



# AUTISM SOCIETY

OF THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOOD BUFFALO

## ANNUAL REPORT

**2018**

*A summary of our year supporting the autism community in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.*

# ANNUAL REPORT

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## President's Report

2018 has been an extremely busy and exciting year for our Society. We are thrilled to announce we received our charity status in April 2018, which has created many more opportunities for our society.

### Grants/Funding

Thanks to the hard work of our board members we have received three grants this year; one of which was The Community Investment Program which has allowed us to hire an employee as a Community Ambassador. This allows us to continue to have an employee in the office and out in the community educating parents, professionals, and other organizations and helping navigate services provided in our community.

The second grant, Wood Buffalo Community Foundation, gives us an opportunity to hire a second employee that will create and facilitate a pilot social-respite program. This is a program that we feel will greatly benefit our community and fill a gap in services identified by parents of youth aged 11-17yrs.

The third grant, from Unity for Autism, will enable us to run our camp for 2 extra weeks which will extend it from 3 weeks to 5 weeks in 2019. This will allow us to reduce the waiting list and give more special needs children the opportunity to experience summer camp.

After a detailed application process we will be holding our very first casino event in July 2019; all funds raised will be used to further develop our programs.

### Community Partners

Through a coalition with Support 4 Moms Society and The Boys and Girls Club we helped create and facilitate K-SNAP, which is a fully inclusive program focusing on peer play and adaptive sports. K-SNAP gives children the opportunity to interact with other kids in a semi-structured setting that promotes forming cooperative relationships and exploring different sports and games that are adapted to their needs. This is a great opportunity for parents to experience play with their children, and to watch them learn social skills and how to play with others.

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## Education and Awareness

Over the last year we've held many engagement and information sessions for families, educators and others in the community interested in learning more about autism. The following are the sessions we've had in 2018:

- Financial Planning
- A Spectrum Talk Living with ASD
- Let's Talk Respite
- Understanding and Managing Challenging Behaviors
- Annual Autism Conference webcast

## Sensory-Friendly Events and Programs

We work hard for families to come together socially in the RMWB, in a sensory friendly environment. Some of the amazing sensory-friendly events we have been able to provide our families with are; tubing at Vista Ridge, our annual Easter Egg Hunt at Dunvegan Gardens, Sensory Holiday photos at Peter Pond Mall, sensory-friendly Paint Time at Color Me Mine and weekly sensory-friendly Jump Time at Aim High Trampoline Park. New this year we held Family Picnic in the Park throughout the summer months, Fall Family Fun Night and our annual Christmas party which is always a favourite with our families!

In April we held our annual Autism Toonie Swim to raise awareness on autism in our community.

Even though we were unable to hold our autism awareness gala this year, we were still able to put on a successful comedy night at Live Bar and Grill and raise much needed funds for the Society.

## Challenges in 2018

Although we have had such a successful year in some ways, there have been a few challenges as well, which include reaching and engaging adults on the spectrum in the community. This is something we will work towards in the next year.

At the end of 2018 the Board made the difficult decision to remove ourselves from the More Than Just Bricks campaign with Educare. Unfortunately, as the campaign progressed it became



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## Financial Statements

### BALANCE SHEET

#### **Autism Society of the RMWB Balance Sheet As at 12/31/2018**

##### **ASSET**

###### **Current Assets**

Petty Cash	575.00
Common shares Savings Bank Account	1.05
Chequing Bank Account	40,886.85
Kids First Account	44,407.77
Gaming Bank Account	10,339.94
Servus Rewards	28.75
50/50 Float	100.00
Investments	0.00
Accounts Receivable	0.00
Advances & Loans	0.00
Purchase Prepayments	0.00
Prepaid Expenses	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b><u>96,339.36</u></b>

###### **Capital Assets**

Office Furniture & Equipment	0.00
Accum. Amort. -Furn. & Equip.	<u>0.00</u>
Net - Furniture & Equipment	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Total Capital Assets</b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>

