

Autism Society

Of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo



SOCIETY NEWS

2020 has brought an all-around whirlwind of emotions. While COVID-19 stopped many events from taking place, the society has actually been able to expand on our programming (with restrictions of course)!!

Our COVID-19 protocols are like all others, we are following AHS guidelines, have masks and hand sanitizer readily available, and are currently taking in-person appointments (social distanced) by appointment only.

Our office hours have changed. We are now open Mon-Thurs 9:00am-3:00pm.

Our Social Respite Program is now running 7 (!!) days a week, with a reduced number of registrants for all. While many of our “out of program room” activities have been taken away, we are still having lots of fun!!

Our Community Sensory Room and our Adult “Chat-n-Chill” program is now open to everyone (see poster below for details). These programs are limited and are now by booking only!

Thanks to everyone for your continued support and don’t forget to check out our events and fundraisers!

The Missing Piece

Learning about
Autism Spectrum Disorder

PRESENTED BY



Contact Nicole at
community@autismrmwb.org
for more information about
the missing piece program!

Vision

We envision a centre in RMWB that will be recognized as the primary provider of support and services in our community and surrounding areas. Every person will have access to a center that provides the ability to bridge the gap between families, professionals, education support and assessments. Our goal is to guide families and individuals to the supports needed at each stage of their life.

Mission

We strive to accommodate a support network that fosters an inclusive community by providing information, supports, awareness and programs to all those in our community affected by ASD and other barriers.

Values

- Support an inclusive community by respecting people, valuing diversity, and a commitment to equality
 - Raising awareness and understanding to create acceptance in the community
 - Empowering individuals to achieve their goals
 - Inspiring optimism in the community
- Provide an emotionally safe and supportive setting.

Contact us!

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

Phone: 587-452-9334

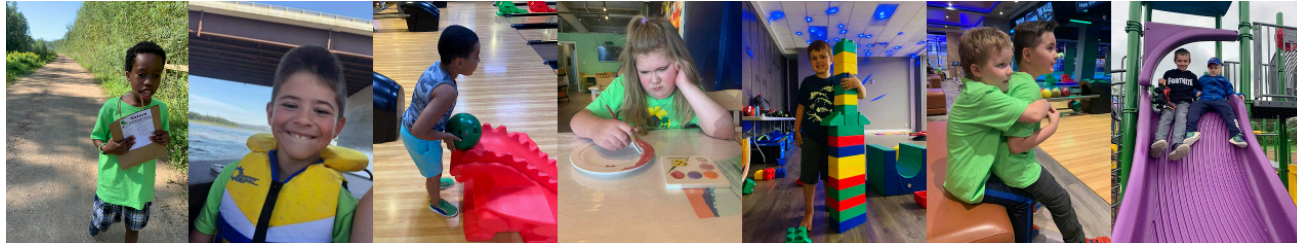
Email: autismsupport@autismrmwb.org

Website: www.autismrmwb.org

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram,
and Twitter!



→ @autismRMWB



CAMP KIDS FIRST 2020

Our Biggest Camp Yet!

While our camp this summer looked a little different from previous years, we are pleased to have provided 56 children with special needs the chance to attend summer camp!

Due to COVID-19 and the spring flooding in Fort McMurray, we faced many challenges, and for a while thought we would not be able to go ahead with this year's summer camp. Our planned location to hold camp this year was affected by the floods this spring, and due to COVID-19 many of our other options were also unavailable. At the last minute, we were able to secure a suitable location to hold summer camp, and we are extremely thankful to Unifor Local 707a for allowing us to use a space in their building.

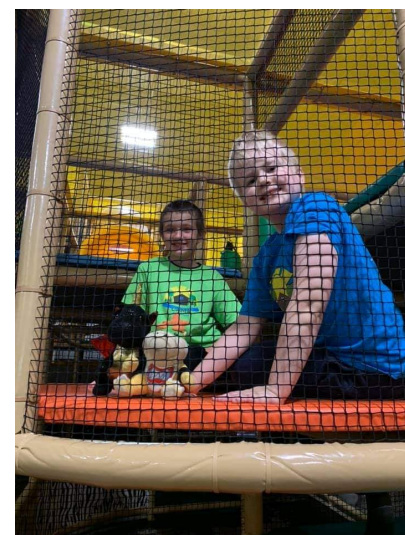
Paula Bowen
Program Director
Autism Society RMWB

