



AUTISM SOCIETY

OF THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOOD BUFFALO

Transitions Program Handbook for Participants and Guardians

Autism Society of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo November 2023

Autism Society of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo

Established 2017

Mission Statement:

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.

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.

Guiding Principles:

- Support an inclusive community by respecting all people, valuing diversity and a commitment to equality.
- Promoting education and acceptance around autism to create an understanding and inclusive community.
 - Empowering autistic individuals and those with disabilities to achieve their goals.
 - Inspiring optimism in the community.
 - Provide an emotionally safe and supportive setting.

Program funded by:



Welcome to the Program!

Our transitions program was created for neurodiverse youth and adults to take part in fun activities and experiences with fellow peers, to find employment, secondary education and volunteer opportunities. Participants attending the program practice social skills while interacting with their peers and learning skills such as independence, responsibility, and accountability. Youth and adults learn practical life skills such as managing money, using public transport and self-advocacy. Activities will include, but are not limited to games nights, swimming, eating out, skating, golf, attending concerts or sporting events, craft evenings and volunteering in the community at local events such as Canada Day, Festival of Trees and with local agencies such as the Food Bank and SPCA.

Who can join the Program?

The program is designed for youth and adults with neurodiversity's, ages 16+ years.

How do we access the program?

We will use an intake process so that we can get to know you or youth/adult and help you find the most appropriate activities for them to enjoy with us. The process involves completing an application form, signing declarations and a brief interview with the Program Facilitator.

How do I sign up for activities?

Activities can be registered through our free app 'Wild Apricot for Members'. Activities will be on a 'first-come, first-served' basis and there is a 24hr cancellation policy to allow for spaces to be filled in the event of cancellations.

What kinds of activities do participants do?

Program activities will include board games nights, swimming, rock-climbing, video games nights, art & craft nights, cooking classes, attending local festivals, sporting events or concerts... and everything in between!

What fees are associated with the program?

There are no fees for the program. There will be some cost for outings, such as swimming, movies, etc....

What if I cannot afford the cost of activities (*admission, lunch, transit passes*)?

We encourage you to contact the Program Facilitator to discuss your individual situation, there may be ways we can help you mitigate some of those costs.

What happens on the day of the activity?

On the day of the activity, participants are responsible for their transportation to the designated meeting spot.

Program Accessibility:

The Autism Society of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo's Chat 'n' Chill Room is located on the lower level of the Unifor 707a building, 10019 Macdonald Avenue, Fort McMurray, Suite 5B. The building is accessible by both public and private transport. The municipal bus terminal is a short walk (400m) from the building. There is free parking available at Unifor 707a, with two designated spaces for Blue/Red Badge users. The building has an accessible path to travel to the entrance of the building and an elevator to access the lower level. Access throughout the building, including washrooms, is suitable for people with disabilities.

The Autism Society of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo's Life Skills Apartment is located on the lower level of 103C Powder Drive Fort McMurray, apartment #112. The building is accessible by both public and private transport. The nearest bus stop is a short walk (300m) from the building, stop 7095 (Route 15) on Powder Drive. There is free visitor parking available at Powder Drive. The building has an accessible path to travel to the front entrance of the building. Access throughout the building, including washrooms, is suitable for people with disabilities.

Who are the support staff?

Our Support staff are experienced in supporting youth and adults to learn and practice social skills such as building friendships, maintaining friendships, initiating and exiting conversations and other social interactions. All our staff have First Aid Training (Level C) + CPR, Nonviolent Crisis Intervention training, current criminal record and child service intervention checks, valid driving licences and adequate auto insurance for transporting youth/adults. Support staff are supervised by the Executive Director and relevant training is provided, as necessary.

What is the ratio of staff to participants?

The program runs with a maximum staff ratio of 6:1 with two a minimum of staff on per shift (*to maintain social interaction for those still needing one-to-one assistance*).

The participant needs 1:1 care - are you able to provide that?

Our program does not provide 1:1 care but your support worker is more than welcome to attend with participant.

The participant has difficult behaviours. Are they still welcome in this program?

Participants have access to our sensory rooms and sensory tools at both locations, to help with self regulation. The staff are familiar with a wide range of behaviours and are confident in supporting youth/adults through strong emotions. We feel that with the right information, support from program staff and the family we can ensure success in the program. For any specific questions or concerns please contact the Executive Director. All program staff are trained in Nonviolent Crisis Intervention which focuses on verbal de-escalation techniques and prevention of challenging behaviours by supporting individuals social and emotional needs in a positive manner.