**TOTAL ASSET** 96,339.36

##### **LIABILITY**

###### **Current Liabilities**

Accounts Payable	0.00
Credit Card Payable	0.00
Vacation payable	0.00
EI Payable	0.00
CPP Payable	0.00
Federal Income Tax Payable	<u>0.00</u>

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Total Receiver General	0.00
WCB Payable	0.00
Prepaid Sales/Deposits	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>0.00</u>

## Long Term Liabilities

Bank Loans	0.00
Mortgage Payable	0.00
Loans from Owners	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Total Long Term Liabilities</b>	<u>0.00</u>

<b>TOTAL LIABILITY</b>	<u>0.00</u>
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## EQUITY

### Society Equity

Retained Earnings - Previous Year	28,889.85
Current Earnings	<u>67,449.51</u>
<b>Total Society Equity</b>	<u>96,339.36</u>

<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<u>96,339.36</u>
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<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<u>96,339.36</u>
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## INCOME

### Autism Society of the RMWB Income Statement 01/01/2018 to 12/31/2018

## REVENUE

### Sales Revenue

Gift in Kind Donations	711.00
Donations	9,713.29
Fundraising Income	50,493.25
Grant Income	54,705.00
Sale of Merchandise	14,606.72

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Interest Revenue	17.24
Membership Income	219.12
Tickets for Member Events	8,817.16
Miscellaneous Revenue	<u>26.00</u>
<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<u>139,308.78</u>

**TOTAL REVENUE** 139,308.78

## EXPENSE

### Cost of Operations and Fundraising

Advertising	568.26
Entertainment	10,336.56
Catering / Food	4,512.54
Rentals	2,676.25
Decorations	1,399.81
Miscellaneous	909.73
Educational Services	<u>770.53</u>
Total Fundraising Costs	21,173.68
Merchandise for Sale	6,712.57
Freight Expense	<u>14.19</u>
<b>Total Cost of Operations and Fundra</b>	<u>27,900.44</u>

### Payroll Expenses

Wages & Salaries	20,144.00
EI Expense	306.78
CPP Expense	580.08
WCB Expense	200.00
Employee Benefits	0.00
Subcontractor	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Total Payroll Expense</b>	<u>21,230.86</u>

### General & Administrative Expenses

Accounting & Legal	103.75
Advertising & Promotions	2,642.70
Bad Debts	0.00
Business Fees & Licenses	27.39
Cash Short/Over	70.10
Courier & Postage	66.43
Amortization Expense	0.00
Insurance	1,025.00
Interest & Bank Charges	158.14



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Office Supplies	5,774.92
Property Taxes	0.00
Motor Vehicle Expenses	0.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	59.47
Rent	2,548.43
Repair & Maintenance	0.00
Gaming Expense	2,030.00
Telephone	2,965.00
Travel	3,162.34
Utilities	<u>2,094.30</u>
<b>Total General &amp; Admin. Expenses</b>	<u>22,727.97</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<u>71,859.27</u>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<u>67,449.51</u>

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## Ambassador's Report

2018 brought some changes to the existing ambassador program. As the Community Services Grant provided by Autism Speaks came to an end in May of 2018 the need to sustain and continue the programs and services of the ambassador role were strongly evident. It was identified that the services of the board as well as the community relations portion of the role required consistent hours that would make the office and ambassador available during regular business hours. We received the Community impact Grant from the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo in August 2018 to continue to employ an Ambassador for 25hrs each week to include regular office hours.

With the creation of the new hours and additional availability of the ambassador the society now had the capacity to work towards meeting the objectives and priorities identified in the strategic plan.

- Develop consistent program that will provide current and credible information to families, individuals and professionals on a monthly basis.
- Complete the Missing Pieces Project.
- Create and grow a program for adults in our community.
- Increase an interest in our board by increasing awareness on what we do and growing members and volunteers.

