

AUTISTIC ADULTS SUMMIT

PROGRAM



November 17-18, 2017 | Shediac, NB

Organized by:



Funding agencies:



CENTRE DE FORMATION MÉDICALE
DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK



Société
Santé et Mieux-être en français
du Nouveau-Brunswick

A WELCOME MESSAGE FROM CONNECT CO-LEADERS

Welcome to CONNECT's Autistic Adults Summit!

This Summit is an exceptional opportunity for the emerging Maritime Autistic community to come together and immerse in the best practices currently taking place in Canada and cross-border, to hear incredible, transformative stories and advice from inspiring guest speakers and Autistic advocates to help define the future path of Autistic adults in our region.

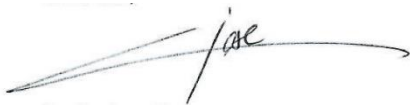
This event is part of a research initiative called the CONNECT project. Over the past year, a research team - comprised of Autistic adults, parents, caregivers, researchers, healthcare and service providers specialized in autism - is collecting unprecedented data on the needs of Autistic adults in the Maritimes. In this project, Autistic adults are not token; they bring their lived and living experience in autism in the project, experience that most researchers or service providers are lacking.

This summit, alongside the results a large assessment survey on the needs of Autistic adults under the umbrella of the CONNECT project, will generate knowledge and solutions on how to improve care and services for Autistic adults. A unique platform is offered to you today; it's time to take part in the discussions and have your views heard/to get your point across about the challenges and current issues faced by Autistic Adults.

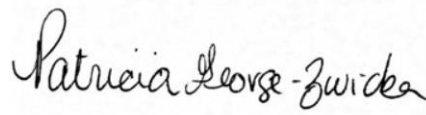
The CONNECT team worked hard until the last minute to ensure this great gathering is a landmark event in the Autistic community narrative. Thank you to the many people who made this event possible and to the funders and partners supporting the CONNECT project. We also deeply thank all of you, the participants to this Summit, for your commitment to the Autistic community - without you this project could not happen.

Don't forget to visit the work at the Autistic Adults Summit Art Gallery.

Enjoy your Summit! Looking forward to meeting all of you,



Dr. Caroline Jose
Co-leader of the Connect Project,
Research Associate,
Maritime SPOR SUPPORT Unit (MSSU)
Université de Moncton
Adjunct professor,
Université de Sherbrooke



Patricia George-Zwicker
Co-leader of the Connect Project
Autistics Aloud Editor and artist

CONNECT PROJECT

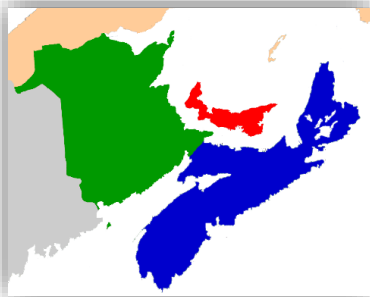


CONTiNuity of carE and services for autistiC adulTs

- Snapshot of questionnaire respondents -



The aim of the Maritime Needs Assessment Survey is to gather a wide range of data to help better understand the needs and challenges faced by more than 15,000 Autistic adults in the Maritimes. With this critical information, we hope to inform and provide evidence for policy development and decision-making.






The questionnaire launched in July 2017

| | Number of respondents | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|------------|---------------|
| | Adults | Caregivers | Professionals |
| Nova Scotia | 40 | 24 | 10 |
| New Brunswick | 10 | 26 | 25 |
| Prince Edward Island | 6 | 6 | 11 |
| Total | 56 | 56 | 46 |

