

September 2025

# Society Newsletter

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



## Heading into Fall



### Caregivers Coffee

Come enjoy a cup of coffee and a light snack while connecting with parents and caregivers.



REGISTER HERE

#### Schedule:

9:00AM - 11:00AM

September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025

October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Autism Society Apartment

#### For questions or more information please contact:

Jasmine Lauzon- Community Development Coordinator

Phone: 587-452-9334

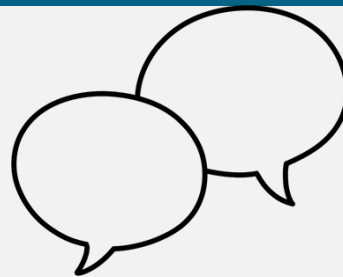
Email: [community@autismrmwb.org](mailto:community@autismrmwb.org)

or

Barb Fitzpatrick- Disability Resource Coordinator

Phone: 780-215-2459

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



### CAREGIVERS COFFEE

Come Join us!  
Light snack and  
coffee/tea provided.

"Because You Can't  
Pour from an Empty  
Cup"



We acknowledge that we are gathered on the traditional lands of the Cree, Dene, and Métis peoples, within the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. This land is part of Treaty 8 Territory, and we recognize the long history of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples who have cared for and lived on this land for generations.

We honour the diverse Indigenous communities of this region, including Fort McKay First Nation, Fort McMurray First Nation, Chipewyan Prairie First Nation, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Mikisew Cree First Nation, and the Métis peoples of Fort McMurray, Fort Chipewyan, Fort McKay, Conklin, and Janvier.

# ANNUAL COMMUNITY BBQ



Come join us for our annual community BBQ!

This event offers a welcoming environment to meet others, share experiences, and enjoy delicious food.

This inclusive event is open to all community members.

For more details or to RSVP, visit the event page:



You're invited to join us for a free  
**COMMUNITY BBQ**

Lions Park Cabin, Saturday, September 6th, 2025  
@ 3:00pm to 6:00pm



Enjoy beef hot dogs, burgers, chips, and refreshments (gluten-free options are available). Check out our Traveling Sensory Room

Contact us at:  
[community@autismrmwb.org](mailto:community@autismrmwb.org) for  
any questions

Lions Park, 3 Tolen Dr, Fort  
McMurray, AB T9H 1G7

Here is the link to register for the community BBQ.

<https://autismsocietyofthermwb.wildapricot.org/event-6191855>



# Upcoming Community Event: Member Halloween Party



Please register all family members as guest. This will allow us to determine how much food that we need to order.

\*Please email us with any dietary restrictions\*

\*We will have vegetarian and gluten-free options\*

[CLICK on the timeslot below to reserve your spot!](#)

[11-12:30pm](#)

[12:30-2:00pm](#)

[2:00-3:30pm](#)

# Upcoming Community Event: Job Fair



The Autism Society of RMWB presents:

## JOB FAIR FORT MCMURRAY

Join us at the Job Fair at the  
Unifor Building at 10019  
MacDonald Ave for exciting  
opportunities and networking.



**THURSDAY**  
23 October 2025



**TIME**  
10.00 AM – 2.00 PM

**MORE INFORMATION**



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



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



## Registration open for Employers

Employers: Please email Cassidy Menezes

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

Tables, chairs and coffee/snacks will be provided.

## Click on the poster to register!



# Resource Connection

Connecting you to resources, organizations, workshops and events.

Highlighting different organizations and resources within our region that help support our region. This month we're highlighting the Access 2 Card and Mac Island Day Passes! These programs help ensure that individuals with disabilities and those facing financial barriers can still take part in recreational activities.



**ACCESS 2**

## Access 2 Card

The Access 2 Pass helps individuals with permanent disabilities access fun activities across Canada by providing free or discounted admission for their support person.

### How does it work?

Cardholder pays regular admission.

Support person gets in for free or at a discount.

### Where?

Accepted at specific movie theatres, museums, attractions, etc.

### Who can apply?

Canadian residents with a permanent disability who require a support person

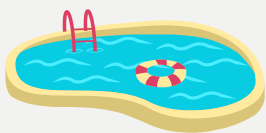
### How to apply:

Apply online at [www.access2card.ca](http://www.access2card.ca)



## MacIsland Day Pass

You can borrow a FREE day pass to MacDonald Island Park from the Wood Buffalo Regional Library using your library card!



