

# AUTISM SOCIETY

OF THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOOD BUFFALO



## SOCIETY NEWS

### Camp Kids First

We kicked off the summer with the start of Camp Kids First. We have been lucky to have expanded summer camp this year and welcomed even more kids than in previous years. The kids will have a blast doing all the fun things our community offers this summer. Check out some of the fun so far this summer.

A special Thank You goes out to all the staff.

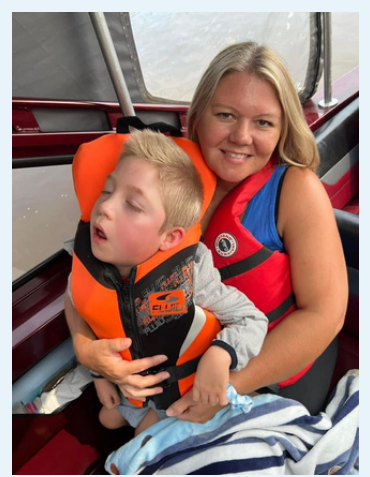


VISTA  
RIDGE

### Golfing at Vista Ridge







**Thank you, Running Bear Wilderness Adventures, for another great summer of trips on the river.**





# ADULT SOCIAL GRPUP PROGRAM

The Adult Social group meets every Tuesday from 12:00-2:00 pm. Check out some of the activities they have been enjoying.

## Pottery Painting at Color Me Mine



## Visiting The Snye



## Beautiful Day to check out Kiyām Community Park



# MEMBERSHIPS

**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! For \$40.00 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.**

**Come and join our monthly public meeting and see what the board is all about! We are always looking for new and fresh ideas to help diversify and grow our membership! To attend a meeting email your request to [autismsupport@autismrmwb.org](mailto:autismsupport@autismrmwb.org).**

## **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
- 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**

**587-452-9334**



Thank  
you

Thank you to all our volunteers who put in their time to help make our casino and 50/50 events a success. Thank you to United Way for providing the opportunity for the 50/50.



# IN THE COMMUNITY



Fort McMurray's running event of the year is back with a new name – Mark your calendar for the Inter Pipeline Fort McMurray Marathon on Sunday, September 24! Early bird registration opens at 10:00am, May 2, 2023.

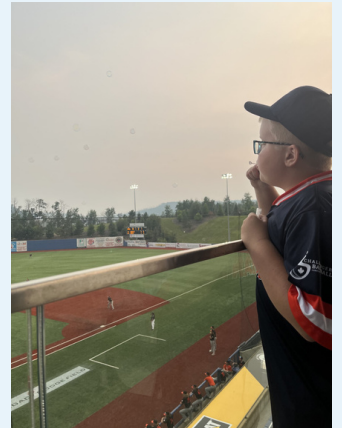
Run for a Reason is back! Local registered charitable organizations can apply to participate in the 2023 Run for a Reason program until May 31, 2023. New this year – grab your friends & fundraise as a team! Register a charity or learn more about team fundraising here:

**For more information please click below link**  
**[www.fortmcmurraymarathon.ca/reason](http://www.fortmcmurraymarathon.ca/reason)**



# FUNDRAISERS & EVENTS

**Thank you Fort McMurray Giants for supporting us and providing a sensory friendly space for our families to watch an amazing game.**



**Thank you to all our volunteers and to the community who came out to support our hot dog stand event. Thank you to Fort McMurray Home Hardware for providing us the opportunity to have this event.**





**The 2nd Annual Inclusive Santa Fun Run was another success, everyone enjoyed the race and the special visit from Santa and Buddy Elf.**





# UPCOMING EVENTS



**Saturday  
Sept 16th**

## BOTTLE DRIVE

*Save Your Empties*

ALL FUNDS SUPPORT OUR SOCIAL-RESPIRE PROGRAM  
PICK-UPS BETWEEN 9am - 1pm ON SATURDAY SEPT 16th

Email [programdirector@autismrmwb.org](mailto:programdirector@autismrmwb.org) or text  
780-531-5777 to arrange pick up!

[To volunteer click here](#)



## CHOZEN BREED

FORT McMURRAY

# 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL POKER RUN

IN SUPPORT OF



**AUGUST 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Registration at The Royal Canadian Legion at 10:30am.  
(9317 Hoggard Street - Waterways)  
Kickstands up at 12:00pm

\$20 per hand, license & registration required ~ All motorcycles welcome!  
Ghost hands available & BBQ by donation.

