

# AutismBC

Autism ... a part of our world, not a world apart

Volume 12, Issue 1 • Apr-June 2004

## Microboards

*Marja Jorgensen, Branch Coordinator, Vancouver Island Branch*

Commitment, dedication, passion, zeal are all words that come to mind when I observe parents in meetings for their children with autism. Having sat on both sides of the IEP table; as a parent and an advocate and as an administrator and educator, I know that without strong parental input these students might not have the services and programs that they need. I have wondered what might happen to these children if by some unfortunate circumstance their parents were not there to advocate for them. I often ask parents what their dreams are for the future. Many look at you and say they are just hoping to get through today, this week, let alone think about the future.

As parents, we all hope that our children will have full and rich lives as part of the community, especially our children with autism. The process of moving our children and adults into the community is often very difficult because of the level of support that is necessary. The question is how do we learn to delegate out what we do as parents? How can we get the community to share some of our responsibilities and help?

Microboards for individuals with disabilities have been in existence for years. Parents of children, newly diagnosed with autism rarely look at individualized funding or the possibility of sharing the workload with committed friends and family. Many parents follow the established regime of services and do not realize that there are other ways. Furthermore, the concept of microboards as an option often does not surface until parents are estate planning for their adults with autism. The idea of a group of individuals managing the development of the programming and the management of individualized funding is foreign to many parents.

A microboard is a society of individuals who know your child, have a relationship with them in the community and are committed to meeting on a regular basis to make decisions for your child. These are people chosen by the parents to help make decisions for their child and give support when necessary. The ultimate goal is to help the individual with autism be involved in the life of the community.

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# President's Message

*Michael Lewis – President*



On behalf of the Board of Directors I want to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer. You will find later in this newsletter information regarding the ASBC Summer Program and hopefully we will be as successful as past years in our efforts to solicit funding for the program. As you will recall the Society asks for donations for the program and then distributes these funds on an equitable basis to the program applicants. Funds are distributed in September.

While we are on the topic of fundraising I want to identify that ASBC continues to actively pursue fundraising activities to support the programs and services that we provide to the membership and others. This has become a way of life for non-profits and we too must work hard to raise funds.

The next big event we are in the process of organizing is a golf tournament August 6th at the Sandpiper Golf Club in Harrison Mills. If you work for or own a company that may be interested in one of the tournament sponsorship opportunities or if you are interested in a fun day of golf and a great meal please contact the office.

June has been a landmark month with the Auton litigation regarding funding for medically necessary autism treatment being heard by the Supreme Court of Canada. A decision is expected late this fall.

As you read through this newsletter you will learn of many enhancements being made to what the Society provides in support of our membership and of new ways to deliver these supports. Your feedback and participation is always welcome so if you have some thoughts or better still want to help out give us a call.

Finally, I want to thank all of the ASBC staff members who continue to find new ways to do things better and work to support those we serve.

Once again, on behalf to the staff and Board of the Society, have a great summer.

Michael

***ASBC welcomes  
their newest staff  
members:***

*Tamara Leger*



Information Resource  
Worker – Library

*Jennifer  
Weatherbee*



Administrative  
Assistant

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## Autism Society of BC

#301 – 3701 E. Hastings Street  
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Phone: (604) 434-0880  
Fax: (604) 434-0801  
Toll-free: 1-888-437-0880  
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## Autism BC

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in this newsletter do not imply  
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Society of BC and are printed  
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# Education/Communications Committee Report

*Submitted by: Avery Raskin – Committee Chair & Vice President*

The ASBC board of directors has been steadily implementing the recommendations of the strategic planning sessions held over the last three years.

As these impact the Communications Committee, we have had great success in redeveloping the Society web site into a powerful resource for our members and the public at large.

This success has enabled us to create efficiencies this year by merging the Communications and Education Committees, as we look forward to even better service to the membership this year and next.

The ASBC Discussion Forums have become a great place for our members to exchange views and information, to the point where we are now experiencing growing pains in the forums in general. Coupled with our recent upgrading of the Discussion Forum software, we are planning new discussion boards

geared specifically to the needs of the membership for volunteer help and educational opportunities. Look for these new boards coming to the web site as soon as possible, and please check back often, as more developments are in the works here as well.

If you've been watching the boards this year, you probably already know that there have been a lot more workshops and conferences in B.C. than ever before spurred by the government supplying funding for medically necessary autism treatment.

The Education and Communications Committee is working hard to make sure British Columbians have access to up-to-date research findings and practical treatment help as well, for people with autism across the age spectrum. Watch the web site for coming announcements on ASBC sponsored workshop and conference opportunities now being planned.

The committee is comprised of a variety of hard-working volunteer board members, ASBC staff and members, but we welcome the input of all Society members at any time.

If you have concerns or suggestions how we can help

make your ASBC work even better for you, please drop an e-mail note to our Director of Communications, Marie Gauthier, at: [administrator@autismbc.ca](mailto:administrator@autismbc.ca) with the subject line "Education/Communications Committee."

*Avery Raskin  
Chairman,  
Education/Communications  
Committee*

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*ASBC wishes to thank all the sponsors on this page for their contributions to "An Elegant Evening of Dining and Fashions".*

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*ASBC does not endorse or accept responsibility for any of the advertisements published in this newsletter.*

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# NEW BENEFIT INFORMATION

Article submitted by Heather Borland, B.C. Northern Region Branch Coordinator

## Child Disability Benefit Introduced

Effective March 2004, the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency introduces the Child Disability Benefit (CDB), a new supplement to the Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB), and Children's Special Allowances (CSA). This new annual \$1600.00 non-refundable tax credit is to assist families raising a child with a severe and prolonged physical or mental impairment.

The CDB is automatically calculated for those already receiving the Canada Child Tax Benefit and has previously filed an approved T2201 (Disability Tax Credit Certificate). If you have received the CCTB and have not previously filed a T2201, have the T2201 form completed by a qualified person, and mail to your tax centre.

If you did not receive the CCTB this tax year but have a filed Form T2201, complete and mail Form RC66, Canada Child Tax Benefit Application, to your tax centre who will determine eligibility.

Compensation of the CDB is provided in calculated direct monthly payments. The March 2004 payments will include a retroactive amount for the period from July 2003 to March 2004. For more information about the CDB, contact Canada Customs and Revenue Agency at 1-800-387-1193 or visit their online information at <http://www.cra-adrc.gc.ca/cdb/> - Note: this disability benefit can be deemed retro-active; therefore, it's important to show when the diagnosis took place.

## Upcoming Meetings ...

### ASBC SPONSORED

#### North Shore Community Group

West Vancouver Library, 7:00–9:00 pm For details on upcoming meetings, please contact Tamara at: 604.921.7071, or Anissa at: 604.924.3626.

