

May 2026

# Society Newsletter

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



Dear Members,

March was an incredibly exciting month for our team as we prepared for Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month in April. There was a lot happening behind the scenes and in the community, and it truly felt like everything came together in the best possible way. From our sticker campaign, to information tables, classroom visits, our Autism Awareness and Acceptance event at MacIsland, our Annual General Meeting, and a wide range of inclusive events, April was full in the most rewarding way.

We are so proud of what we were able to accomplish, but even more than that, we are deeply grateful. None of this would have been possible without the continued support of our community. To our volunteers, community partners, educators, families, and individuals who showed up, shared, participated, and helped thank you. Your willingness to lend a helping hand, your time, your energy, and your care make all the difference. It never goes unnoticed, and it means more than we can fully express.

As we move into May and June, we're looking forward to a bit of a seasonal shift. After such a busy stretch, we're hopeful that the warmer weather is right around the corner so that everyone can get outside, enjoy some sunshine, and spend time connecting through outdoor play and activities. This time of year always brings a nice opportunity to slow down just a little and reconnect in different ways.

We're also excited to share that we have recently revamped our website and have been working hard to gather and organize helpful information for our community. Our goal is to make things more accessible and easier to navigate for families and individuals looking for supports and opportunities. If you're looking for inclusive sports and recreation options in our region, we encourage you to take a look here: <https://autismrmwb.org/sports-recreation/>

As always, thank you for being such an important part of our community.

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.



Grab your coffee or tea and log in!



JOIN US!

# VIRTUAL CAREGIVERS COFFEE

SCAN ME



Are you a caregiver supporting someone on the autism spectrum or with diverse needs?

Join us for a relaxed, virtual gathering where you can connect with others who understand the journey.

End of Session:  
3 min mindfulness activity

9:00am - 10:30am  
2026 Dates:  
January 7<sup>th</sup>  
February 11<sup>th</sup>  
March 25<sup>th</sup>  
April 15<sup>th</sup>  
May 20<sup>th</sup>  
June 17<sup>th</sup>

**Facilitators:**  
Jasmine Lauzon- Community Development Coordinator  
Phone: 587-452-9334  
Email: community@autismrmwb.org  
and  
Barb Fitzpatrick- Disability Resource Coordinator  
Phone: 780-215-2459  
Email: drc@autismrmwb.org



## Caregivers Coffee

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



REGISTER HERE

Autism Society Apartment

2026 Schedule:  
9:00AM - 11:00AM

- January 21<sup>st</sup>
- February 4<sup>th</sup>
- March 4<sup>th</sup>
- April 1<sup>st</sup>
- May 6<sup>th</sup>
- June 3<sup>rd</sup>

For questions or more information, please contact:

Jasmine Lauzon- Community Development Coordinator  
Phone: 587-452-9334  
Email: community@autismrmwb.org  
or  
Barb Fitzpatrick- Disability Resource Coordinator  
Phone: 780-215-2459  
Email: drc@autismrmwb.org

# Save The Date

Click on poster to

REGISTER

## 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.



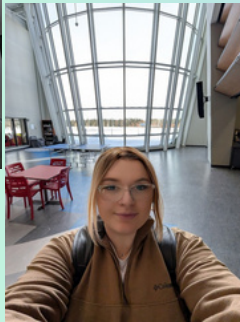
# Community Involvement



Fort Chipewyan



Conklin



We were pleased to welcome the École St. Paul School Educational Assistants and CST team to our office for a morning of learning. The time together was filled with information sharing, perspectives, and collaboration.



Janvier



## DID YOU KNOW?

Since September 2025, we have lent out 48 Education Inclusion Bins to classrooms across our community. As we near the end of the school year, we're excited to share this milestone and grateful to the teachers who have supported this resource-sharing initiative.



A big thank you to the Children's Centre for welcoming us into your AM and PM classes to explore sensory fun together and celebrate how our differences make us unique!



We'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Christian School for inviting us into your school to share a story with your students and to accept donations from your pancake breakfast.

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!

# Community Involvement



**We extend our sincere thanks to our volunteers, staff, sponsors, and community members who made our Annual Autism Awareness and Acceptance Day possible. Your support helped create a meaningful and successful event.**



**We would also like to thank Christina Gordon for organizing the Inclusion Fair and for inviting us to participate. We appreciated the opportunity to connect with the community**

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!

# Community Involvement

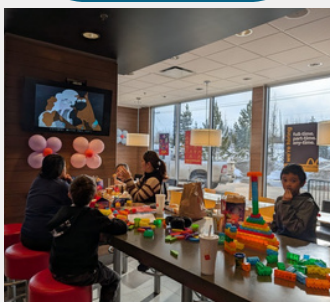


An immense thank you to McDonalds for hosting another Sensory Friendly evening for our members!