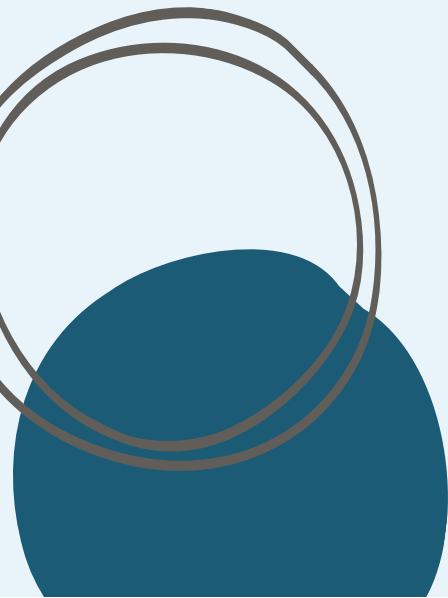
Ride ending at the LEGION for prizes, 50/50, silent auction and more!

Thank you to our sponsors:



For all your ride inquiries, learn more about ghost hands or to make a donation please email: [chozenbreedfm@yahoo.com](mailto:chozenbreedfm@yahoo.com)

[More information can be  
found here](#)



# UPCOMING SESSIONS

DISABILITY TAX CREDIT & REGISTERED DISABILITY SAVINGS PLAN


Have a child or loved one living with disabilities?

**PLAN FOR THE FUTURE**

Learn how to open an account and receive up to **\$1000 per year** for their retirement!

Receive grants & bonds to help your savings grow faster!

Join our free session  
1:00 PM-2:30 PM on September 22nd  
Local 707A Union Main Hall,  
10019 MacDonalld Ave  
Fort McMurray, AB

 **AUTISM SOCIETY ALBERTA**  
Family Resource Centers

[autismalberta.ca/frc](http://autismalberta.ca/frc)

[Click here to register](#)

**RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY**  
Examining the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on individuals with autism, their supporters and their service providers

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY CONJOINT FACULTIES RESEARCH ETHICS BOARD HAS APPROVED THESE STUDIES (REB22-1890 AND REB22-0863)

DO YOU IDENTIFY AS AUTISTIC OR HAVING AUTISM?  
OR  
ARE YOU A SUPPORTER OF AN AUTISTIC INDIVIDUAL?

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR UNIQUE EXPERIENCES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHAT WILL PARTICIPATION INVOLVE?

YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN A 30-60 MINUTE INTERVIEW OR FOCUS GROUP

WE WILL BE AT THE AUTISM SOCIETY OF THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOOD BUFFALO ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2023.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT OUR RESEARCH TEAM


**STUDY COORDINATOR**  
HILARY NELSON  
403-630-7351  
HILARY.NELSON@UCALGARY.CA

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR**  
DR. DAVID NICHOLAS  
NICHOLAS@UCALGARY.CA  
780-492-8094

 UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

 UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA


[Click here to register](#)


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

**INFORMATION SESSION**


**FREE REGISTRATION!**


**CAREGIVING AND THE INTERSECTION OF AUTISM AND MENTAL HEALTH**


 Date  
September 28th, 2023

 Time  
6:00pm - 8:00pm

**Hilary Nelson**  
Research Coordinator for  
University of Calgary



 Contact Us  
587-452-9334

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

[Click here to register](#)

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

**INFORMATION SESSION**

**FREE REGISTRATION!**

**SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM THAT ARE TRANSITIONING INTO ADULTHOOD**

 Date  
September 28th, 2023

 Time  
9:00am - 11:00am

**Dr. David Nicholas**  
Professor Associate Dean,  
Research and Partnerships  
Faculty of Social Work  
University of Calgary



 Contact Us  
587-452-9334

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

[Click here to register](#)



# 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)**

## Employment Support



### DO YOU WANT TO...

Support for neurodiverse individuals & people living with all types of disabilities

- RECEIVE NO COST DIGITAL LITERACY TRAINING
- DEVELOP YOUR GOALS
- CREATE STRUCTURE AND BUILD HEALTHY HABITS
- CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR COMMUNITY
- STRENGTHEN YOUR COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- BUILD CONFIDENCE
- RECEIVE PERSONALIZED COACHING

ACCESS EMPLOYMENT, VOLUNTEER, AND/OR MENTORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**CONTACT US**  
AUTISM SOCIETY OF THE RMWB  
Email: [employment@autismrmwb.org](mailto:employment@autismrmwb.org)  
Phone: 780-215-7280  
Website: [www.autismrmwb.org](http://www.autismrmwb.org)

**FUNDED BY**  
Government of Alberta  
Government of Canada  
CASE (Canadian Association for Supported Employment)  
Sinneave Family Foundation

### DO YOU...

- Identify as neurodiverse or as a person living with a disability?
- Have the skills but struggle to move beyond the first interview?
- Want support to achieve your career goals?