Will I need to bring, or send with my youth/adults, any specific items or supplies?

Any additional supplies or items (*such as bathing suits, indoor shoes, etc.*) will be described in the activity details at registration. If your youth/adult requires specific items for sensory or self-care needs (*i.e. headphones, sunglasses, chew tubes, personal care items*) it will be parent's or participants responsibility to send these items.

Policies & Procedures

Accidents and Injuries:

- If an accident occurs during the program, which results in an injury, the program staff will take appropriate steps to treat the injury, inform parents/legal guardian, and document the incident using the Incident Report Form.

Medication Administration:

- Medication may only be administered by program staff on completion of a Medication Consent Form (prior to session) which must clearly state the dosage and time to be administered.
- Emergency medications will be delivered as per Alberta OH and S regulations.

Transportation:

- The Autism Society of the RMWB will ensure the safety of participants being transported to all program activities.
- When youth/adults are transported using personal vehicles of staff or volunteers, proper safety devices, including seatbelts and when necessary, by law are always to be used.

Respectful, Inclusive & Engaging Environments:

- The Autism Society of the RMWB will create a positive program environment that enriches the Society experience for youth, adults and families.
- The social environment of the program will be safe, positive, inclusive, and welcoming for youth, adults and families. The program environment nurtures a sense of belonging and club 'ownership' among youth, adults and families.
- Respect for staff and other participants is a key value for the Autism Society of the RMWB. It means treating everyone with dignity, courtesy, and appreciation, regardless of their role, background, or opinions.

Program Safety:

- Appropriate measures will be taken to ensure the health and safety of all participants in Autism Society of the RMWB's programs, including during field trips.
- To ensure proper care and contact in the event of an emergency, the parent or legal guardian will provide relevant health information on the information form completed upon registering Society activities. The Program Facilitator will have access to each participant's health information during program activities.

Illness:

- To ensure the health and well-being of the participants in the program, no youth/adult, staff or volunteer will be permitted to attend an activity if they have the following symptoms: fever, vomiting, diarrhea, pink eye or any other contagious illness.
- If participants symptoms appear during a Society program, the Program Facilitator will call parent/guardian to pick the youth/adult up. If the parent/guardian cannot be reached, their emergency contact will be called.

Cancellation:

- If session is cancelled by ASRMWB a refund or credit will be offered, for paid events.
- If cancellation is made by parents giving a minimum of 24hrs notice a full refund or credit will be offered, for paid events.

TRANSITIONS PROGRAM INTAKE FORM



Please complete all sections to the best of your knowledge. The information provided in this package will remain highly confidential and will not be shared outside of Autism Society of the RMWB without the permission of the applicant.

PARTICIPANTS INFORMATION		
Surname	Middle Initial	First Name
Address (No. and Street)	City	Postal Code
Email:	Phone No:	
Highest Level of Education Completed:		
PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION		
<u>Parent/Guardian 1: Primary? Yes/No</u>		
Surname	Name	
Address (No. and Street)	City	Postal Code
Email:	Phone #:	
Relationship to Applicant:		
<u>Parent/Guardian 2: Yes/No</u>		
Surname	Name	
Address (No. and Street)	City	Postal Code
Email:	Phone #:	
Relationship to Applicant:		

PARTICIPANT ABILITIES AND INTERESTS

Is the participant able to read and write? Yes/No

Please list interests and hobbies:

Any special abilities? Eg. athletic, artistic, musical, other.

Academic strengths or weaknesses?

Favourite activity in school?

Any extracurricular activities?

Ever had a job? If so, indicate when, for how long and the job activities:

Level of physical activity? Low/Moderate/High

Comments:

Ever participated in volunteer/community service?

If yes, please specify:

GOALS AND ASPIRATIONS

What are the participants goals for this program?

What are the participants' future goals? (College, work, friendships, etc.)

Any additional information participants would like us to know:

PARENT/GUARDIAN STATEMENT (TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENT/GUARDIAN)

Please explain areas your child excels in and areas for growth:

What are three goals you would like your child to achieve in the Transitions program?

Are there any special considerations/behavioural issues Autism Society RMWB should be aware of specifically regarding anger management, personal habits, and potential for self-harm and oppositional issues?

If yes, please specify:

Has your child exhibited violent behaviour? Yes/No (This question will not exclude your child from the program, it will allow for added support)

If yes, please specify:

What is your child's interests and computer habits?

