUNTEER HOURS



200
VOLUNTEERS





ABOUT **AUTISM**

Autism is characterized by difficulties with social communication, sensory sensitivities and repetitive behaviour, as well as a wide range of individual strengths, interests, and abilities.

Autism now impacts
1 in 37
children in BC

Children with autism are
**40% more likely to be
overweight and obese**
compared to their typically
developing peers

**19,000+ children
and youth**
have autism in BC

Autism is almost
**5x more common
among boys**
than among girls

Children on the autism
spectrum are at
**5x increased risk
of drowning**
compared to typically
developing children

CANUCKS AUTISM NETWORK

PROGRAMS, TRAINING & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

CAN welcomes children, youth and adults across the autism spectrum.

Programs are delivered in-person and virtually, including:

- Swim
- Skate
- Active
- Multisport
- Bike
- Family Events
- Hockey
- Gymnastics
- Fitness
- Outdoor Rec
- Music
- Overnight Camp

Areas of focus for youth and adult programs:

**social &
life skills**

**employment &
volunteering skills**

**physical &
mental health**

**arts &
technology**

TRAINING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In addition to providing programs, CAN delivers autism training across sectors, including provincial sport organizations, first responders, schools, and a range of other community spaces.

Example of groups we have worked with:

Vancouver International Airport (YVR), Rogers Arena, Translink, Science World, City of Surrey, Kelowna International Airport (YLW), Surrey Firefighters, Port Moody Police, and North Shore Rescue



CANUCKS AUTISM NETWORK EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS & SERVICES

At Canucks Autism Network, we are committed to increasing representation of autistic individuals and those with other disabilities in the workforce.

By increasing diversity, we are fostering a workplace where different ideas, skills and experiences are shared and valued.

What We Offer

- **Programs**
- **Training**
- **Recruitment & Navigation**
- **Funding**

Who We Serve

- **Job Seekers**
- **Employers**
- **Service Agencies**

Programs & Services

• **Ready, Willing, & Able (RWA)**

Individualized support for job seekers and employers – connecting both with the resources necessary to succeed in their job searches and with inclusive employment

• **Skills Training Employment Program (STEP)**

A paid, 12-week opportunity for autistic job seekers (ages 15-30) to build pre-employment skills and hands-on work experience in the Lower Mainland

THE IMPACT | Perspective from a parent and an adult with autism

Ever since we had to start homeschooling, Kaya has struggled with most of the activities that have been assigned to her. With so many kids in her virtual classroom, the instruction isn't adapted to Kaya's needs.

She doesn't get the support she usually does in person. It has been very stressful and exhausting.

It wasn't until CAN started putting their videos out that Kaya finally started to pay attention.

I could tell by her wide eyes that Kaya felt like the CAN coaches were talking to her. Watching another person doing the activity alongside her made a world of difference.

For Kaya, she feels safe and at home with CAN, so she sees the videos as being for her. So she pays attention. At school, she never feels like that.

Iveta Nelson
CAN Parent



"The pandemic made me feel very disengaged and isolated from society.

But CAN's programs have given me a sense of belonging.

Even though we weren't together in person, it still felt like we were all connected. That means a lot during this time."

Keara Farnan
CAN Adult Participant

HOW YOU CAN HELP



**With 1 in 37 children in BC diagnosed with autism,
the need for support is greater than ever.**

By supporting Canucks Autism Network, you will not only be aligning your organization with a trusted brand and meaningful cause, you will be supporting an organization that benefits local families. You will also be playing a vital role in the continued growth and development of Canucks Autism Network programs, training, and community engagement initiatives.

**organize
a fundraising
event**

**sponsor a
program
or event**

**run a
cause marketing
campaign**

**activate
corporate
volunteering**

**make a tribute
gift or birthday
donation**

**leave a legacy
gift or donate a
gift of securities**

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