#### Asperger's Social Club

Aspie's Social Club is continuing to meet twice a week - Mondays and Fridays from 7 to 9 PM. in the Marpole-Oakridge Community Centre at Oak St. and 59th Ave. If you are a teen boy or girl (14-19 years old) with Asperger's Syndrome and you would like to make new friends please come and join our club! For more information, please contact: Ella Baranowski at: [ellatb@hotmail.com](mailto:ellatb@hotmail.com) or by calling: 604. 733. 1398

#### Nanaimo Community Group

Wanted - Community Groups on the Island- for more details please contact Marja Jorgensen - see page 19.

#### Surrey/Delta/Langley Group

The Surrey/Delta/Langley ASBC community group meets Thursdays from 7-9pm at the Semiahmoo House Society. The address is 15306 24th Ave, South Surrey. For more information, please contact: Nancy at: 604.538.8021

### OTHER GROUPS

#### FEAT of BC Parent Group

Meets monthly @ 7:30 pm at St. Francis in the Wood Anglican Church in West Vancouver. For more information please contact Jean Lewis by e-mail at: [jean.lewis@telus.net](mailto:jean.lewis@telus.net).

#### North Vancouver New Parents Support Group

Come and join our support group: network, hear what some families are doing, talk about what you're feeling, and get mutual support. Meetings: monthly, every second Tuesday, 7:00– 8:30 pm, in the Amenity Room, Quayview Housing Society (150 West 2nd Street, North Vancouver). For more information, contact Cyndi at 604. 987.6608.



*Special Thanks to Scotiabank  
for their generous donor dollar match program*

ASBC does not endorse or accept responsibility for any of the advertisements published in this newsletter.

# Member Submissions

## Smile of the Day...



When you view this picture, remember: This did NOT have to happen!

This picture of an over dose victim is not for shock value. Rather, it's in the hopes that all parents, grandparents, babysitters and caregivers will have a frank discussion with those that they are entrusted to protect about respecting moderation, knowing their own limits, and knowing when to just walk away.... 😊

# Member Submissions Corner

*Painting By: Elizabeth Rolfe – 10 yrs old*



## Art + Autism = Artism? *Submitted by: Krystyna Rolfe - parent*

Elizabeth, my 10 year old daughter is autistic. For her, it means that she has difficulty communicating with people and does not relate to the outside world. To keep her brain from over-stimulating, while trying to process information, she automatically shuts off her sight or her hearing, giving her self-control.

Elizabeth is a beautiful sensitive and creative child locked in her own silent world who produces abstract colorful paintings. I have used some of her art work to help fund her treatment but she still needs at least one more year of intensive one-on-one therapy in order to teach her language, increase her attention span and develop interactive social skills. I am looking for sponsors who will help advertise and manage Elizabeth's art exhibits. Finally, if you know of somebody who would be interested in spending time with my daughter, as a volunteer, please contact me at: 604.985.2033. It is challenging work but also fun, exciting and rewarding.

What do you get when cross Art with Autism?  
*Artism.*

The name of Elizabeth's website which can be found by visiting:  
<http://www3.telus.net/eliz/eliz/>

## I am Different, I am Autistic — *Poem Submitted by: Sheri Marino*

Maybe I can't talk  
Maybe all I can do is scream  
Maybe I'll act up outside  
A brat, to you it will seem

Don't judge my Parents  
Or make them feel sad,  
For I really can't help  
That my behavior is bad

Please remember I can see  
And I can also feel,  
I may be different and awkward  
But I'm still a person that's real

Please try to understand my world  
And see the child inside,

For it's just I'm so very scared  
And a part of me wants to hide

If you could only accept me  
For who I really am  
I'd have a chance to learn and grow  
Just like my friend Sam

Inside you'll see  
I'm very smart  
I can do things most people never will,  
But if you refuse to accept me  
My spirit you will surely kill

The time is now to start to learn  
There's now so many like me,  
Just think a world of Average and Autistic  
What a beautiful place that would be.

Elizabeth's Art will be on exhibition at:

Brewster's Coffee House 2436 Marine Drive in West Vancouver until July 9<sup>th</sup>.

## From the Desk of Our Fundraiser

*Submitted by Marie Gauthier, Director of Operations & Communications on behalf of:  
Marianne S. Brown, Director of Fundraising*

The Autism Society has been busily looking at new ways of fundraising and, as such, has had excellent success with a number of smaller projects throughout this year, including:

Held in support of the Autism Society, on March 15, 2004, *An Elegant Evening of Dining and Fashions* raised just over \$8,000, \$2,500 of which was a donor-match donation made by Scotiabank towards this year's ASBC Summer Reimbursement Program.

Hosted by Le Bistro Chez Michel, featuring elegant fashions by Francesca Boutique, hair by Holly's on the North Shore, with wines donated by Mission Hill, Wine World Marketing Group Inc. and an Okanagan winery, the evening was a resounding success. Master of Ceremonies, Harry Meshen, of Western Lawn and Garden Supply, shared with the crowd a heart felt story regarding his young grandson, Cole, who has autism.

A number of distinguished supporters attended the event including: Fran McDougall, Executive Director, Make a Wish Foundation, Ken and Dodi Thorhaug, President, Canadian Progress Club, Jeanette and Al Brown, Past President of Lions Gate Rotary and Phillip McLeod, current President, Lions Gate Rotary, Terry Lehouillier, Manager, West Vancouver Coast Capital Savings, Sue Godey, General Manager, North Shore Credit Union, Holly Back, Owner of Holly's on the North Shore, Nina Celich, Silvia Bombara & Francesca Martin, Co-Owners of Francesca Boutique, Betty Anne Faulkner, President, Pretty Estates – Rowena's Inn & Sandpiper Golf Club, Bob Blacker, Past Deputy Chief, New Westminster Police Department and current Aide-de-Camp to the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, Barb Ruff, Manager, Scotiabank, Commercial Banking Centre North Shore and Ruth Lumsden, President, diningoutguide.com.

The Autism Society wishes to extend their special thanks for the items which were donated as door prizes, including: a two day stay w/golf package at Rowena's Inn & Sandpiper Golf Club, a yard full of fertilizer and also a truck full of top soil by Western Lawn and Garden Supply, bark mulch donated by Garden Works, a \$500 wardrobe by Francesca Boutique, and a hair cut and style for the hundred people in attendance by Holly's on the North Shore, gift certificates to local restaurants donated by diningoutguide.com, a certificate for a day spa experience by Essence Day Spa (Quayside) and a certificate for a hair cut and style by Essence Day Spa Hair Salon (Quayside).

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Held on April 8, 2004, in support of the Autism Society (as well as the Canadian Liver Foundation), Arts County Fair 13 at UBC's Thunderbird Stadium raised \$5000 for the Autism Society.