*Last updated on November 9th 2017

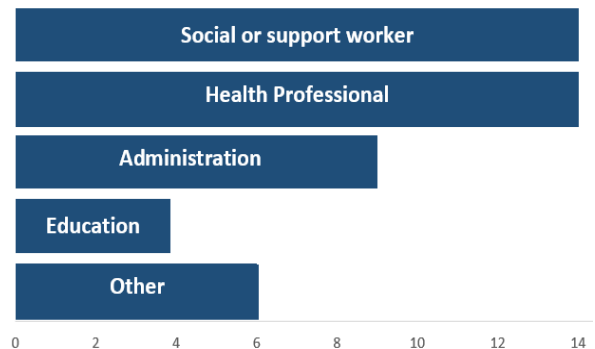
Adults self-reported

| | |
|-----|---|
| 94% | White/Caucasian |
| 0 | First nations/Aboriginal |
| 43% | 18 – 30 years old |
| 43% | 31 – 40 years old |
| 14% | + 41 years old |
| 84% | Formal diagnosis |
| 48% |  |
| 45% |  |
| 7% |  |

Caregiver reported

| |
|-----|
| 89% |
| 4% |
| 89% |
| 7% |
| 4% |
| 96% |
| 18% |
| 82% |
| 0 |

Professionals working with Autistic adults



*Last updated on November 9th 2017

We need more participation!
Our goal is to reach at least 400 Autistic adults.



The questionnaire is easy to complete in just 20 minutes.
 Just scan the QR code.

Or to fill out the questionnaire on paper, just contact us at
connect@mssu.ca or by phone [1-506-863-2266](tel:1-506-863-2266)



AUTISTIC ADULTS SUMMIT:

Best practices for Autistic adults

| Friday November 17 th | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 6:00 pm – 6:30 pm | Registration |
| 6:30 pm – 6:35 pm | Opening remarks Dr Caroline Jose, Co-lead of the CONNECT Project |
| 6:35 pm – 6:45 pm | Welcoming Stephen Horsman, New Brunswick Minister of Families and Children (Social Development), Deputy Premier and Minister responsible for Military Affairs |
| 6:45 pm – 7:45 pm | Plenary: The Star Raft: Gather your Circle, Set a Good direction, and take the Helm! Faye & David Wetherow, Parents and Advocates Invented the Star Raft |
| 7:45 pm – 8:00 pm | Plenary: Delayed but Not Denied Patricia George-Zwicker, Co-lead of the CONNECT Project |
| 8:00 pm – 8:55 pm | Panel discussion: Asperger Adults Perspectives Tom Jackman, Louise Tardif, Bruno Haché, Valérie Bonnardel, Aaron Bouma & Patricia George-Zwicker |
| 8:55 pm – 9:00 pm | Closing remarks Dr Caroline Jose, Co-lead of the CONNECT Project |

Saturday November 18th

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 8:30 am – 8:40 am | Registration |
| 8:40 am – 8:50 am | Opening Remarks Dr. Caroline Jose , Co-lead of the CONNECT Project |
| 8:50 am – 9:00 am | Welcoming Jacques LeBlanc , Shediac Mayor |
| 9:00 am – 9:30 am | Plenary: Diversity in Youth and Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders: Complex Needs in Unprepared Systems Dr. Kevin Stoddart , Founding Director of The Redpath Centre and Adjunct Professor, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto |
| 9:30 am – 10:10 am | Flash Presentations: Jobs & Housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave Richard: Moncton Employment & Training Services (METS) • Lucie Boudreau: B&B Balanced Wellness Center Inc • Jonathan Lister: Ready - Willing & Able (RWA) |
| 10:10 am – 10:30 am | BREAK (20 MINUTES) |
| 10:30 am – 11:00 am | Plenary: “It Takes A Village”: A Snapshot of Adult Support and Services at Autism Nova Scotia Cynthia Carroll , Director of Autism Nova Scotia and the current national chair of the Canadian Autism Spectrum Disorders Alliance |
| 11:00 am – 11:40 am | Flash Presentations: Health Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen McNeil: Health Assessments and Action Plans • Tom Jackman: Mental Health Roadmap for Autistic Adults • Darlene Pugsley: Capabilities Approach to Choices, Communication, Competency and Control |
| 11:40 am – 12:40 am | LUNCH & BOOTHS VIEWING (1 HOUR) |