We are incredibly thankful to have the opportunity to connect with families in such a fun space.



A huge thank you to A&W for going over and above to help support our programming. Your dedication to supporting our community is incredibly impactful.



Barbara and Cassidy enjoyed connecting with community members at Holy Trinity for their annual "AccessAbility" event.



We extend our sincere thanks to our volunteers, staff, sponsors, and community members who made our Annual Autism Awareness and Acceptance Day possible. Your support helped create a meaningful and successful event.

A big thank you to Lori Sacrey for traveling from Edmonton to present "Unmasking the Lived Experience of Autistic Individuals." The information about the DSM and the historical context of autism made for an informative session. →



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!

# Highlighting: 16yrs+ Programming

The Autism Society of the RMWB presents:

## 2026 FOOD DRIVE

Please join us on June 2nd at Downtown Sobey's for our annual Food Drive!

All the items collected from this food drive will go towards the Autism Society's adult and youth programming!

**ITEMS WE'RE COLLECTING:**

- Chips, granola bars & other snacks
- Pasta, rice & dry grains
- Boxed baking mixes
- Boxed meals & cereals
- Bottled water & juice packs

Please ensure all food items are sealed and within expiration date.

**LOCATION:**  
Sobeys (downtown) - 19 Riedel St.

**CONTACT INFO:**  
Cassidy Menezes  
transitions@autismrmwb.org / (780)-215-7280

## CHAT 'N' CHILL DAY CAMP

AUG 4-7 2026 / 10:00-3:00

REGISTER HERE: 

**\$15/day**

Doug Barnes Cabin  
162 Tamarack Way, Fort McMurray

The Autism Society welcomes youth and adults 16+ to attend Day Camp 2026 and four days of fun activities! Lunch will be provided. Please note that 1:1 support is required if necessary. Please reach out if accommodations are needed. Registration is required for each event.


- Day 1: River floating on the Syne
- Day 2: Cabin Day and Oil City Game Rig
- Day 3: Visit to Gregoire Beach
- Day 4: Visit to Vista Ridge Aerial Park

For more information, please contact:  
(780)-215-7280  
transitions@autismrmwb.org

Join us on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at Downtown Sobey's for our annual Food Drive!  
Click on poster to register

Over the course of 12 weeks, participants built skills in independence, daily living, and future planning, while gaining the confidence needed to navigate the transition into adulthood.

Cassidy M  
Adult Program Coordinator



Welcome to the Transitioning to Adulthood Program!

Chat 'n Chill Day Camp  
August 4 - 7 2026  
Click on poster to register

*Calendars  
May and June*

## TRANSITIONING TO ADULTHOOD PROGRAM 16+

The Transitions Program helps neurodiverse youth and adults develop life skills, build social connections, and gain confidence to thrive in their community.





**ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:**

- ✓ Team Building
- ✓ Transferable Skills
- ✓ Financial Literacy
- ✓ Social Cues & Conflict Resolution
- ✓ Essential Daily Living Skills
- ✓ Pathways to Success
- ✓ Pathways to Work
- ✓ Community Engagement & Volunteerism
- ✓ Health & Well-Being
- ✓ Resilience-Building

**ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:**

- ✓ 12-Week Learning Series
- ✓ Physical Activity & Movement
- ✓ Games & Activities Night
- ✓ Sensory-Friendly Movies
- ✓ Bowling/Swimming
- ✓ Pizza Parties with Crafts & Games

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOOD BUFFALO

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

**REGISTER NOW**

RAISE TD UNITY OF AUTISM Foundation CIBC co-operators

Transitions to Adulthood Program:

Now taking registration for September 14th cohort

The Transitions Program helps neurodiverse youth and adults develop essential life skills, build meaningful social connections, and gain the confidence they need to thrive in their community.

**REGISTER NOW**

Three sessions a week for a duration of 12 weeks.

## MAY

Adult Chat N Chill  
Register through Wild Apricot

Sunday	Monday	Tue.Sday	Wedne.Sday	Thurs.Sday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Employment Program 10:00-12:00	2
3	4	5 Employment Program 10:00-12:00 Cinco de Mayo Party 1:00-3:00pm	6	7 Chat N Chill @ Apartment 6:00-8:00 pm	8 Employment Program 10:00-12:00	9
10	11	12 Employment Program 10:00-12:00 May 8e 4 <sup>th</sup> Party 1:00-3:00pm	13	14 Chat N Chill @ Apartment 6:00-8:00 pm	15 Employment Program 10:00-12:00	16
17	18 CLOSED	19 Employment Program 10:00-12:00 Rock Climbing @ Moc Island - 1:00-3:00pm	20	21 Team Building 1:00-3:00pm Chat N Chill @ Apartment 6:00-8:00 pm	22 Employment Program 10:00-12:00	23
24	25	26 Employment Program 10:00-12:00 Pocket Heart Cafe 1:00-3:00pm	27	28 Chat N Chill @ Apartment 6:00-8:00 pm	29 Employment Program 10:00-12:00	30