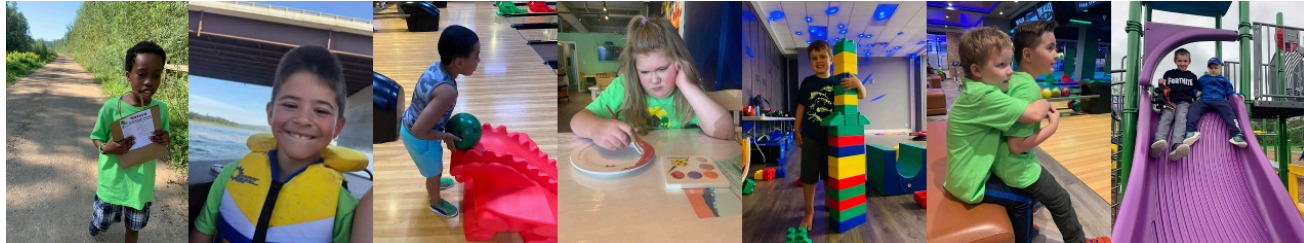
Because of the global pandemic, we had to modify camp significantly from our usual format. This year we had cohort groups of five children that attended on a staggered schedule to follow recommended guidelines.

This year we enjoyed many activities and field trips that followed physical distancing recommendations – pottery painting, outdoor scavenger hunts, visits to the horse stables, sensory play, dance classes, a river boat ride, and days at the beach.

Many of our 'normal' camp activities were not an option, but with an amazing staff team, we overcame many challenges to provide an amazing experience for the kids!

"This was the second-best day of my life! The first was when I was born!" - CKF Kid





Upcoming Events and Activities

COMMUNITY SENSORY ROOM

A Multi-Sensory Room is a space where the primary senses are stimulated through the use of sensory based materials. Our Sensory Room is a safe environment to engage in a range of sensory experiences such as fibre optics, bubble tube, music, colour, lighting and aromas.

OPEN TUESDAYS and THURSDAYS

Our Community Sensory Room is open by appointment only during COVID-19. Numbers are limited to 3 people per session (no unsupervised children) and COVID-19 screening MUST be completed before entry.

45-minute time slots can be booked through our website by emailing jennal@autismrmwb.org or by calling 780-215-4908

21B - 10019 MacDonald Ave. (Unifor, lower level)

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Chat 'n' Chill

Chat 'n' Chill is an adult social program... open to anyone over 18yrs old who is autistic and/or faces social, physical or sensory challenges. A chance to meet new people and experience activities in a sensory-friendly environment.

Wednesday's 10am - 12pm

Due to COVID-19 this program will be by registration only (no drop-in) Please call 780-215-4908 or email jennal@autismrmwb.org to register

21B-10019 MacDonald Avenue (Unifor 707a Building)

AUTISM SOCIETY
OF THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOOD BUFFALO

WE WANT YOU TO JOIN OUR BOARD

Autism Society is looking for energetic, passionate individuals to:

- Provide your voice for decisions and services that shape our community in the RMWB
- Promote the organization in the community
- Attend monthly Board meetings and committee meetings
- Serve on sub-committee (i.e. fundraising, events)
- Volunteer at events

If you believe in the mission of the Autism Society of the RMWB and would like to be a part of improving all those in our region affected by ASD and other barriers, we have a seat at the boardroom table for you!

Our expectations are simple to join. Board Members must:

- Commit to approximately 4-6 hours per month but can vary depending on if you wish to join subcommittee meetings, and may also have additional board-related activities throughout the year like ASM's.
- Attend six consecutive meetings.
- Term of Office: One year with the possibility of renewal for a second term.
- Adhere to Code of Conduct.
- Strong communicator, active volunteer, knowledge of Board governance, connected in community, understands evaluation, ability to work as part of a team.

WE ARE RECRUITING

Interested? Please submit your Expression of Interest to autismsupport@autismrmwb.org

Our Mission as Autism Society of the RMWB

We strive to accommodate a support network that fosters an inclusive community by providing information, supports, awareness and programs to all those in our community affected by ASD and other barriers.

Visit: www.autismrmwb.org for more information

AUTISM SOCIETY
OF THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOOD BUFFALO

THINKING ABOUT THINKING

HOW TO BUILD STRONGER EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING SKILLS PRESENTATION

OCT. 28
3 P.M. - 5 P.M. MDT

Join us for the online presentation with live Q&A (Zoom/Phone)

LET'S THINK ABOUT THINKING

This presentation will provide a brief overview of the key areas of executive functioning (that is, thinking skills). It will present attendees with various strategies to strengthen thinking skills and will discuss supports to overcome barriers an individual may face.