Saturday November 18th

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 12:40 pm – 1:20 pm | Plenary: Exploring Disability as Diversity: Ableism, Neurodiversity, and Autism Dr. Dana L. Baker , Associate professor in Political Science at California State University Channel Islands. |
| 1:20 pm – 2:00 pm | Flash Presentations: Life Skills Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aaron Bouma: Life Skills Acquired as an Autistic • Loren White: Autism Spectrum Disorder Job Readiness Project • Louise Tardif: Finding your Neuro-Tribe: The Importance of Peer-Mentorship for the Newly-Diagnosed |
| 2:00 pm – 2:20 pm | BREAK (20 MINUTES) |
| 2:20 pm – 3:00 pm | Flash Presentations: Quality of Life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kim Richard: Disability Support Program in New Brunswick • Roxane Perreault: Social Inclusion Program: Housing/Supported • Margaret Tusz-King: Independence and Employment Skills-building for adults with ASD |
| 3:00 pm – 3:55 pm | Panel discussion: Decision-making in Autism Faye Wetherow, David Wetherow, Dr. Kevin Stoddart, Cynthia Carroll & Dr. Dana L. Baker |
| 3:55 pm – 4:00 pm | Closing Remarks Dr. Caroline Jose , Co-lead of the CONNECT Project |

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS & PANELISTS (PANEL DISCUSSION ON DECISION MAKING)



Faye & David Wetherow, parents, advocates and founders of the first inclusive housing cooperatives and the first person- and family-directed service cooperative in North America.

Faye & David Wetherow are responsible for developing the Star Raft. They created the first Microboards - small incorporated circles that facilitate direct funding and lifelong support for people with complex needs. They developed the first inclusive housing cooperatives and the first person- and family-directed service

cooperative in North America. They are parents, advocates and seasoned trainers in qualitative program evaluation and person-centered planning. They have been involved in human service design and development for over thirty years, working in the fields of public health, mental health, substance abuse recovery, child welfare, and disability services. They join us from Vancouver Island, British Columbia.



Dr Kevin Stoddart, MSW, PhD, RSW

Founding Director of The Redpath Centre and Adjunct Professor, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto.

Dr. Kevin Stoddart clinical focus, since the early 1990s, has been children, youth and adults with Asperger Syndrome and the co-morbid social and mental health problems that affect them. He is active in many research studies exploring topics such as the presentation of ASD in adults, aging and adults, marital relationships in families affected by ASDs, and social inclusion, with the aim of promoting more effective and responsive service systems for individuals living with ASDs.



Cynthia Carroll, CFRE

Executive Director of Autism Nova Scotia and the current national chair of the Canadian Autism Spectrum Disorders Alliance. Halifax, Nova Scotia

Cynthia Carroll is known as a visionary and tireless advocate for autism. In 2008, Cynthia founded the Autism Council of Nova Scotia, uniting autism groups across the province. In 2010, she participated in a provincial intergovernmental working group that made 53 recommendations to government addressing gaps in ASD service. In 2014, Cynthia participated in the development of a national needs assessment, and through her National work she advocates for a National Autism Strategy, and has had the opportunity to discuss autism support and services with governments in every province and territory in the country. In 2017, Autism Nova Scotia released an updated provincial report on the state of autism services across the lifespan in Nova Scotia, and is an active member of the CONNECT group, which is highlighting Autistic adult needs in the Maritime provinces.



Dr. Dana L. Baker, PhD

Associate professor in Political Science at California State University Channel Islands. Camarillo, California

Dr. Dana Lee Baker served on the faculties of Washington State University and the University of Missouri-Columbia prior to moving to CSUCI in the fall of 2017.

After earning her bachelor's degree at Rice University, she first earned a master's in public policy at the University of Southern California and then a PhD in public policy from the University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Baker's primary research interests surround disability policy design, especially with regard to disability as an element of diversity and in policy addressing neurological difference. She has a particular interest in the politics of autism.

PANELISTS (ASPERGER ADULTS PERSPECTIVES PANEL DISCUSSION)



Patricia George-Zwicker, the co-lead of the CONNECT project, is from Nova Scotia. Her life really changed in her early 40's when she found out that she was Autistic and Epileptic. Despite what many think, it actually changed her life for the better. With not even 2 years until she's 50, she's finally alive and finding her way. She is now the Editor of a growing publication called *Autistics Aloud*. She is also a disability rights advocate with most of her focus going towards Autism and Epilepsy and promoting Neurodiversity and acceptance. "Nothing about us, without us!" is her motto.