Tiffany Glover, ACF 13's Volunteer Coordinator was on hand to assist ASBC's volunteers: Clay Deibe, Amanda Brown, Rhiannon Vining, Stephan Atkinson, Michelle Burtnyk, Sarah Burtnyk, Rosalyn Serrano, Ruth Kirlachti, Mario Batara, Bernadette Marzo, Diego Zaragoya, Danielle Friesen, Ralf Funaro, Len Steres, Julia Plummer, Jessica Askew, Cody Spong, Lindsay Clark, Megan McIsaacs, Jared Cochlin, Erika Palomar, Kathleen Nillas, Jessica Fung, Jason, Sunny Chandan, *Esther Gooding, Michael Lewis, Lisa Hiebert, Lindsay Purcell, Tamara Leger, Mike Leger, John Esson, Kim Jordan, Laurie Romey, Richard Wiklo, Todd Antifaev, Avery Raskin, Jennifer Weatherbee, Marcia Gamble, Allison Mason, Marie Gauthier, Marianne Brown, Rachel Roy, Armond Gaudry, Ally Hibbert and Nancy Shoening* who came out to assist ASBC with the event. (President, Vice-President and Directors of both the ASBC Board and Foundation Patron's names are in italics).

All of our volunteers participated in selling tickets, selling band items or in the play area where there were a number of fair-like games. ASBC wishes to extend a warm thank-you to all those who came out to volunteer.

ASBC is awaiting some pictures from this event. When we receive them, we will post them on our site for all to see.

The Autism Society is fortunate to have this event for one more year. If you're interested in participating, in this event next year, please send an e-mail to: administrator@autismbc.ca with "ACF 14" in the Subject Line.

# Autism Society Foundation Golf Tournament

We are delighted to learn that the Foundation Patron's of the Autism Society are staging First Annual Autism Society Celebrity Golf Tournament on Friday, August 6, 2004, at Sandpiper Golf Club and Rowena's Inn on the Harrison River.



This is only a short drive from the Lower Mainland (approx. an hour and a half), and the scenery is both crisp and breathtaking and is guaranteed to create an unforgettable golf experience.

There will be great prizes, silent and live auctions as well as a gourmet buffet dinner. And for your added enjoyment, a Jamaican steel band that plays terrific music.

The Committee is comprised of: Bob Blacker, Chairman, Betty-Anne Faulkner, Co-Chair (President & Owner, Pretty Estates), Barb Ruff, Ester Gooding and John Cochlin, Directors and Members.

The Committee hopes, as you read this, you might think of a Corporate Sponsor or foursome who might like to join them on August 6, 2004. To participate or request a corporate sponsorship package (which can either be mailed or e-mailed), please call Bob Blacker at: (604) 789-2495.

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## Supportive Fundraising Initiatives

Fundraising by Regal – Larry & Carol of Regal Sales will be donating a percentage of the proceeds of sales to the Autism Society. Should you be interested in purchasing Regal products that support the Autism Society, please call Larry & Carol at: 604-534-2954 or e-mail [regalonline@shaw.ca](mailto:regalonline@shaw.ca)

Lynne Cox, Counsellor, has made available a CD entitled "Calm, Nurturing Stories for babies and Young Children". The CD was designed to nurture a child's self-esteem and has been touted as being a wonderful addition to any bed time routine. A portion of the proceeds from the sales of the CD will benefit the Autism Society. For more information regarding this product, please contact Lynne Cox at: 604.941.3575 or e-mail: [lynne.cox@shaw.ca](mailto:lynne.cox@shaw.ca)

The Autism Society of BC has partnered with the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Canada in recycling clothing. We are now accepting used clothing at drop-off-clothing collection boxes. For more details about the locations of the drop-boxes, please contact the Make-A-Wish Foundation at: 604.739.9474

On the weekend of June 26<sup>th</sup>, a number of children participated in a BC Round Robin-Style Soccer Tournament, in the Lower Mainland. Mr. Major Rasode has made the Autism Society the benefactor of the proceeds of t-shirt sales (from participating parents) at this event. The Autism Society wishes to thank Mr. Rasode for his generous donation and hopes that all the children had a fun time.

## Tell ASBC Your Story...

The challenge that the Autism Society is facing is to convey the needs of our membership to those who have fortunately not experienced the challenges of supporting a child or an adult with a profound invisible disability.

People simply don't understand because children and adults on the Autism Spectrum don't require expensive operations or equipment; they, instead, need to be supported by people who are aware of the need for early diagnosis and intervention through access to up-to-date information, techniques and therapies. The needs of school children and adults with autism are equally important.

Currently, we are aiming to expand our services and need your help. We are looking for your stories and we know that things aren't always rosy. If you are willing to share your story, please send it in to: [administrator@autismbc.ca](mailto:administrator@autismbc.ca) – Subject Line: "My Story".

### Where There is a Success Story: There is Always Support!

My son often tells people that he is not disabled; in fact he tells them he is quite capable, but has autism. At the age of twenty, he works part-time at a local restaurant, is planning his escape from the family nest to his own apartment in the neighboring town, and dreams of the day that he will have a network of friends and the possibility of a girlfriend. He is not much different than his typical peers. He does have autism, a neurological disorder that affects his ability to think and communicate abstractly and limits his ability to socialize and maintain friendships. This does not mean that he cannot learn, on the contrary these are skills that he will have to work at and be supported by his community for his lifetime.

As a mother, I knew there was something different about my child very early on. As a baby he needed a regular, consistent routine. Any deviation to feeding and napping times were met with inconsolable crying fits. At sixteen months, all typical development halted; babbling, words, and eye contact disappeared to be replaced by crying, tantrums, head banging, lining up of objects and when he was quiet; an angelic stare off into space.

Living in a rural community, public health nurses and the family doctor did not realize that we were dealing with a child with autism. He was placed in an early intervention program at the town's Child Development Centre, while we tried to unravel the puzzle that faced our family. It was an unexpected trip to Emergency that answered our questions. My son, who had a fascination with circles and sticks had retrieved a soup can lid from the trash and required a stitch or two to close the wound. The attending doctor had just arrived from Britain where he had received autism awareness training. By the end of the day, my son was referred on to Sunny Hill Hospital's diagnostic team. Later that year he was diagnosed with Infantile Autism.

Oh, the diagnosis of Autism... instantly the fishbowl effect that I had been feeling magnified exponentially. An army of new people came into our lives: a social worker, respite family, a homemaker, and all the other professionals at the Child Development Centre. The entire world was looking in on our family and we were looking out to a distorted reality. It was the Autism Society that helped make sense of our new reality; not only did they answer the many questions we had, they supported us in our grief and there was always a parent of a child with autism to chat with and ask how they had coped with the problems we encountered on the way. With the help of ASBC, we were able to form a branch and offer support to parents in the area.