### Enjoy access to:

Swimming pool

Fitness centre

Indoor track

### Important to Know:

Passes are first come, first serve

Limited quantities available, they may not always be in stock.

Just like borrowing a book, visit the library to check one out!



# Resource Connection

Connecting you to resources, organizations, workshops and events.

## KidSport Wood Buffalo



**DON'T LET  
COST HOLD  
YOU BACK—  
ASSISTANCE  
IS HERE!**



**KidSport  
WOOD BUFFALO**

Questions? Email us  
[woodbuffalo@kidsport.ab.ca](mailto:woodbuffalo@kidsport.ab.ca)

**ALL SPORT REGISTRATION  
FEES PROVIDED FOR  
ELIGIBLE KIDS IN  
WOOD BUFFALO AND  
SURROUNDING AREAS**



Learn More &  
Apply for Athlete Funding



So **ALL** Kids Can Play!

### KIDSPORT WOOD BUFFALO

KidSport Wood Buffalo is a local non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring all children in our region have the opportunity to participate in organized sports. By providing financial assistance for registration fees and equipment, KidSport helps break down the barriers that prevent kids from getting involved in healthy, active lifestyles.

Whether it's hockey, soccer, gymnastics, or any other sport, KidSport Wood Buffalo believes every child deserves the chance to join a sport regardless of their financial situation. To learn more or to apply for support, visit



Click on the posters to  
learn more!

FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:

<https://kidsportcanada.ca/alberta/wood-buffalo/apply-for-a-grant/>



# Community Involvement



## Teddy Bear Fairs



A heartfelt thank you to the organizers of the Teddy Bear Fairs for inviting us to be part of such heart-warming community events. We were honoured to join the fair in Janvier on August 19th and in Fort McKay on August 20th. We also packed 20 bags for Fort Chipewyan for their Teddy Bear fair event on August 21<sup>st</sup>. We truly cherished the opportunity to spend time with families, chat with residents, and collaborate with organizations.



FORT MCKAY  
FIRST NATION



It was a pleasure to hand out goodie bags for the little ones, filled with back-to-school supplies like sensory fidgets, fun stickers, literacy and numeracy worksheets. Thank you to everyone for the warm welcome and the heartfelt conversations. We're so grateful to be part of such vibrant and welcoming communities.



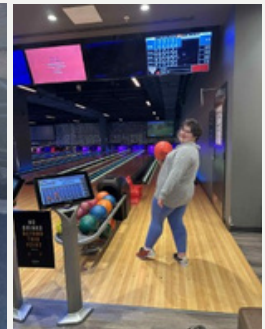
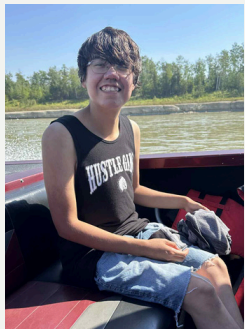
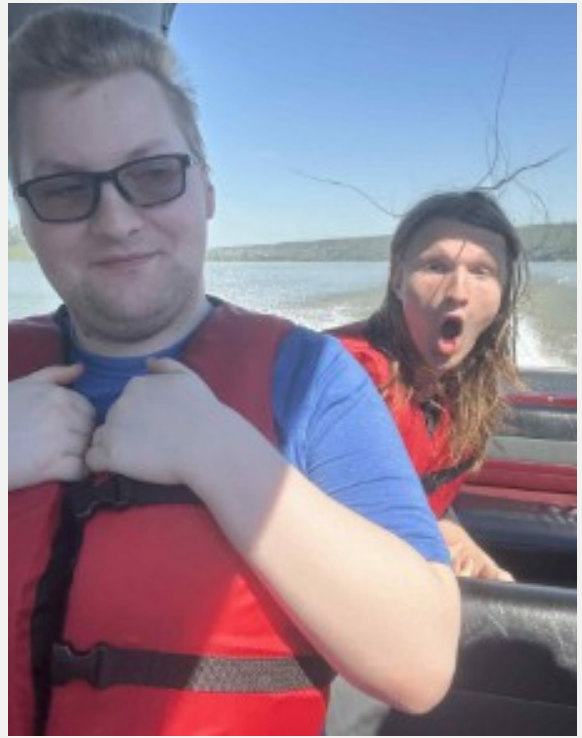
We would like to extend our thanks to The Hub for welcoming us into the Blanket Exercise on August 25th. The session was facilitated by the wonderful team from Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society in Edmonton, who guided us through an experiential learning activity that shared the history and impact of colonization on Indigenous peoples in Canada.