Is there anything else you would like us to know about your child?

STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY

IF NOT APPLICANT:

Name of person completing the application:

Relationship to Applicant:

Address:

City

Province

Postal Code

Cell #:

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT ALL THE INFORMATION IN THIS APPLICATION IS TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE

Signature of Guardian

Signature of Guardian

***Autism Society of the RMWB
21B-10019 MacDonald Ave
Fort McMurray, AB
T9H 1S9
587-452-9334
www.autismrmwb.org***

Please read and initial the following statements, if agreeable:

I understand that the Participant or Parent/Guardian is responsible for any costs occurred from attending activities/events (i.e., movie tickets, swimming, food purchased, etc.)	
I have been informed of and understand the program activities and I am aware that there are certain risks inherent in participation in the program.	
I understand that every care and attention will be given to the health and wellbeing of the participant and that Autism Society of the RMWB cannot be held responsible for any injuries sustained while participating in the program activities.	
I give Autism Society of the RMWB permission to take photographs of participant while participating in program activities that may be used in printed or online media publications.	
I give permission for the participant to be transported in staff of the Autism Society of the RMWB's personal vehicles.	
I give permission for the participant to receive emergency first aid treatment if necessary, during program and hold no liability against the staff of the Autism Society of the RMWB.	
I will not hold Autism Society of the RMWB liable for paying any costs occurred with providing emergency treatment for the participant (e.g., ambulance charges.)	
I give permission for staff to administer emergency medication to the participant during program activities.	
While participating in Autism Society of the RMWB's program, Participants and Parent/Guardians understand that they will be respectful of staff, volunteers, and other participants. They will follow the rules and guidelines of the program and the venues we visit. They will communicate their needs and preferences to the staff and volunteers and ask for help when needed. Participants and Parent/Guardians will also respect the diversity and abilities of other participants and celebrate their achievements and successes. Participants will participate and have fun with activities with my peers.	

I have read the above information and agree on the Autism Society's Social-Respite Policies and Procedures.

To the best of my knowledge, the above information is accurate and complete. Should anything change, I understand that the Program Facilitator will be notified in a timely manner.

Parent or Participant Signature:

Program Facilitator Signature:

Date: _____

Date: _____

General Waiver and Release of Liability

1. In consideration for receiving permission to enter Autism Society of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo at 10019 MacDonald Avenue, Fort McMurray, AB, I hereby RELEASE, WAIVE, DISCHARGE, AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE Autism Society of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, their officers, agents, contractors, volunteers, or employees (hereinafter referred to as RELEASEES) from any and all liability, claims, demands, actions, and causes of action whatsoever arising out of or related to any loss, damage, or injury, including death, that may be sustained by me, or to any property belonging to me, while participating in such activity, while in, on or upon the premises where the activities are being conducted, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SUCH LOSS IS CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES, or otherwise and regardless of whether such liability arises in tort, contract, strict liability, or otherwise, to the fullest extent allowed by law.
2. I am fully aware of the risks and hazards connected with the activities which may take place in this building and I hereby elect to voluntarily participate in said activities, knowing that the activities may be hazardous.
3. I further hereby AGREE TO INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS the RELEASEES from any loss, liability, damage, or costs, including court costs and attorneys' fees that Releases may incur due to participation in said activities, WHEATHER CAUSED BY NEGLIGENCE OF RELEASEES or otherwise, to the fullest extent allowed by law.
4. It is my express intent that this Waiver and Hold Harmless Agreement shall bind the members of my family and spouse, if I am alive, and my heirs, assigns and personal representative, if I am deceased, and shall be deemed as a RELEASE, WAIVER, DISCHARGE, AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE the above-named RELEASEES. I hereby further agree that this Waiver of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the Province of Alberta and the federal or provincial courts of Alberta. Any portion of this document deemed unlawful or unenforceable is severable and shall be stricken without any effect on the enforceability of the remaining provisions.

IN SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT, I ACKNOWLEDGE AND REPRESENT THAT I have read Terms and Conditions and the foregoing Wavier of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement, understand it, and sign it voluntarily and I am at least eighteen (18) years of age.

ALL FIELDS ARE MANDATORY

Please fill in YOUR First and Last name:

Please fill in your Child's First and Last name:

Please fill in your address:

City:

Postal Code:

Parent or Participant Signature:

Date:

[Type here]