### Accomplishments

- Created strong inter agency relationships with local agencies and groups that will benefit the growth and function of the society.
- Formed a partnership with Fort McMurray Boys and Girls club and Support 4 Moms Society to create and run KSNAP, a fully inclusive social program focusing on peer play and adaptive sports.
- Became an active member of both the Y-Connect and ASSESTS in Action inter-agency committees.
- Built strong working relationship with agencies in other areas of Alberta (Autism Edmonton, Autism Calgary and Autism Society Alberta), giving us the opportunity to be a part of a large stakeholder event as a panel speaker, invited to the Ministry of Education to be a part of policy and guideline discussions. We have showcased our resources (Missing Piece) and have been asked to share our vision and material for the program as there is currently nothing like this in Alberta.
- Connected to University of Calgary and a multitude of study opportunities as well as collaborated grant possibilities with the agencies.

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- Have completed the Missing Pieces Program lending resource program that is now available to schools.
- The society now has the beginning of a training library (slide shows, workshops and presentations) we have begun awareness presentation and educational presentation in the community since September.
- With the increase of regular hours, we have seen an increase in parent and individual outreach for advice, services and support. The ambassador program has been able to offer parent support and navigation by providing one on one supports either in person, on the phone or via email. We have advocated for and with parents at schools and with program providers to assist them with feeling they and their child were receiving equitable supports and opportunities.
- Attended 20 + community markets promoting the board, raising awareness and showcasing our sensory items.
- In November, we began to outline and develop an adult program. Outreach has begun with agencies and current service providers to begin to see the wants and needs of the adults in our community. Once the gaps are identified we will develop a support and service for the needs of this demographic.

## Next Steps

Over the next year the Ambassador Program will continue to focus on providing the supports and services outlined above and using the resources created with the inter-agency relationships to grow the network of service and supports in the community for our clients. We will strive to be a strong part of the reorganization and revitalization of the Regional Inclusive Committee in 2019.

## Challenges

Funding for this program continues to be a challenge. Creating sustainability for the program will be a focus. Sourcing funding for programs supplies, speakers, venues and staff will be a priority in 2019.

Nicole Spring  
Community Ambassador

## Camp Kids First Report

Camp Kids First is a summer day camp for children with autism and other disabilities and disorders in our region. Campers participate in activities that promote social skills, play and communication.

Camp Kids First ran for three weeks during the summer of 2018 and thirty-eight children were able to attend with one-to-one support. Camp was based at Educare, a local preschool and campers enjoyed daily field trips in our local community. Some of the places they visited were; Clearwater Horse Club, Aerial Adventure Park at Vista Ridge, MacDonald Island, Fire Hall #1, Gregoire Lake and Dunvegan Gardens.

Camp was funded by – grant from Northeast Alberta Children and Family Services and fundraising efforts. The grant paid for the Director and Co-Director to plan and supervise camp. The Autism Society of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo received a donation from Servus Credit Union which covered the cost of the children attending the Aerial Adventure Park at Vista Ridge.

Each child had a one-to-one support worker provided by McMan Child and Youth Services, Fort McMurray and funded by Family Supports for Children with Disabilities.

### **Some comments from parents of the children who attended Camp Kids First in 2018:**

*“the location was great, lots of things to do there, playground right in there was nice, hope that every year camp can be there”*