ABOUT THE PRESENTERS

Dr. Shree Latha is the Director of Professional Practice and Evaluation at the Sinneave Family Foundation. He is a behavioural psychologist specializing in autism, positive behaviour supports and self-determination. Dr. Lynch has been serving clients with autism, as well as other developmental and intellectual disabilities, for over 20 years.

Sue Latha is part of the Sinneave Professional Practice Team. She has a Master's Degree in Clinical Neuropsychology and is a Board Certified Behaviour Analyst. She has provided positive behaviour and transition supports to children, youth and families impacted by autism spectrum for more than 20 years. She has delivered services in schools, clinics and in private family homes.

THE PRESENTATION WILL DISCUSS:

THE KEY AREAS OF EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING, STRATEGIES TO STRENGTHEN THINKING SKILLS & SUPPORTS TO OVERCOME BARRIERS TO EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR THIS FREE EVENT!

Presented in Partnership with:

aide canada

The Sinneave Family Foundation is an all-Canadian charitable organization connecting Canadians to creative, reliable, evidence-informed autism resources in their region. This is a national initiative led by the Pacific Autism Family Network, funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Sinneave FAMILY FOUNDATION

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Click on the poster to register for this exciting event hosted by Sinneave partnered with AIDE

Click on the picture to see more information about our monthly public board meetings as well as information about becoming a board member!

Check out our Facebook Page and our Website for all up to date information and events!

Current Fundraisers

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Welcome to the **Autism RMWB Amazing Box of Cards** Purchase Page

When you purchase for yourself, family or friends. You're helping Autism RMWB gather much-needed funds for equipment, activities and technology. Spread the word, there are prizes to be won for families who show their Amazing skills in fundraising. Boxes will be distributed by Autism RMWB.

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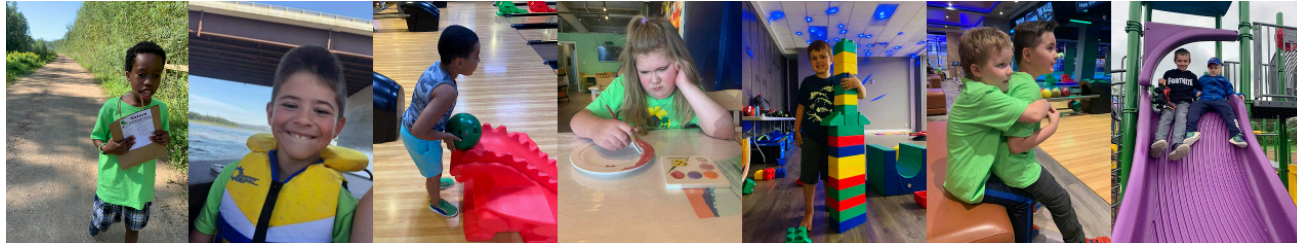
50/50 FUNDRAISER!

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United Way
Fort McMurray and Wood Buffalo

Please click on pictures to bring you to the fundraising page!



Become A Member!

Join the growing number of families, professionals and community members that make up the Autism Society of the RMWB.

Together we can raise awareness and bring positive changes in our community!

The Society's mission is to accommodate a support network that fosters an inclusive community by providing information, supports, awareness and programs to all those in our community affected by ASD and other barriers. Come and join our monthly meeting and see what our board is all about! We are always looking for new and fresh ideas to help diversify and grow our membership!

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 By-Laws, Values, 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 (e.g. Jolly Jays, YMM Barbour Shop, Color Me Mine, etc.)
- Voting rights at our Annual General Meeting

How to become a member:

- **Complete:** [Click Here](#) to fill out 'Voting Membership' application form.
- **Pay \$20 annually:** Click the shop tab on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/AutismRMWB/?ref=bookmarks>) and you can process your fees there or email autismsupport@autismrmwb.org for the registration form and this email can be used for EFT transfer of fees.

Alternatively, please contact us if you would prefer a printed copy of the form and the terms and conditions and cash payments.

To **apply** for or **renew** your membership, simply complete this application form to autismsupport@autismrmwb.org and submit your annual fee.

*** By purchasing a membership, you are agreeing to our terms and conditions and also for us to share your information only with Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commissions to allow us to run Gaming fundraising (IE Bingo's, Casino's and 50/50's.) Unless otherwise noted by you not to share your information according to our Privacy policy.*