At the age of five, my son was not allowed to register at his neighborhood school. With the help of ASBC and some solid advocacy advice, I was able to get him into school. ...When my son graduated high school, he was given a standing ovation. Like his peers he entered the local college with a scholarship. In the Employment and Life-skills Program at Malaspina College he learned employment skills. The two years of college were the greatest years of emotional and social development for my son. For the first time, the ability to sustain friendship increased and he realized that it would be nice to be part of a community, concepts that were inconceivable to my son in high school.

He is my hero and I am so very proud of his achievements. As with all people with autism, my son has a long way to go. He will always need some support in the community. My son is where he is today because of a caring community who supported the work of ASBC.

Can you help individuals, like my son, be part of our community by supporting the Autism Society of British Columbia and Autism Awareness?

# Annual General Meeting Announcement

The Autism Society's 2004 Annual General Meeting will be taking place on Saturday, September 18, 2004 at the Charles Rummel Community Centre (3630 Lozells Avenue, Burnaby) - from 10am to 12 noon.

The purposes of the meeting are:

- 1) To receive the Report of the Directors;
- 2) To receive the Financial Statements of the Society for its fiscal year ended March 31st, 2003 and the report of the Auditors thereon;
- 3) To appoint the Auditors for the ensuing year and to authorize the Director's to fix their remuneration;
- 4) To determine the number of Directors and to elect Directors;
- 5) And to transact such other business as may properly come before the Meeting.

No special workshops will be conducted this year. *As this is a new site, a map of the location and any updates regarding either the date or time for this meeting, will be posted by August 1<sup>st</sup> and appear on the Autism Society's homepage at:*

<http://www.autismbc.ca> – if you do not have access to the internet, you are welcome to call the office for a map after August 1st.

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## Summer Reimbursement Program

Last year, we had over 140 families participate in our Summer Reimbursement Program, giving many children and a few adults with A.S.D. the opportunity to take part in activities with their peers and have a meaningful summer experience.

This is a very important program for many of our families, as the ongoing financial strain of coping with an autistic child means their capacity to fund a summer experience is often very limited. A further benefit is the chance for these parents to enjoy some respite time.

The many letters and pictures we receive are heartening and attest to the wonderful times these children enjoyed.

The Autism Society wishes to thank the generosity of donors such as the *Canadian Progress Club, the CKNW Orphan's Fund, the Vancouver Sun Fund many Legions and Rotary Clubs*, and also our members. We couldn't do it without your generous support!

### ***What the Parents Said...***

*The program continued to support my son during this time of the year to keep him busy in a more positive way. With the program's assistance we were able to put him in a horseback riding camp... The program helped him to control himself more. Thank you so much, indeed.*

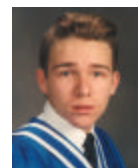
*Thank you so much for your funding program. Our child would not be able to have a successful summer without spending some time at camp. It helps him in his socialization with his peers and it gives him the structure he needs throughout the summer. Once again, thank-you from both myself and my son for your support and services!*

*Thank you so much – this year our son learned how to swim!... He even learned to walk down to the pool by himself... Big smiles when he came in. Thank you so much for providing wonderful opportunities.*



### **Your funding can make all the difference!**

*Our son has been chosen for leg 1 of the S.A.L.T.S 2003-2004 Voyage!!! The picture to the left was him ten years ago... below is him today. **Thank you.***



## 2004 SUMMER REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

To qualify for the Summer Reimbursement Program you must:

- 1) be a current member of the Autism Society of BC
- 2) priority will be given to members residing in BC or the Yukon
- 3) have limited financial resources
- 4) have made a contribution of time or support to ASBC: *worked at a bingo, had a friend volunteer on your behalf, facilitated a support group, wrote an article for the newsletter, volunteered in the library, sent a thank-you card or photo for last year's reimbursement, or participated in volunteering or awareness efforts.*

Those members who qualify can receive anywhere between \$100 and \$200 in reimbursement when an original receipt is sent in (last year's participants received an average of \$100 per child).

The Autism Society accepts applications from around the province and will distribute the reimbursements fairly throughout British Columbia. *We must stress that the number and amount of reimbursements are determined by ASBC's success in raising funds for this program.*

### How to apply

Members who are interested in being considered for reimbursement of summer program fees must fill in the Summer Reimbursement Application Form (available by request or via our website under the Programs, Education and Workshop link at: <http://www.autismbc.ca>) and mail or email it to the Autism Society of BC, #301-3701 E. Hastings Street, Burnaby, BC V5C 2H6 email: [summerprogram@autismbc.ca](mailto:summerprogram@autismbc.ca) postmarked by July 31, 2004. **\*\*\*Please note that late applications will not be accepted\*\*\***

**IMPORTANT!** Please remember that only current ASBC members qualify for this program, and it is your responsibility to ensure that your membership is current. Last year, over 144 reimbursements with a minimum amount of \$100 were given to participants throughout the province. Please be sure to include all information requested under services and income as acceptance is not based on income levels but instead on all information that it provided.

### How to be reimbursed?

Members who are accepted will be notified by mail or email. You must pay the recreation fees for the summer program and then send your receipt to: the Autism Society of BC (Vancouver office) by **September 12th, 2004 at 5p.m.** in order to be reimbursed.

### What programs will qualify?

Any program or expense related to enhancing participation in summer activities for an individual with autism will be considered. Overnight camps, community centre programs, soccer or other athletic camps, computer courses, art courses, and similar programs will qualify. Childcare worker or one-to-one worker fees also qualify, so long as the worker is not directly related to the child/adult (eg. sibling, parent, grandparent).

A receipt must be submitted outlining the child's expense and/or camp fees.

If you're claiming an expense associated with a child care worker, or one-to-one worker, please include their name, number of hours worked and total cost, address & phone number of worker.



# Autism Society of British Columbia

Autism...a part of our world, not a world apart

## 2004 SUMMER REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM APPLICATION FORM

**Please submit by July 31, 2004**

(Please fill out one form for each child with autism.)