The exercise invited us to step into a powerful story of resilience and loss, helping us better understand the lasting effects of these histories and the importance of reconciliation. We are grateful for the opportunity to participate, to learn together, and to carry these lessons forward into our community.





# Adult Chat 'n Chill Camp

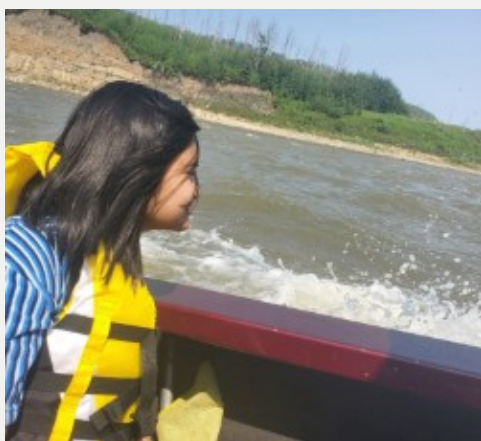
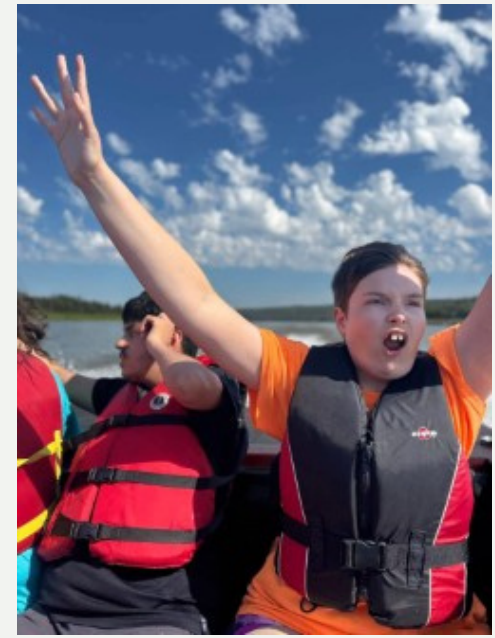


We recently wrapped up our Adult Day Camp, and it was a wonderful experience filled with learning, laughter, and connection.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the camp such a memorable success!



# Camp Kids First



Thank you to all of the staff and children who attended camp!

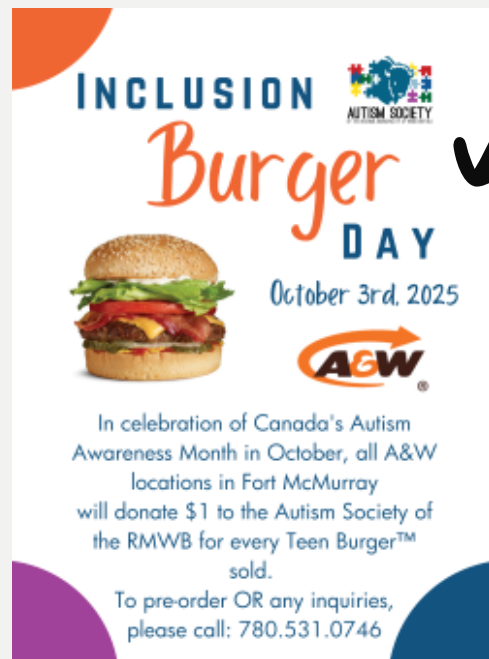


# Upcoming Community Events



Come support NEAFAN for their FASD Awareness Day. They will be hosting a free BBQ event for anyone that would like to join! Click on the poster for more information.

Treat your friends and coworkers to A&W burgers on October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2025! A great way to support the Autism Society while enjoying some delicious food. Call to Pre-order:



Fall cleaning is right around the corner. Get your recycling out of your yard before the snow hits the ground. You can help support our programming with your recycling.

## 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!

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.