Louise Tardif is a Fredericton resident diagnosed with ASD last year. Louise is the first Autistic member on the board of directors of Autism Connections Fredericton (ACF) and loves to help connect the autism community. Louise is the organizer of the "Voice of Autism Speaker Series" where Autistic individuals are invited to share their lived experience at ACF. Louise works as a civil servant for the Government of New Brunswick in the areas of organizational development, official languages, equity and diversity.



Tom Jackman from Newfoundland is the self-advocate representative on the Autism Society, Newfoundland and Labrador's Board of Directors. In 2013, he received a Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal to recognize his volunteer work with the Autism Society, Newfoundland and Labrador. He is featured in the film *Autism Grows Up*, a Kelly Brothers / Ability Hub production, which looks at the employment related challenges of young adults living on the spectrum. He's also featured in the book *Autism: The Gift That Needs to Be Opened*; a resource aimed at improving the lives of parents, educators, and persons on the autism spectrum. He has a Business Management diploma from Keyin College, and was diagnosed with high-functioning autism (Asperger's syndrome) at age 29.



Bruno Tardif is a former Fredericton resident, now living in Ontario, who was diagnosed with ASD at age 23. He is passionate about helping others on the autism spectrum: Bruno works at Diebold-Nixdot of Canada in Mississauga, as a Lead IT Technician and also mentors and leads a program called Transition to Life where he helps late teens-early twenty somethings develop social and life skills.



Aaron Bouma from Jacksontown was diagnosed with autism at the age of 3 and with Asperger at the age of 12. In middle school and high school, he learned how good he was at designing and creating things, as well as public speaking. Since 2015, he has his own business: Bouma Woodworks. He builds furniture and military models from scratch. He also serves as vice Chair of the Autism Family Friendship in Woodstock New Brunswick, his hometown. He also serves as a Military Specialist for Carleton County as well as Executive Branch of Legion Branch 11 in Woodstock and he is involved in provincial and federal politics.



Dr. Valérie Bonnardel graduated from the Ecole Centrale de Marseille and obtained a PhD in Analytical Chemistry. Her experience has always been dedicated to R&D programs around the world (France, Northern Europe, Switzerland, United States, New Zealand). Successively key account manager and director of the clients support department of AKZO NOBEL, head of Strategic Alliances and Partnerships of l'Oreal's Advanced Research, she was CEO of the Grenoble INP Foundation until August 2017 when she decided to move and settle in Moncton, NB. Valérie is founder and co-president of the LEONARD ALGERNON think-tank dedicated to the recognition of difference and social integration of adults with Asperger Syndrome (since 2013). She is also CEO of a consulting company helping companies to identify, develop and maximize the potential of their "different and unique" employees.

PLENARY

The Star Raft: Gather your circle, set a good direction, and take the helm!

Presenters: David and Faye

Four unique models for organizing supports for people who live with complex disabilities and their families: inclusive cooperative housing, person- and family-governed service coops, Microboards, and the Star Raft Project, each of which are designed to address the following needs:

- 1) **Families** need lifelong trustworthy sources for continuity of care and creative problem-solving for their sons and daughters. They need to know that when they are no longer able or available, there will be a rich circle of support surrounding their family member.
- 2) **Individuals who live with disabilities** need acceptance and understanding, trustworthy friends, meaningful employment and opportunities to participate in and make valued contributions in ordinary community spaces. Three of the models systematically engage community partners who can open doors to the associations, workplaces and learning spaces in which *they themselves* have standing and influence.
- 3) **Community partners** need understandable models for making meaningful differences in one person's life. They also need self-renewing and balanced structures so they know that the commitments they make are manageable.
- 4) **All of these people** can benefit from access to direct support solutions that are flexible, that will rapidly adapt to people's changing needs and interests, and that bring authority and responsibility as close to the person and the family as possible.

Each of these approaches are designed to work in the 'meantime' — in the 'day-to-days' of people's lives. This presentation will address how the principles embedded in these methods can be embedded in the important work that we already have underway.