Date of Application \_\_\_\_\_

Name of child \_\_\_\_\_

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Age? \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Contact \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of the person who will be receiving the reimbursement)

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Current Membership with ASBC?                      ? YES                      ? NO

Is there any additional information that you would like to give us: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Total income earned by all family members (residing in same residence), before taxes, last year:

? LESS THAN \$20,000              ? \$21,000 - \$30,000              ? \$31,000 - \$40,000              ? \$41,000 OR MORE

**Family size, including all dependents:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Certification and Authorization:

I hereby certify that all information given on this application is correct. I understand this information is private and confidential and will be used only to verify eligibility for the Autism Society of BC Summer Program reimbursement and *will not be shared with any other agency or private individual for any reason.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Branch News

ASBC wishes to congratulate both branch offices on their smooth transitions to new locations:

<p><b>Vancouver Island Office:</b></p> <p>13285 Cedar Road Ladysmith, BC V9G 1H8 Telephone: (250) 714-0801 Facsimilie: (250) 714-0802 E-mail: <a href="mailto:mjorgensen@autismbc.ca">mjorgensen@autismbc.ca</a> Phone hours: Mon to Thurs from: 9:00 to 2:00 Office hours: <b>By appointment Only</b></p>	<p><b>Northern Region Office:</b></p> <p>Bsmt, 13950 Athabasca Road Prince George, BC V2N 5X9 Telephone: (250) 963-0803 Facsimilie: (250) 963-0804 E-mail: <a href="mailto:autismbc_pg@uniserve.com">autismbc_pg@uniserve.com</a> Phone hours: Mon to Thurs from: 9:00 to 2:00 Office hours: <b>By appointment Only</b></p>
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## Vancouver Island - *Marja Jorgensen, Branch Coordinator, Nanaimo*

**Vancouver Island Annual Picnic and Open House:** This year, we will be combining the VI Annual Picnic and the official opening of the Vancouver Island office.

**When:** Sunday August 8th, 2004

**Where:** 13285 Cedar Road

**Time:** 12:00 To 4:00 p.m

Bring your own picnic lunch and come and meet other families - be prepared to participate in old fashion picnic games and have fun!

**Creating Personal Profiles for our Children Workshops:** ASBC is holding two workshops for parents who are interested in spending a day with other parents creating personal profiles for their children with autism (a profile is a personalized information sheet that is used to introduce your child likes and dislikes to individuals working with your child at school and in the community).

Workshop Dates: Friday, August 6th & Friday, August 20<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 4:00 pm @ the ASBC Vancouver Island Office, 13285 Cedar Road, Ladysmith, BC - Cost: \$20.00 (to cover materials and lunch)

**Vancouver Island Community Groups :** We need parents in the Ladysmith, Nanaimo, Parksville and Port Alberni areas, who are interested in facilitating a community group. Community groups meet once a month and discuss areas of common interest surrounding autism.

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## BC Northern Region - *Heather Borland, Branch Coordinator, Prince George*

**Office Update:** In our efforts to exercise fiscal responsibility, a decision by Board and Staff has resulted in branch offices returning to their coordinators' homes. This move will not decrease our ability to provide supports, but rather allow us to continue to uphold client services as our priority. The northern interior office is now located at: 13950 Athabasca Road, Prince George, BC V2N 5X9. Please look for updates on our web site at [www.autismbc.ca](http://www.autismbc.ca). Office hours are Monday through Thursday, 9:00 – 2:00 pm. As the Coordinator also performs responsibilities within the community, appointments and messages may be necessary.

**In the Community:** We would like to welcome all new and current families to a new year, in addition to a new date and location of the community group meetings. Louise Blais, facilitator of the PG group has recently mailed notice of the change advising meetings are now on the second Tuesday monthly from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. These meetings can serve as a great informational tool and social opportunity for families to connect. Please call Louise (250) 964-4870 for location and agenda details.

**Link to the Provincial Web Site:** The northern office is still preparing data for the PG branch link from our provincial Web site. We are requesting a call for information regarding upcoming training or social opportunities, and for service providers to ensure current contact information.

**ASBC Summer Reimbursement Program:** Most families are preparing for their final IEP/schoolbased team meeting for this year, and then looking forward to setting the school routine aside for the summer. We invite families to apply to the ASBC Summer Reimbursement Program, and extend our warmest wishes for a safe and fun summer holiday.

# Community Networking Committee Report

*Laurie Romey, Community Networking Committee Chair & Director*

The Community Networking Committee at the ASBC has added a few new faces. We welcome board members Todd Antifaev and Dave Mcleod as well as 2 community group facilitators, Tamara Leger (North Shore) and Nancy Walton (Surrey/North Delta/Langley). Along with last years members, directors Justin Himmelright, Robin Gelfer and myself, Laurie Romey, we hope to provide the membership with an amazing team of well informed community group facilitators as well as strong community groups.

It is extremely important for parents of autistic individuals to be able to network together in their own areas as well as within the province and we as a committee will do everything we can to make that a possibility. We are looking at conference calling within the groups, DVD format presentations which will be available from the office by fall and guest speakers for the groups in more remote areas as well as our website discussion and information forums available exclusively to Community Group Facilitators through their own personal page.

Also, now available to our Community Group Facilitator's are a number of pre-packaged presentations. If you are interested in any of these please contact the office to make arrangements to borrow a package from our library:

1. Workshop Session: Getting the Most from Your "Teach Me Language" Language and Concept Acquisition Reference Guide
2. School is Now in Session! Writing Hardcore IEPs and School Treatment Plans; Effectively Managing the Home/School Relationship; How to take Data/Track ABC Charts at School; and How to Find the Best School Shadow for Your Child
3. Best Practices: How to Start & Run an ABA Program
4. Art of the Craft: Writing Social Stories that Change Your Child's World
5. All Dried Up: Real Stories of Kids Who have Lost Symptoms of Autism
6. The Funnest House on the Block: How to Help Your Young Child Succeed Socially!
7. Successful Video Modeling: What it is and how to do it! A Special Presentation Based on Jeanette MacAfee's Navigating the Social World
8. It Takes a Village to Raise a Child: Video Modeling and the Lower Functioning Child
9. Autism and the Law: What You Need to Know About Defending Your Child's Right to Medical Treatment Funding

Currently we have a number of community groups within B.C. but are always happy to welcome more to the family. If you are interested in running or starting a group in your area, please contact the ASBC.

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## Advertising Spaces are Now Available

Autism BC is a quarterly publication which has an approximate distribution of 1500 parents and professionals throughout British Columbia, including but not limited to: parents, adult clients, extended family members, psychologists, psychiatrists, doctors, therapists, speech language pathologists, consultants, teachers and special education assistants.

Our distribution also extends to libraries, community groups, committee members, schools and ministry offices. If you are interested in obtaining advertising space or providing an insert in our publication, please contact our Director of Operations & Communications for more details. Please note that special rates are available for partner and non-profit organizations. ***ASBC reserves the right to approve contents of the advertisements before confirming any advertising bookings.***



## Off the Shelf

*ASBC has expanded this section to be more than just book reports — this is your section to provide us with your views on interesting reading. In addition to the usual book reports, our new librarian, Tamara Leger, is looking to see if there's interest in providing to the Society used program materials and other items no longer needed for your child's treatment in order that we may add them to our library and lending resources.*

*Submitted by: Jennifer Weatherbee, Administrative Assistant*

ASBC welcomes Tamara Leger, our new Information & Resource Worker. As you may well be aware, with our former librarian Carol and now the addition of our new librarian Tamara, there have been many new and exiting changes happening in the library over these past few months. New books, videos and resource materials, and coming soon - programs on DVD!!!