Click link for more information:

<https://autismrmwb.org/become-a-member/>



# Upcoming Community Events



Open to Indigenous people of all ages with an intellectual and developmental disability, their families, friends and supports.



Wood Buffalo & District Labour Council will be hosting a free BBQ event for anyone that would like to join! Click on the poster for more information.



The Inter Pipeline Fort McMurray Marathon is only 4 weeks away. On Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, at MacDonald Island. Mark your calendar and get your running shoes on!

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# Our Programming

Click on each poster for direct links to more information and registration

REGISTER NOW



**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)

**Social-Respite Program**

**About the Program**

Our Social Respite Program provides respite for families of neurodiverse children in our community. As well as respite, the program offers opportunities for children to learn and practice crucial social skills that are needed to make and maintain long-term friendships.

**Program Groups**

- KINDER**: This group is for children aged 3-5 years old. Sessions are 2hrs long and have 3-5 children in group. Activities include playing games that encourage social skills, drawing, coloring, and outdoor play.
- JUNIOR**: This group is for children aged 6-8 years old. Sessions are 2hrs long and have 3-5 children in group. Activities include playing games that encourage social skills, drawing, coloring, and outdoor play.
- SENIOR**: This group is for youth aged 9-12 years old. Sessions are 2hrs long and have 3-5 youth in group. Activities include playing games that encourage social skills, drawing, coloring, and outdoor play.

**Why Choose Us As Your Family's Respite Provider?**

- All our staff are fully screened (RCMP & SNC)
- Our Support Workers are supported by agency and liability insured
- Direct billing to FSCD available
- We take control of employment payroll (inc. WCB, CNA & T4s etc.)
- Staff are required to complete mandatory training (eg. First Aid & NCVS)

For more details or to register: [www.autismrmwb.org](http://www.autismrmwb.org)

**INDEPENDENT Living Skills, Ages 16+**

- Health and Self Care
- Personal Finance
- Household Management
- Relationships
- Community and Leisure

Our LifeSkills Program is open to any neurodiverse individuals and persons living with disabilities from the ages of 16+ to learn critical life skills and promote independent living.

For more information: [community@autismrmwb.org](mailto:community@autismrmwb.org)

**Autism and Neurodiversity Awareness Training**

This is a 2 hour training session is facilitated by the Autism Society of the RMWB. During this 2 hour session you will learn how to support individuals of all ages living with disabilities throughout their life span. Training is appropriate for caregivers, professionals, family, friends, employers and coworkers, and anyone who supports someone living with a disability, or wants to expand their knowledge of neurodiverse individuals. This training will offer a certification upon completion.

Now  
Accepting  
Applications  
for our  
Employment  
Program

Click a date to register for above training:

September 8th, 2025  
October 30th, 2025  
November 27th, 2025

**EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM**

Are you a neurodiverse individual or a person living with a disability and looking for employment?

**ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS**  
SEPT 18TH, 2025

- ✓ Digital Training
- ✓ One to One Coaching
- ✓ Person-centered Tools
- ✓ Employability Skill Evaluations
- ✓ Develop Goals
- ✓ Build Healthy Working Relationships

**REQUIREMENTS:**  
Neurodiverse individuals and persons living with disabilities from the ages of 16+

**APPLY NOW**

**Seamless Support Project**  
Seamless Support Powered By METICULON.

Contact: Autism Society of the RMWB  
Email: [community@autismrmwb.org](mailto:community@autismrmwb.org)  
Phone: 587-452-9334

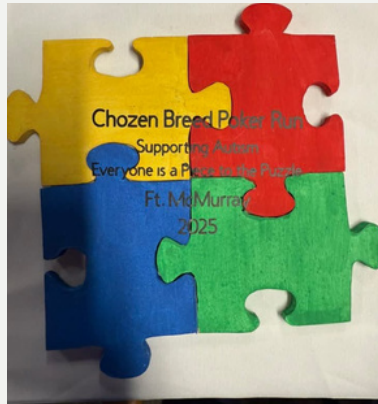
Funded in part by:  
co-operators  
RBC  
RAISE  
UNITY WITH AUTISM

Please visit our website [www.autismrmwb.org](http://www.autismrmwb.org) and follow us on social media to stay up to date on everything the Autism Society has to offer!