Diversity in Youth and Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders: Complex Needs in Unprepared Systems

Presenter: Dr. Kevin Stoddart

A large portion of services and research literature in the field of autism pertains to young children, relative to that geared to youth and adults. There is growing awareness of the needs of a youth and adult cohort in Canada, but little local research that focuses on this group. This presentation will describe a study that was undertaken in the province of Ontario and the recommendations that were made, based on the findings. It will emphasize that the needs of youth and adults are complex, with a diverse profile, and that a range of integrated services and supports, responsive policy change, and multi-sector knowledge dissemination will be needed to address this public health priority.

“It Takes A Village”: A Snapshot of Adult Support and Services at Autism Nova Scotia

Presenter: Cynthia Carroll

Founded in 2002, Autism Nova Scotia started as a small resource center. Fifteen years later, the organization is provincial in scope and embraces the philosophy embedded behind the statement, “It Takes a Village”. As the need for ASD support and Services has grown exponentially, Autism Nova Scotia has responded by developing a suite of best practice programs and services across the lifespan. This session will give attendees a snapshot of the organization’s work and how collaborative partnerships are key to community development, policy change and mandate fulfillment.

Exploring Disability as Diversity: Ableism, Neurodiversity, and Autism

Presenter: Dr. Dana Lee Baker

Disability engages all aspects of human existence. As recent disability scholars and activists have demonstrated, many elements of disability experiences are positive and life enriching. However, the capacities of social and political infrastructures to maximize the potential of both people with disabilities and disabled people remain underdeveloped. Interactions between autistics, people with autism, and society-at-large revolve around efforts to balance rights, responsibilities, and accountability in the context of disability. This talk explores central dynamics involved in working with neurological difference as an element of diversity.

FLASH PRESENTATIONS

Many Autistic adults as well as Maritime and Canadian champions of best practices in autism will also speak during the event. Their flash presentations will cover topics such as jobs & housing, health services, life skills training and quality of life.

JOBS & HOUSING

“Moncton Employment & Training Services (METS)”

Presenter: David Richard, Executive Director METS

METS is a non-profit organization serving adults with intellectual / developmental disabilities throughout southeastern New Brunswick. Its agency based services offer a variety of programs designed to meet the needs of its participants through personal development, activity and training.

Even though many of the activities are designed to promote future employment opportunities, individuals are supported to focus on immediate needs and build on their strengths in order to achieve personal success in their lives. With a significant increase in persons diagnosed with ASD, METS continues to develop or modify programs and work with community partners in its attempt to meet the needs of its participants and their families.

“B & B Balanced Wellness Center Inc.”

Presenter: Lucie Boudreau, owner/operator of B & B Balanced Wellness Center Inc.

B&B Balanced Wellness Center Inc. offers services to individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Providing continued education and maintaining an appropriate salary for staff has been an ongoing challenge in New Brunswick. It is also difficult to continue services into adulthood based on previous programming and current needs.

How to be cost efficient and receive appropriate funding in providing best practice? How to get approval of services, that meet the needs of everyone, based on standard and procedures province wide?

“Ready - Willing & Able (RWA)”

Presenter: Jonathan Lister, Director of Labour and Market Facilitation for New Brunswick Association for Community Living

Job-seekers with a developmental disability have an unemployment rate of 75%. This does not reflect, however, the ability and readiness of individuals in this labour pool to work. RWA is a national inclusive hiring initiative working to create a more effective labour market and increase the employment rate for job-seekers with a developmental disability on par with the national average by connecting employers to well-fitted job-seekers.

This presentation will offer a brief overview of the work RWA has done to date, and offers a look at some of the work it is undertaking to better connect opportunities to Autistic job seekers and assure they have the support they need to succeed.

HEALTH SERVICES

“Health Assessments and Action Plans for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities”

Presenter: Dr. Karen McNeil, Co-founder, Dalhousie Family Medicine Adult Developmental Disability Clinic, NS

Approximately 10% of individuals with intellectual developmental disability (IDD) have ASD. Disparities in primary care exist between adults with IDD and the general population. The former often have poorer health, increased morbidity and earlier mortality (Ouellette 2015). Health assessments that attend to specific health issues of adults with IDD have been shown to have a positive effect on health outcomes (Cooper 2014; Robertson, 2014).