To learn more about how we can assess your employability skills and create a customized solution just for you, contact us at:

**AUTISM SOCIETY OF THE RMWB**  
Phone: 780-215-7280  
Email: [employment@autismrmwb.org](mailto:employment@autismrmwb.org)  
Website: [www.autismrmwb.org](http://www.autismrmwb.org)

**FUNDED BY:**






**Identify as neurodiverse, or as a person living with a disability?**

**Want to achieve your career goals?**

**Please reach out to Jibran Hamayun our Employment Supports Program Facilitator to find out more information for our next session.**

**Email: [employment@autismrmwb.org](mailto:employment@autismrmwb.org)**

**Phone: 780-215-7280**

# Independent Living Skills

Ages 18-29yrs

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



Apply:



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



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



# EDUCATION INCLUSION PROGRAM

We have been able to continue the delivery of this program through funding provided by the Community Initiative Grant from the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

*Thank You*

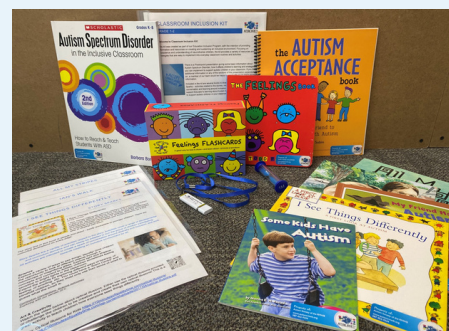
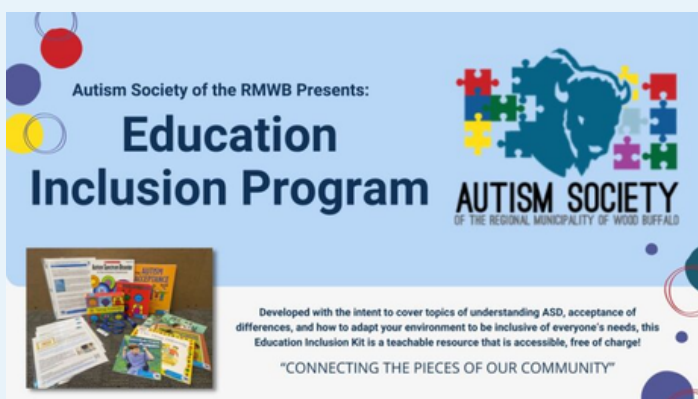


## THE EDUCATION INCLUSION PROGRAM

The Education Inclusion Program, was created by the society as a lending resource that is accessible to and free of charge. It was developed with the intention of promoting and educating others about Autism Spectrum Disorder. With a focus on acceptance and understanding, it covers topics of understanding ASD, acceptance of differences, and how to adapt your environment to be inclusive of everyone's needs. Since its conception it has grown to a library of presentations that cover a range of topics for almost any organization, service provider, business, employer and family wishing to learn more about ASD acceptance and accommodations.

Our school lending bins have been created for an intended audience of early entry to grade 6. Educators can request to borrow a bin for their class. Included in the bin is a collection of books, interactive material and an informative slideshow. We

have ensured that the bins have curriculum related material that could be substituted for items in health or language arts. Reading comprehension activities, novel study material and critical thinking activities are just some of what you will find in this resource. We have also ensured to add Leader in Me language to slideshow content. It really is a "win, win". An extensive teacher recourse guide has been created for each bin and offers ideas for activities and group projects. A teacher could use as little or as much of this program as they like. The resource can be borrowed from the society office with training provided if required or requested. A presentation to the intended audience is available by our Community Development Officer as well.



Please follow the link below to request a kit:  
**[Education Inclusion Kit Request \(office.com\)](https://www.office.com)**

# 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)

## 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.