

# AUTISM SOCIETY

OF THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOOD BUFFALO



## SOCIETY NEWS

We want to take time to recognize and thank a few organizations in our community that have gone above and beyond to make sure families and children of all abilities have been able to enjoy the community events happening in our region. Fort McMurray Heritage Village held sensory friendly time during their Halloween event as well as their Christmas events, Northern Lights Health Foundation offered a sensory friendly time for families to enjoy Santa's workshop, and the RMWB offered a sensory friendly viewing section for the Santa Parade. Way to show inclusion in our community!

Christina Gordon Public School Inclusion Advisory Committee did a great job hosting an Inclusion Fair In November. There were lots of great resources from the community that took part, Thank you for inviting us to join.

Thank you to our Adult Social Group for helping decorate the office for Christmas. They all did a wonderful job.





# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS & EVENTS

November was again full events, engagements and community support!

Controlled Chaos braved the cold in their Annual Camp out in support of the society. Thank you for the continued support you give our organization.



Christina Gordon Public School Inclusion Advisory Committee did a great job hosting an Inclusion Fair. There were lots of great resources from the community that took part, Thank you for inviting us to join.

The Society partnered with The Support Through Housing Team Society to offer the Mistletoe @ the Hall Market. Thank you to all the vendors who registered and those who came out to shop. .



# Cash For Christmas 50/50

Grab your tickets for a chance to win up to \$10,000.00 just in time for Christmas.

Ticket Sales End: Dec 15th, 2022

Draw Date: Dec 16th, 2022

License # AGLC-618351

Must be 18 years of age and an Alberta resident.

<https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/autismsocietyrmwb>



## MEMBERSHIPS

**For \$20 annually you have the opportunity to get involved, stay connected and help guide the strategic direction of the Autism Society of the RMWB by electing our board-level leadership at the annual general meeting. Join the growing number of families, professionals and community members that make our society.**

### **Why become a member of our Society?**

**Support:** in the form of parent discussion groups, information sessions on various topics, information and advice on working with your child's school or simply a friendly ear on the end of a phone.

**Voting rights:** when you purchase a paid membership and agree to the Society's Approved Bylaws 2020, Guiding Principles, Vision and Mission.

**Advocate:** be a voice for our autism community. Help us to raise awareness and supports for people with special needs in our region.

**Opportunity:** to be involved with committees, events and activities to work towards an inclusive community.

### **Benefits to becoming a member:**

10% off sensory store items

Access to newsletters and information about the society

Unlimited access to our lending library

Early registration for programming and special events

Member rates for workshops, seminars, and conferences

Discounts with community partners

Current community partners- Earls, Color Me Mine, Colossal Toys, Vista Ridge

Voting rights at our Annual General Meeting and special resolution meetings

Non-Voting Rights for professional Membership

**To become a member follow the following link**

**Membership – Autism RMWB**

**Or contact the office**



Thank you

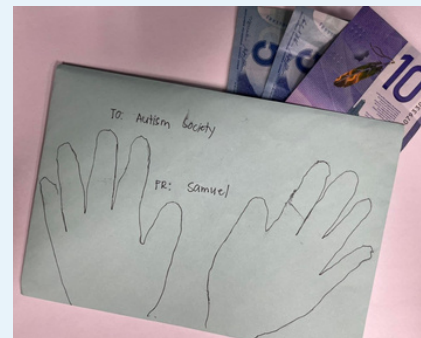


Thank you to Our Lady of the Prairies for helping fund the community presentation we will be hosted on behaviours.



Thank you to our community for your continued support!  
**#givingtuesday**

**The smallest acts of kindness can make the biggest difference.**



Thank you to **Wood Buffalo Community Foundation**. With their support we are able to continue our **Social-Respite Life Skills program**.

Participants of our Social-Respite Life Skills program take part in activities that help build life skills.

Some examples of what they have been up to:

- writing grocery lists
- grocery shopping
- preparing simple meals
- tasting new foods and trying new textures
- washing dishes and cleaning up
- working cooperatively
- helping each other
- HAVING FUN-



# FUNDRAISERS

**AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH**

**KICKOFF EVENT**

**SILENT AUCTION**

**50/50**  
kickoff

**Autism Society**  
OF THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOOD BUFFALO

Raffle  
kickpoff

Join us on March 24th 2023 to kickoff Autism Awareness month  
6:00 pm start, Silent Auction closes at 10:30pm

**CANADIAN Brew House**  
177-108 Riverstone Ridge  
Minors welcome till 9:00 PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT  
AUTISM SOCIETY OF THE RMWB  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER  
COMMUNITY@AUTISM RMWB.ORG  
587-452-9334