*“camp needs to be longer”*

*“loved having Facebook group and receiving updates and pics from camp!”*

*“Vista Ridge Aerial Adventure Park was my child’s favourite”*

*“my son, he didn’t want to leave”*

*“wish camp was longer than one week”*

*“I can’t believe my son touched a horse!”*



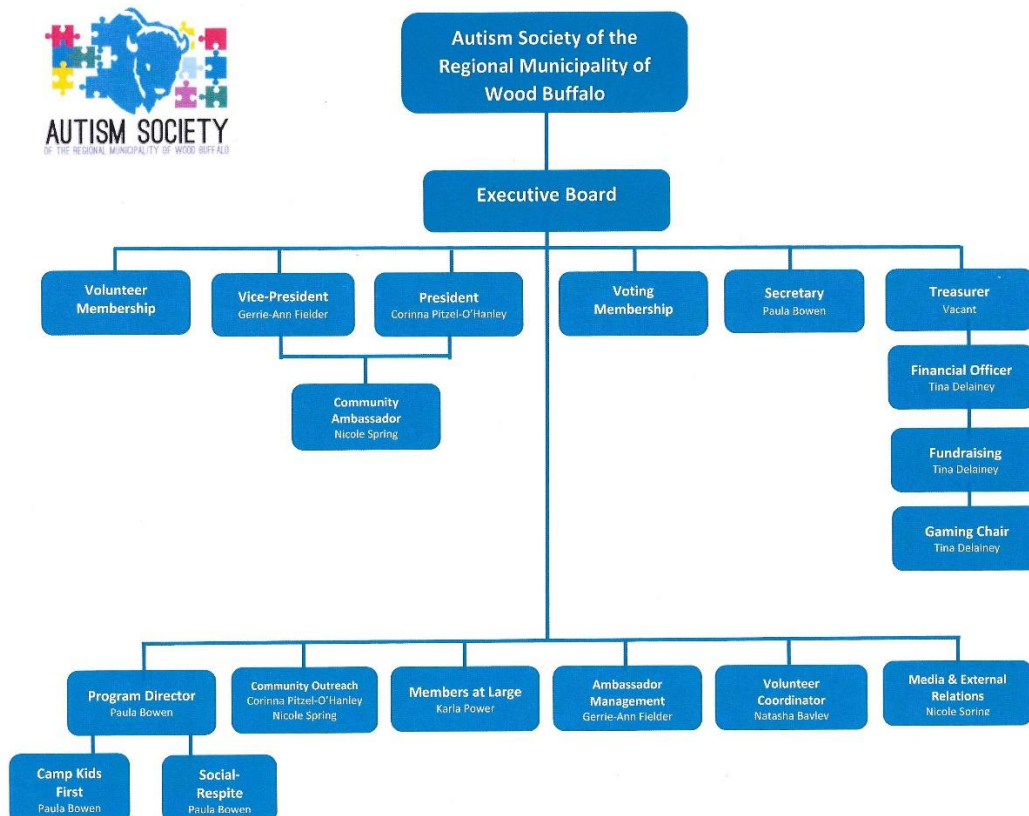
## VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR REPORT

The Autism Society of the RMWB has had a great volunteer year. Volunteers came out for various events such as; bingo, bottle drive, hot dog stands, toonie swim day, Christmas markets and Wood Buffalo Events: Halloween Thriller, 80's Night and Christmas Parties. Without our volunteers these fundraising events would not be possible.

The number of volunteers keep increasing but we are always looking for more. Currently we have approximately 50 volunteers on our list. We do have new avenues of finding volunteers such as the 'Volunteers Wood Buffalo' website.

Volunteers are eligible to become voting members or board members if they follow the specific membership protocol as stated in the bylaws.

## BOARD 2018



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Fort McMurray, AB  
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[autismsupport@autismrmwb.org](mailto:autismsupport@autismrmwb.org)

## Board Members

Corinna O’Hanley – President

[president@autismrmwb.org](mailto:president@autismrmwb.org)

Gerrie-Ann Fielder – Vice-President

Paula Bowen – Secretary/Program Director

[secretary@autismrmwb.org](mailto:secretary@autismrmwb.org)

Katie Cooper – Treasurer

Tina Delainey – Financial Officer

Nicole Spring – Autism Ambassador

[admin@autismrmwb.org](mailto:admin@autismrmwb.org)

Natasha Bayley

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Karla Power