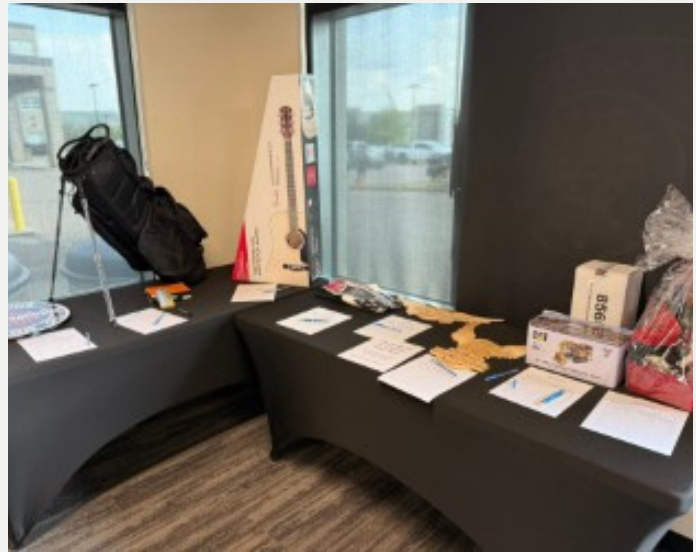
# Fundraising

## Chozen Breed



A huge thank you to Chozen Breed for everything you do to support Kids Camp First.

We had an incredible day at the 6<sup>th</sup> annual poker run, the energy, generosity, and community spirit were truly inspiring. Your dedication makes a real difference in the lives of so many kids, we are so grateful to be part of such an amazing event.



A heartfelt thank you to Chozen Breed for supporting us once again. Your generosity helps us continue creating meaningful programs and inclusive community events for families across our region. We are so grateful for your ongoing support!



# Contribute to our Cause

If you are interested in helping support our organization, please consider our volunteer and or sponsorship opportunities.



We are incredibly grateful to Acuren Group Inc. for their amazing support through their 2025 Golf Tournament. Thanks to their efforts and generosity, an incredible \$9,177.50 was raised in support of our Programs!

This contribution will go a long way in helping us continue our programming. It's community-minded partners like Acuren who make our work possible, and we couldn't be more thankful.

From all of us, thank you for making an impact!



Foundation



An immense thank you for supporting our Transitions program!



# Fundraising



**Charity Raffle**

Enter for a chance to win a Macsimizer Tool Cart, provided by FMT Sales Fort McMurray (Model UC4125HM-BL- MSRP \$5700) by purchasing a raffle ticket for just \$20!

The draw will take place on December 6, 2025 or when 100% of tickets are sold, the proceeds will be donated to the Autism Society of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

Tool storage solutions by FMT Sales Fort McMurray. Get top tools for your trade from trusted MAC Tools distributor! Call 780-743-4182 today!

For information on ticket sales, please contact Robert Todd at 780-370-4570

Fort McMurray Lodge #195 of the Freemasons is a local chapter dedicated to community service, personal development, and charitable initiatives in the Wood Buffalo region. The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo Autism Society is a non-profit organization that supports individuals and families affected by autism through advocacy, education, and community programs. Together, these two organizations collaborate to make a meaningful impact, promoting inclusion, awareness, and support within the community.

ACLC License # 736658



**Take a look at this raffle!**  
**For more information on ticket sales, please contact Robert Todd 780-370-4570**

A heartfelt thank you to Prestige Jewellers and local organizations for donating backpacks at the Back-to-School Bash. These thoughtful backpacks help ensure that children with sensory needs feel comfortable, supported, and ready for a great year ahead. Your generosity is making a real difference for families in our community!



A special thank you to Dogar M Shafiq for the generous donation of two beautiful necklaces from Prestige Jewellers to be auctioned in support of our programs. This thoughtful gesture will directly help us raise essential funds, allowing us to continue delivering meaningful services and making a positive impact in our community.





# Make a one time donation or become a monthly donor!

It is largely through the generous support of our donors that we are able to offer and grow our programs and services. By contributing today, you could make special events possible, provide equipment for programs and camp, support the continued growth through our acceptance and education resource, and most of all support individuals in our community have support to inclusive and supported opportunities in our region.



For direct link to donate please click on photo.

## 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.

## Contact us:

Phone: 587-452-9334

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

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

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