Sincere thanks go out to Carol and her husband for tirelessly setting up the new system. With this whole new system of cataloging almost in-place, finding the materials you want, when you want them will be far faster than before. It took us a while, but we're all very confident that this new system will not only make things easier for the staff, but most importantly will benefit our members in providing the information you require in a timely manor.

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***New ASBC Resources - Greetings All*** - we're Spring Cleaning here at the ASBC and are starting to rejuvenate our library resource materials. We are looking to get rid of antiquated materials that no longer seem appropriate and update our shelves with new titles, more of old favorites that you can't seem to get your hands on, and add a new section of programming materials to assist your children with their treatment programs. ECL Publications and Thinking Publications are some of our current favorites, so watch for new titles in the near future. If you are done with any materials or manuals or books and would like to donate or sell them to us please email: [tleger@autismbc.ca](mailto:tleger@autismbc.ca). We are also looking for energetic office volunteers to help with a variety of community-based projects... so please think of us if you have some time to spare.

The following is a list of new library resources available for sign-out through the ASBC library. Note: your membership must be current and in good order (no outstanding books) to access these materials. To request any materials you can call 604-434-0880/1-888-437-0880 or email [librarian@autismbc.ca](mailto:librarian@autismbc.ca) or call to make an appointment to come in and visit us at 301-3701 East Hastings, Monday to Friday 10-2pm. We are always happy to hear from you.

*Enjoy! Tamara Leger - Information & Resource Worker - Library*

1. Variety of Lovaas -ABA Programming Materials including sequencing cards, set of emerging reader short stories to help with reading comprehension, cool colouring sheets (Super Heros/Star Wars), Advanced Conversation Question/Response card set (Answer Yes/No, Statement-Question, Statement-Statement-Question, Answer-Open Ended Questions, Open-Ended Question, Answer with Full Sentence, Question-Statement-Reciprocal Question, Full Sentence, Answer with One or Two Words), "Wh" Question Game, etc.
2. Don't Take it So Literally! Activities for Teaching Idioms by
3. Integrated Play Groups by Pamela Wolfberg
4. Skillstreaming the Elementary School Child: Student Manual, and Book by Arnold P. Goldstein
5. Teaching Language to Children with Autism or Other Developmental Disabilities by Sundberg and Partington
6. Workbooks: Cursive Writing, Mapping Skills, Teach Editing, Cloze on Language, High Interest Vocabulary, Chance stats and Graphs, Critical Thinking/Problem Solving, Creative Writing, Inferences, Cause Effect, and Beginning Sequencing.
7. Templates: Monthly Calendar, Weather, Journal, Sequence Event of the Week.
8. Understanding Feelings Video, Workbook and Discussion Guide
9. Magazine Picture Clippings to get you started for your inferential reasoning/perspective shifting/visual decoding programs.
10. How to Write Sumlin Social Stories
11. Transfer Activities: Thinking Skill Vocabulary Development for Home, School Community by Patty Mayo and Nancy Gajewski
12. Navigating the Social World - DVD by Dr. Jeanette MacAfee
13. Language Builder Occupation Cards Set

New Library Resources (New Video Releases)

- Navigating the Social World - DVD
- Do-Watch-Listen-Say by Kathleen Ann Quill
- Aspergers .. What Does It Mean to Me? by Catherine Faherty
- Transfer Activities Thinking Skill Vocabulary Development by Nancy Gajewski and Patty Mayo-----

# Resources – a parent can never have too many...

A new section created by the Autism Society to bring you more information on current resources that may be of benefit to you and your family...

## Current WOW Resources (New Releases)

*Submitted by Tamara Leger, Information & Resource Worker - Library*

**Navigating the Social World - DVD** by Jeanette MacAfee & Navigating the Social World Manual by Jeanette MacAfee

**Teaching Your Child the Language of Social Success** by Duke, Nowicki and Martin

So, just how do you teach non-verbal language skills like facial expressions, space and touch, gestures and postures, rhythm and time and objectics (hygiene, style, image and dress)? Yes, here's all the stuff you would never ever think to teach. How do you break them down into "doable" parts and catch them in action? This book is a fantastic resource tool for tackling this tough issue and is chock full of useful programming ideas and strategies... great for the whole family, and a fantastic resource. Publisher: Peachtree Cost: \$14.95 USD

**Thinking About YOU Thinking About ME** by Michelle Garcia Winner

**The Social Star** Series by Nancy Gajewski, Polly Hirn and Patty Mayo

Here's an actual scripted curriculum that you can pre-teach at home, use in a small group or send to school for the whole class. Skills covered include topics such as : It's a great Intermediate (Grades 1-4) step after you have completed the Skillstreaming Program, but need more targeted social skills programming. Cost: \$80 CDN each or Set of 3 for \$221 CDN. Publisher: Thinking Publications: <http://www.thinkingpublications.com/ezshopper3/catalog/sstar3.html>

**Book 1:** General Interaction Skills including Eye contact, Volume, Tone of voice, Facial expression, Posture, Personal space, Hygiene, Body talk, Manners, Listening Basics, Conversations, Interrupting, Right time and place, Being formal or casual, Staying on topic/Switching topics.

**Book 2:** Peer Interaction Skills such as Dealing with teasing, Optimism, Getting into a group, Giving and receiving compliments, Playing cooperatively, Giving put-ups, Cognitive planning, Being a friend, Participating, Respecting differences, Staying on task, Disagreeing politely, Building a positive reputation.

**Book 3:** Conflict Resolution and Community Interaction Skills included are Taking charge of feelings, Being assertive, Being responsible, Taking charge of anger, Resisting peer pressure, Settling conflicts, Making an apology, Responding to criticism, Helping my community, Cognitive planning.

"Know the Code at School" Actual "flashcards" for 50 key school skills rules. It includes skill, live action picture of what the expectation looks like and a list of key expectation points. Great for Kindergarten on up.

**Developing Logical Reasoning & Verbal Reasoning Activities & Problem Solving Activities** by Jean DeGaetano

**Explaining & The Language of Perspective Taking** by Marilyn Toomey

### WOW WEB SITES:

<http://www.asatonline.org/>

<http://www.brijan.com/>

(like those Canadian prices on ECL Publications and Thinking Publications Materials!)

<http://www.thinkingpublications.com/>

<http://www.eclpublications.com/>

Great Peer Play Ideas: [http://www.zeeks.com/igetandgo\\_makeit.html](http://www.zeeks.com/igetandgo_makeit.html)

# Quality of Life Research Study

*Submitted by Roy Brown, PhD*

I am writing to ask for your support with some research being undertaken by Dr. Roy Brown and Dr Grace Iarocci.