BID BID BID



We are continuing the sale of Sensory surprise bags in support of United way for the month of December

<https://autismsocietyofthermwb.wildapricot.org/page-18094>

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**MEMBER**  
**MOVIE NIGHT**

**GET COZY, BRING YOUR BLANKET, AND ENJOY A MOVIE ON THE BIG PROJECTOR.**

**WE WILL BE SERVING POPCORN AND DRINKS**

SAT JAN 14 6:00-8:30 PM  
10019 MACDONALD AVE  
UNIFORM BUILDING

**PLEASE REGISTER THROUGH THE WILD APRICOT APP**  
LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER  
PHONE: 587-458-9334  
EMAIL: COMMUNITY@AUTISM RMWB.ORG

**AUTISM SOCIETY**  
OF THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOOD BUFFALO

Autism Society of the RMWB Presents:

**Education Inclusion Program**

**AUTISM SOCIETY**  
OF THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOOD BUFFALO

Developed with the intent to cover topics of understanding ASD, acceptance of differences, and how to adapt your environment to be inclusive of everyone's needs, this Education Inclusion Kit is a teachable resource that is accessible, free of charge!

"CONNECTING THE PIECES OF OUR COMMUNITY"

Please follow the link bellow to request a kit:

**[Education Inclusion Kit Request \(office.com\)](https://autismsocietyofthermwb.wildapricot.org/page-18094)**

Autism Society of the RMWB Hosts

**GUEST SPEAKER ON BEHAVIOUR'S**

**December 10th 2022**

Session 1: Presentation 9:00 AM-11:00 AM  
Q&A 11:00 AM-12:00 PM

Session 2: Presentation 1:00 PM-3:00 PM  
Q&A 3:00 PM-4:00 PM

**Tickets available through Eventbrite**

2-hour session presented by Steve Slopek, MSc., RPsych will cover the basics of how to interpret difficult behaviour as a form of communication and figure out exactly what the person needs, and a variety of strategies to address different causes of challenging behaviour. You will come away with a framework for problem-solving with behavioural concerns, and ideas on where to find specifics.

Following the presentation there will be a Q&A with the opportunity of one on one time.

Funded in part by

For more information please contact  
Community Development Officer Danielle  
Phone: 587-452-9334  
Email: community@autismrmwb.org

**OUR LADY OF THE PRAIRIES**

Free event with limited capacity

**OUR SPEAKER**

**STEVE SLOPEK**  
Steve Slopek, MSc., RPsych.

**About**

Steve has spent over a decade in a variety of positions in non-profits helping individuals do just that, using Behavioural Therapy, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, Dialectical Behaviour Therapy, and Parent Management Training approaches that are tailored to the person's needs.

Steve specializes in working with people and families with complex combinations of challenges, including behavioural concerns, stress, anxiety, depression, relational issues and family dynamics, and parenting concerns. He also has extensive experience with individuals of all ages experiencing intellectual or developmental disabilities, autism, ADHD, FASD, and traumatic brain injuries. Steve is experienced in conducting assessments of decision-making capacity for guardianship and trusteeship, and assessments of intellectual and adaptive functioning (usually to determine eligibility for funding).

**FREE EVENT**

Tickets available through Event Brite link below:

**<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/guest-speaker-on-behaviours-tickets-467862829317>**



# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers are the heart of our non-profit organization and without their continued support, we would be unable to service the community. If you would like to help us out and volunteer your time, please click on the link below and sign-up VIA Wood Buffalo Volunteers.

[Wood Buffalo Volunteers by FuseSocial](#)

If you have any questions about volunteering, please reach out to [autismsupport@autismrmwb.org](mailto:autismsupport@autismrmwb.org)

## UPCOMING SESSIONS

### Neurodiverse

#### ADULT SOCIAL GROUP

Social program for 16 years plus. The program focuses on building and maintaining friendship skills in group activities.

