

18TH ANNUAL
AUTISM CONFERENCE

JANUARY 28 - 30, 2026 | FANTASYLAND HOTEL | EDMONTON

BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES

CELEBRATING AUTISTIC VOICES & CANADIAN LEADERSHIP IN AUTISM



At the heart of Building Brighter Futures is the belief that every Autistic voice has the power to shape a more inclusive tomorrow. Over three inspiring days, you'll hear from leading Canadian experts, self-advocates, and changemakers sharing practical tools, fresh perspectives, and stories that spark meaningful action.



This is your opportunity to connect, learn, and celebrate Canadian leadership in autism, as we work together to create brighter futures for every child, family, and community.

Bringing together leading voices from across Canada in autism, neurodiversity, mental health, and emotional regulation.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

7:30am - 9:00am	Breakfast & Registration
9:00am - 10:30am	Opening Remarks & Keynote Clara Hughes – Opening Minds: Clara Hughes on Mental Health, Stigma, and Strength
10:30am - 10:45am	Break
10:45am - 12:15pm	Kristin Light – Living Happily Ever Average: Shining a Light on Kristin’s Journey Through Mental Health
12:15pm - 1:15pm	Lunch
1:15pm - 2:30pm	Maddy Dever – Neurodivergent and Thriving: Weaving Lived Experience and Acceptance into Practice
2:30pm - 3:00pm	Break

Concurrent Sessions

3:00pm - 4:30pm	Grant Bruno – Where Culture Meets Community: Reclaiming Indigenous Understandings of Neurodiversity in the Classroom Christine Jenkins – Older not Wiser? Insights on Autistic Aging and Flourishing
4:30pm	Closing Remarks

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

7:30am - 9:00am	Breakfast & Registration
9:00am - 10:30am	Opening Remarks & Keynote Evdokia Anagnostou – Supporting Educators with Research Based Insights
10:30am - 11:00am	Break



Clara Hughes



Kristin Light



Maddy Dever



Grant Bruno



Christine Jenkins



Evdokia Anagnostou



Whitney Hodgins



Deepa Singal

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

11:00am - 12:30pm Whitney Hodgins – Where Real Intervention Happens: Rethinking Education for Autistic Students

12:30pm - 1:30pm Lunch

Concurrent Sessions

1:30pm - 3:00pm Deepa Singal – Evidence That Matters: Research to Support Autistic Voices

Jonathan Weiss – The Overlooked Connection: Innovative Approaches to Mental Health and Autism

Christine Jenkins – Not Just About the Boys! Male Gender Bias in Autism

3:00pm - 3:30pm Break

Concurrent Sessions

3:30pm - 4:45pm Carole Anne Hapchyn – The Power of Connection: Using NRF to Support Regulation and Growth

Gina Payne, Dan Dyck & Matt Pearcey – Money Toolkit for Autistic Families: Finding, Keeping, and Stretching Every Dollar

4:45pm Closing Remarks

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

7:30am - 9:00am Breakfast & Registration

9:00am - 10:30am Opening Remarks & Keynote

Carl Honoré – Stillness Under Pressure: The Power of Slow in a Fast World

10:30am - 11:00am Break



Jonathan Weiss



Carole Anne Hapchyn



Gina Payne



Seiun Thomas Henderson



Dan Dyck



Carl Honoré



Matt Pearcey



Lonnie Zwaigenbaum

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

11:00am - 12:00pm	Seiun Thomas Henderson – The He(art) of the Matter: A Framework for Wellness, Purpose, and Connection in Inclusive and Neurodiversity-Affirming Education
12:00pm - 1:00pm	Lunch Panel Lonnie Zwaigenbaum , Deepa Singal & Evdokia Anagnostou
1:00pm - 1:30pm	Break
1:30pm - 3:30pm	Workshop Terri Duncan , Kelsey Penney , & Anna Loi - Regulation Made Real: Classroom Strategies and SMG Tools That Support Students
3:30pm	Closing Remarks



Join Us Your Way - In Person or Virtually

- Full Access Pass – In-Person: January 28 - 30 **\$649**
- Full Access Pass – Virtual: January 28 - 30 **\$295**
- 2 Consecutive Day Experience – In-Person: January 28 - 29 or 29 - 30 **\$549**
- Train Your School/Group – Virtual: January 28 -30 **\$749**

Special Offer for Schools: 3 Days of Access Plus 3 Months of Speaker Videos

For virtual school groups, we're offering a special deal - three days of access, plus three months of post-conference access to all speaker videos.

Questions? Please Reach Out

[Lisa Van De Ligt](#)

Communications & Events

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[Terri Duncan](#)

Executive Director

E: terri@childrensautism.ca

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Evdokia Anagnostou – Supporting Educators with Research Based Insights



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11:00am - 12:30pm **Whitney Hodgins – Where Real Intervention Happens: Rethinking Education for Autistic Students**



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Concurrent Sessions

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Jonathan Weiss – The Overlooked Connection: Innovative Approaches to Mental Health and Autism



Christine Jenkins – Not Just About the Boys! Male Gender Bias in Autism



3:00pm - 3:30pm Break

Concurrent Sessions

3:30pm - 4:45pm **Carole Anne Hapchyn – The Power of Connection: Using NRF to Support Regulation and Growth**



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childrensautism.ca

SCHEDULE

Hosted by
Seanna Collins



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JOIN US IN BUILDING BETTER FUTURES WHERE
EVERY AUTISTIC CHILD CAN THRIVE

[REGISTER TODAY](#)