Roy Brown has worked in several countries and has built several programmes for people with disabilities and as a professor has designed and implemented rehabilitation programmes at Universities in Canada and Australia. Now, semi retired, he is working with a wide range of families who have children with disabilities.

Grace Iarocci is a psychologist and professor of psychology at Simon Fraser University. Within the clinical context she has provided children with autism and their families with diagnostic, assessment and psycho-educational support and within the research context she has developed a program of research on early attentional

and sensory abilities that impact on the development of children with autism.

Both Dr. Brown and Dr. Iarocci recognize the impact that a child with developmental disability has on the family and vice versa. The goal of this research project is to explore family well-being and quality of life in families where there is a child with Autism Spectrum Disorder aged between 5 and 10 years.

The Autism Society of British Columbia supports this research endeavor and we believe that the results will help to make policy makers more aware of the needs of families and assist in the development of better services for those who care for children with ASD. Specifically the study will:

- Provide information on the nature of the Quality of Life of families where there is a child with a developmental disability
- Provide information on the nature of the Quality of Life of families where no disability occurs amongst the children.
- Provide data which is critical for the development of policy, services and personnel in disability and family services
- Assist in the planning of generic services, which should provide the required support for families who have a member with a developmental disability.

If you would like to be involved in this study you will be invited to complete a questionnaire. If you complete the questionnaire you will have an opportunity to elaborate on the issues through a telephone interview, but this will be up to you.

If you are interested in taking part please contact our office and we shall let Dr Brown know and he will then contact you directly by mail.

Our aim is to serve people with ASD and we are interested in the overall results of the study, which Dr Brown has agreed to share with us.

To get involved or for further details, please contact either Dr. Brown at: roybrown@telus.net or Dr. Iarocci at: giarocci@sfu.ca

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*(Continued from page 1)*

The process of forming a micro board need not be an arduous task, although it does take time. As a parent, you: ask five individuals who have similar ideals for your child to serve as directors for the micro board, form and incorporate as a BC Society through the Society Act of British Columbia. During this process the group will choose a name for the society, develop bylaws and a constitution and decide what the society will do for the individual with autism. Some microboards manage all of the affairs of the individual like, programs, housing, employees and funding, while others may only center on the social support of the individual in the community.

Delegate jobs and chores out to all members of the group, and schedule all regular meetings, or else your board members will be calling on you and asking for updates and meetings.

Parents need not be alone when setting up a micro board. Vela ([www.microboard.org](http://www.microboard.org)) is an organization that helps parents through the process of setting up a microboard. Vela gives advice to parents, helps them avoid pitfalls they might encounter in the process and tries to help the board keep the microboard as simple as possible to insure success and continuity.

As a parent of an adult with autism, I know that I have done my best for my son to live and work in the community independently; however, I do have concerns about the quality of his social life, especially after I am gone. The idea of a microboard with caring board members from our community gives him the support for a rich life in the community, which is a great comfort to me.

I would encourage parents who are ready to work with others in their community, want to creatively develop programming, and use individualized funding to fit the needs of their individuals with autism to look into the option of microboards.

For more information on this topic or other available services for persons with ASD, please phone our office or check out our Web site at <http://www.autismbc.ca> (click on the Programs & Services link).

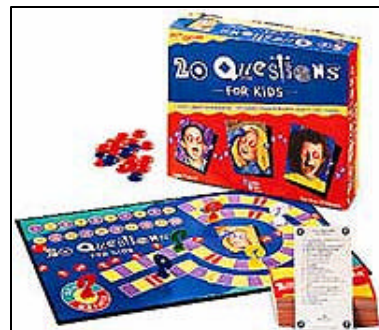
# FAVORITE MATERIALS CORNER

*Submitted by Tamara Leger, Information & Resource Worker - Library*

## **Favorite Materials: Materials Product Review:**

**20 Questions for Kids:** Target and practice those "wh" questions in a game. Great to play as part of your program or on peer play dates ... or family game night. You will hang on to this one for years! Cost:\$18 USD  
Publisher: University Games <http://www.areyougame.com/>

**Get Up and GO! Don't Just Sit There ...Play!:** a really fast paced "charades" type game that kids can play alone, in a small group or even in the classroom! Great active fun for up to grade 3. Comes with a sand timer ... kids love seeing "time run out"! Cost: \$15.00 USD Publisher: Ravensburger  
<http://www.niftycool.com/getupandgogame.html>



**Show and Tell Game:** Practice makes perfect... this game is what it is ... and comes with a variety of objects to "share" or collect a few to make up a story to tell. Good for Preschool-Kindergarten-Grade One ... or until they lose interest in "sharing". Cost: \$14.99 USD Publisher: University Games  
<http://www.areyougame.com>

**Apples to Apples Jr. -The Game of Funny Comparisons:** This is the most fun fact game, I've seen in a long time. One person gets to be judge, while the rest of the players have to use their "best judgement" or match from the cards they are holding that "most completes" the card read aloud. Lots of laughter... and the judge always has the final say. Cost: \$16.99 USD Publisher: [http://www.otb-games.com/apples/apples\\_jun.html](http://www.otb-games.com/apples/apples_jun.html)



*Creatures Made from Wikki Sticks*

**Wikki Sticks:** non-toxic, wax-dipped strings in neon colours great for printing, colouring and "closest guess" to make a cutting in between "the lines" and sculpting too! Cost: \$5 - \$30 USD Publisher: <http://www.wikkistix.com> or 1-800-869-4554.

## *Essence Day Spa & Hair Salon*



ASBC wishes to thank these two sponsors for their contributions to:  
"An Elegant Evening of Dining and Fashions"

# Classified Ads & Help Wanted

**Zajac Ranch...** Serious illness and life threatening conditions shouldn't keep children from enjoying a summer camp experience. Opening this summer, the Zajac Ranch is a camp like none other in the Province. Each program at the Ranch is designed to improve the self-esteem, confidence and the quality of life of each child in a supportive environment. At the Zajac Ranch, children will learn what they can do, not what they can't. For more details on this summer camp, please contact them at: 604.739.0444 or e-mail: info@zajacranch.com

**Summer Unlimited** is a unique program which offers recreational opportunities to young people, ages 13-19, with disabilities. Participants take part in a wide range of activities in and around the city, meeting new friends and acquiring new skills. Knowledgeable staff (3 to 1 ratio of participants to staff), in-program transportation, and one-to-one peer volunteers are provided. For more info, please contact Jon Hartley-Folz at Britannia Community Centre: 604.718.5800