\*Dates, times and events are subject to change\*

For more information please contact Community Development Officer- Jasmine Lauzon  
[community@autismrmwb.org](mailto:community@autismrmwb.org) 587-452-9334

## June

Adult Chat N Chill  
Register through Wild Apricot

Sunday	Monday	Tue.Sday	Wedne.Sday	Thur.Sday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Food Drive 10:00-12:00pm 12:00-2:00pm 2:00-4:00pm	3	4 Chat N Chill @ Apartment 6:00-8:00 pm	5 Employment Program 10:00-12:00	6
7	8	9 Employment Program 10:00-12:00 Walk for Ice Cream 1:00-3:00pm	10	11 Chat N Chill @ Apartment 6:00-8:00 pm	12 Employment Program 10:00-12:00	13
14	15	16 Employment Program 10:00-12:00 BBQ @ Lions Park 1:00-3:00pm	17	18 Team Building 1:00-3:00pm Chat N Chill @ Apartment 6:00-8:00 pm	19 Employment Program 10:00-12:00	20
21	22	23 Employment Program 10:00-12:00 Mini Golf @ Vista Ridge 1:00-3:00pm	24	25 Chat N Chill @ Apartment 6:00-8:00 pm	26 Employment Program 10:00-12:00	27
28	29	30 Employment Program 10:00-12:00 Koyam Park 1:00-3:00pm				

\*Dates, times and events are subject to change\*

For more information please contact Community Development Officer- Jasmine Lauzon  
[community@autismrmwb.org](mailto:community@autismrmwb.org) 587-452-9334

Take a look!  
Sineave Family Foundation created a "Beginning the work experience journey" tool for parents.  
Click on the link below:  
[https://sineavefoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/SFF-ParentGuide\\_3.0-v3.pdf](https://sineavefoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/SFF-ParentGuide_3.0-v3.pdf)

# 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 1:00-3:00 PM**

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

PHONE: 587-452-9334  
EMAIL: COMMUNITY@AUTISM RMWB.ORG  
WEBSITE: WWW.AUTISM RMWB.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 (toddlers & ECD/ESDM/infant/toddler). Sessions are 2hrs long with 3-4 children in group activities include play in Program Room & Sensory Room.  
 • **JUNIOR** - This group is for children aged 5-8 years old. Sessions are 2hrs long and have 3-5 children in group. Activities include play in Program Room & Sensory Room, swimming, trampoline, parks and outdoor playgrounds, walks in local community, spray parks, etc.  
 • **SENIOR** - This group is for youth aged 9-12 years old. Sessions are 2hrs long and have 3-5 children in group. Activities include play in Program Room & Sensory Room, swimming, trampoline, parks and outdoor playgrounds, walks in local community, spray parks, etc.  
 • **TWEEN & TEEN** - This group is for youth aged 13-17 years old. Sessions are 2hrs long and have 3-5 youth in each group. Activities include meal planning, grocery shopping, cooking, simple budgeting, household cleaning, laundry, etc.

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

- All our staff are fully screened (RCMP & IQC)
- Our Support Workers are supported by agency and liability insured
- Direct billing to FSCD available
- We take control employer payroll (inc. WOOD OPS \$145/eq)
- 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)

## SUMMER 2026 CAMP KIDS FIRST

REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 1ST

Camp Kids First strives for children to make connections and create memories in a safe, accepting environment

July 6-10th	5-8yrs & 9-12yrs
July 13-17th	8-10yrs & 13-17yrs
July 20-24th	5-8yrs & 9-12yrs
July 27-31st	8-10yrs & 13-17yrs
August 4-7th	4-6yrs
August 10-14th	5-12yrs

Members can register through app on April 1st  
Non-Members can register through website on April 8th

This year's summer camp partially funded by The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo

WOOD BUFFALO REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

Spots available Register NOW

## Survey below:

Are you a neurodivergent individual, or a supporter, service provider, or advocate for a neurodivergent individual?

We would like to understand the barriers you face when seeking support

The survey will take about 20 minutes to complete

Your participation will help us understand current experiences and ultimately seek better service access

To access the survey follow the QR code

To learn more please contact Melissa Mostert at [melissa.mostert@ucalgary.ca](mailto:melissa.mostert@ucalgary.ca)

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

The survey is part of a research study that has been approved by the University of Calgary Conjoint Research Ethics Board (REB 25-1027).

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!

# 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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