**TUESDAYS**  
12:00-2:00 PM

LOWER LEVEL OF THE LOCAL 707A UNIFOR BUILDING  
21B-10019 MACDONALD AVE.  
FORT MCMURRAY, AB  
T9H 1S9

PHONE: 587-452-9334  
EMAIL: [COMMUNITY@AUTISMrmwb.org](mailto:COMMUNITY@AUTISMrmwb.org)  
WEBSITE: [WWW.AUTISMrmwb.org](http://WWW.AUTISMrmwb.org)



**Neurodiverse Social Group is a Social Program for 16 years plus. The Program focuses on building and maintaining friendship skills in group activities.**

**Activities included:**

- Pizza Party with crafts & games
- Wood Buffalo Regional Library.
- Bowling at The Alley YMM
- Sensory Friendly Movie
- Games and activities night
- Sensory time

**For any questions please contact 587-452-9334 or email [community@autismrmwb.org](mailto:community@autismrmwb.org)**

### FRIDAY FRIENDS

#### Social Skills and Friendship Group

**THE PROGRAM**

A 6 week facilitator led program, (based on PEERS) for youth aged 10-14yrs, Fridays 5-7pm, starting October 28th. Youth will learn and practice skills during sessions and practice at home with parents/family members. ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED AT EACH SESSION. ELIGIBILITY IS DETERMINED THROUGH TELEPHONE INTERVIEW WITH FACILITATOR.

**PROGRAM FOR THE EDUCATION AND ENRICHMENT OF RELATIONSHIP SKILLS (PEERS)**

An evidence-based, social skills training intervention for youth with ASD, ADHD, FASD, Anxiety, Depression and/or other socio-emotional challenges. PEERS is designed for motivated youth to learn how to make and keep friends. Skills taught include: use of appropriate conversational skills, appropriate use of humour, how to enter and exit conversation, how to handle arguments and disagreements, rumours and gossip, and how to handle rejection, teasing and bullying.

TO REGISTER, EMAIL [programdirector@autismrmwb.org](mailto:programdirector@autismrmwb.org)



### Independent Living Skills

Ages 18-29yrs

- ✓ Health & Self-Care
- ✓ Personal Finance
- ✓ Household Management
- ✓ Relationships
- ✓ Community & Leisure

An opportunity for neurodiverse young adults to learn critical life skills to promote independent living.

Apply: 

MORE INFO: [lifeskills@autismrmwb.org](mailto:lifeskills@autismrmwb.org)



**ADULT LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM**  
Our LifeSkills Program is open to any neurodiverse individuals and persons living with disabilities from the ages of 12-30 to learn critical life skills and to promote independent living.

**For more information please contact:**  
**Leslie Rae Samson LifeSkills Leader**  
**Email: [lifeskills@autismrmwb.org](mailto:lifeskills@autismrmwb.org)**  
**Phone: 587-452-9334**

### ASD:NVCI

**Autism Spectrum Disorder:  
Nonviolent Crisis Intervention**  
January 6th & 7th 2023  
at Unifor 707a

This course is intended for professionals, support workers and caregivers who support individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and/or other social communication disorders who would like to enhance their skills in a crisis.

- ✓ Learn to recognize behaviour levels
- ✓ Practice preventative strategies
- ✓ Learn verbal de-escalation techniques
- ✓ Assess levels of risk of harm
- ✓ Learn and practice disengagement skills

2-day Certificate Course  
ASRMWB Members: \$150  
Non-Members: \$200

 nonviolent crisis intervention

Register at [www.autismrmwb.org/whats-going-on/](http://www.autismrmwb.org/whats-going-on/)  
Email [programdirector@autismrmwb.org](mailto:programdirector@autismrmwb.org) or call 780-531-5777 for more details



REGISTER FOR UPCOMING EVENTS – Autism Society of the RMWB ([autismrmwb.org](http://autismrmwb.org))

 Phone: 587-452-9334  
 Email: [community@autismrmwb.org](mailto:community@autismrmwb.org)  
 Website: [www.autismrmwb.org](http://www.autismrmwb.org)

# NOW HIRING SOCIAL-RESPITE SUPPORT WORKERS



We are looking for motivated, caring, enthusiastic, supportive and professional members to join our team. Knowledge and previous experience supporting individuals with disabilities is essential.

Flexible hours  
part time/casual

**Email Resume to:**

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

## Happy Holidays!

**Please Note the office will be closed  
during the Holidays:  
Friday December 23rd -January 3rd**

### CONTACT US



Lower level of the Local 707A UNIFOR Building  
21B-10019 MacDonald Ave,  
Fort McMurray, AB  
T9H 1S9



Phone: 587-452-9334



Email: [community@autismrmwb.org](mailto:community@autismrmwb.org)



Website: [www.autismrmwb.org](http://www.autismrmwb.org)

### *Vision*

A Region where Autistic Individuals and all those living with a disability, are valued and are participating members of the community. A region that recognizes that all citizens have the right to live, work and play.

### *Mission*

We are committed to creating an inclusive community through programming, supports, and understanding for Autistic individuals in our region, and all those living with a disability and their families across the lifespan.