**Doctoral candidate looking for participants...** Doctoral candidate in Paediatric Neuropsychology, at the University of Victoria, is completing a research project on movement and motor skills in Asperger's Syndrome. The study is addressing a number of possible causes, including timing, visual perception of motion and motor planning. She is willing to move her lab to the mainland for a few days if she has enough interested participants. She will pay interested youth \$15 in exchange for three hours of their time. To participate or request more information, please call Kelly Price, MSc at: 250.472.4195 or e-mail: kprice@uvic.ca

**Graduate Student at SFU initiating original research project...** Tamara S. Kulusic graduate student at Simon Fraser University in the Masters of Arts Program in the Sociology/Anthropology department is initiating an original research project aimed at developing a better understanding of how parents come to understand autism and access help. My project entitled "Understanding Autism and Accessing Help: Parents' Perspectives of the Family Experience" will include interviews with parents who are interested in contributing to this project. If you are interested in participating, you can get in touch with Tamara by calling 604.273.5730 or by e-mailing her at: tkulusic@sfu.ca

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## MCFD Parent Information Bulletin – June 15, 2004:

– Submitted by the Autism Initiatives Branch, Ministry of Children and Family Development

### **NEW FORMS REQUIRED IN APPLYING FOR AUTISM FUNDING FOR FAMILIES WHO REQUIRE AN ASSESSMENT FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER FOR THEIR CHILD:**

The Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) has responsibility for testing children for autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Families should see their child's doctor for a referral to a clinician who is trained to do autism testing. Parents who wish to have more information on autism diagnosis and testing can refer to the PHSA website at: [www.phsa.ca/Agencies & Services/Services/Autism](http://www.phsa.ca/Agencies & Services/Services/Autism).

The British Columbia Autism Assessment Network under PHSA has created a form which clinicians will complete at the end of testing done on a child for ASD. The form is called the Provincial Autism Network Testing Evaluation Report (PANTER) form. This form is used when a child is tested for ASD. The clinician completes this form and provides a copy to the family to give to the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) social worker when applying for autism funding. This form summarises the testing results and indicates whether the child has ASD.

The social worker needs this form in determining if the family is eligible to receive autism funding for their child. The form will also indicate for children over age six, the areas where intervention is needed.

As this is a new form, families can still provide the multidisciplinary assessment to social workers if they had an assessment done prior to June 01, 2004. Families may refer to the ministry website at: [www.mcf.gov.bc.ca](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca) for more information on the documents needed in applying for autism funding or contact the ministry social worker.

Families who wish to have a private-paid assessment for their child will also need to have their clinician complete the PANTER form. A printable form is available through the Provincial Health Services Authority website at: [www.phsa.ca/Agencies & Services/Services/Autism](http://www.phsa.ca/Agencies & Services/Services/Autism).

If families have any questions or concerns about the new PANTER form or about new assessments for ASD they may contact the British Columbia Autism Assessment Network at: 604.453.8343. \*\*\**This is only an excerpt - for the remainder of this bulletin - please check out our website*\*\*\*

# Community Groups

If you would like to organize an ASBC Community Group in your region, please leave a message for Laurie Romey at the provincial office toll-free at 1-888-437-0880 or at 604-434-0880, or contact her by e-mail at: [administrator@autismbc.ca](mailto:administrator@autismbc.ca) subject line: Community Groups.

## LOWER MAINLAND

Delta	Vacant – see Surrey or Richmond	
North Langley	Carole McCarthy	
Richmond	Linda Alblas & Mary McCulligh	604-277-9727
Surrey/North Delta	Nancy Walton	604-538-8021
North Shore	Tamara Leger & Anissa Lalani	604-921-7071 604-924-3626

Mandarin-Speaking Asperger's Social Club & Parent Support Group	Carol Ywan Ella Baranowski	604-594-8986 604-733-1398
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## VANCOUVER ISLAND

Campbell River	Judy Hollywood-Bonnet	250-923-5654
Cowichan Valley/Duncan	Claire Spencer	250-746-1667
Nanaimo/Port Alberni	Marja Jorgensen	250-714-0801

## INTERIOR

Kamloops	Mike Fisher	250-427-9616
Kitimat	Michelle Carriero	250-632-2399
East Kootenay	Sue & Dave Henke	250-367-6373
North/Central Okanagan	Cindy Methot	250-542-5213
Sunshine Coast	Catherine Cooper	604-885-8809
Penticton		
Prince George	Louise Blais	250-964-4870
Terrace	Heather Borland	
Prince Rupert		

## OTHER GROUPS WELCOMING ASBC MEMBERS

- **Parents Support Group for Families of Mentally Handicapped Adults Living at Home.** Gwen Lee at 604-321-6253, or Janice Reithofer at 604-438-1291.
- **F.E.A.T. of BC (Lower Mainland Parent Discussion Group focusing on ABA programs).** Jean Lewis, 604-925-4401.
- **Autism Kamloops (Autism Parent Partners).** Betty Ann Garreck, (250) 376-5495
- **Victoria Society for Children with Autism (VSCA).** Laurie Mains, 250-818-4662.
- **Parents for Inclusive Education (Powell River).** April Sweet, 604-485-5885, or Linda Leutz, 604-485-5386.
- **Parents of Exceptional People Prayer & Support Group (Dawson Creek).** Jennifer Van Spronsen, 250-782-8342.
- **Gateway Parents Advocacy Group.** Karen Philipchuk, 604-535-0903. This group is supported by Gateway Social Services.
- **Canadian Chinese Autism Association of BC.** Hugo Chan, 604-641-6620.
- **Autism Support Kelowna.** Lorraine Cristofanetti, c/o COCDA, at 250-763-5100, ext. 523 or 250-768-1144.
- **Tri-Cities Community Support Group.** Clair Schuman, 604-939-5157.



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[salmons@salmonstransfer.com](mailto:salmons@salmonstransfer.com)



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Ridge Meadows Nancy Auersberg 604-467-3407

## Autism Society of British Columbia

Autism ... a part of our world, not a world apart

# Branch Offices

**VANCOUVER ISLAND BRANCH**  
Marja Jorgensen, ASBC Branch Coordinator  
13285 Cedar Road, Ladysmith, BC V9G 1H8  
Tel: (250) 714-0801 Fax: (250) 714-0802  
E-mail: [mjorgensen@autismbc.ca](mailto:mjorgensen@autismbc.ca)

**NORTHERN REGION BRANCH**  
Heather Borland, ASBC Branch Coordinator  
Bsmst, 13950 Athabasca Road, Prince George, BC V2N 5X9  
Tel: (250) 963-0803 Fax: (250) 963-0804  
E-mail: [autismbc\\_pg@uniserve.com](mailto:autismbc_pg@uniserve.com)

# Western Lawn and Garden Supply

*Special Thanks to Western Lawn & Garden Supply for their generous support at "An Elegant Evening of Dining and Fashions"*