Primary care physicians should be encouraged by patients, caregivers, service providers and professional colleges to use guidelines and tools adapted for adults with IDD and to build clear health action plans with their patient and the caregiver (Hennen, 2011, Heslop, 2013). Dr. McNeil will discuss the Canadian Consensus Guidelines, with a focusing on guideline 6, health assessments and action plans, and explore the barriers to practical application of this guideline.

“Mental Health Roadmap for Autistic Adults”

Presenter: Tom Jackman, Chair, ASD Advisory Committee, Autism Canada Self-Advocate Board Member, Autism Society Newfoundland and Labrador

Individuals with high-functioning autism spectrum disorder (HFASD), also have a 74% prevalence rate for one or more comorbid psychiatric disorders. Children with HFASD were most likely to have ADHD, while depression was the most common diagnosis in adolescents and adults.

Tom talks about his own personal experiences with Asperger Syndrome, Anxiety and OCD, and how these issues can get in the way socially with friendships and relationships, and in terms of pursuing post secondary education, and employment. The presentation aims to put mental health issues of adults with high functioning autism in the spotlight, so life can be better for everyone, both the neurodivergent and the neurotypical population.

“Capabilities Approach to Choices, Communication, Competency and Control”

Presenter: Darlene Pugsley, Educator, Family and Early Childhood Anglophone East, Autism Canada, Autism New Brunswick.

Giving choices, giving control, giving a voice to individuals who are still learning advocacy skills is a skill in itself but it is essential if support services are to have maximum impact on quality of life.

In a province where competency looks at only two levels; “the estate” (finances) and “the person” (daily living) and when government medical forms offer a question of “Able to communicate: __ yes __ no” with no space for “how”, how do we ensure that our most vulnerable citizens can be supported in making decisions about their own lives?

LIFE SKILLS TRAINING

“Life Skills Acquired as an Autistic”

Presenter: Aaron Bouma, owner of Bouma Woodwork and vice Chair of the Autism Family Friendship in Woodstock New Brunswick

Aaron shares his experience and life skills. Aaron was diagnosed with autism at the age of 3, and Aspergers at the age of 12. The skills he acquired over time have helped him through many endeavors and have played a major role in his successes. In middle school and high school, he discovered he had many talents. Among these, his special abilities in woodworking, discovered in high school, are still in full display today as owner of Bouma Woodworks. Military and military history is his number one passion in life.

“Autism Spectrum Disorder Job Readiness Project”

Presenter: Loren White, Autism Consultant, Kerry’s Place Autism Services

The Autism Spectrum Disorder Job Readiness Project, run by JVS Toronto, in partnership with Kerry’s Place Autism Services, assists individuals with disabilities who have limited work experience to prepare for and obtain employment by developing the skills required to succeed in and maintain a job. Funded by Service Canada, the project aims to enhance the social and emotional well-being of persons with disabilities and their families by helping them access employment-related services such as needs assessments and counselling services.

In-depth descriptions of the program’s history, delivery, and outcomes will be discussed, supplemented by participant and employer testimonials.

“Finding your Neuro-Tribe: The Importance of Peer-Mentorship for the Newly-Diagnosed”

Presenter: Louise Tardif, Member on the Board of Directors organizer of the “Voice of Autism Speaker Series” of Autism Connections Fredericton (ACF)

This flash presentation will focus on the perspective of a late-diagnosed woman and the strategies that have been helpful post-diagnosis. Louise will discuss her personal experience of learning of her ASD and the importance of peer mentorship. Specifically, peer mentorship will be described by Louise as the most important element in her self-acceptance, self-compassion, and understanding of her autism. Sharing her experience and knowledge, Louise hopes that others—Autistic individuals, parents, clinicians, educators, etc.—will draw some insight and awareness that may be helpful for other late-diagnosed Autistic adults.

QUALITY OF LIFE

“Disability Support Program in New Brunswick – The Highlights”

Presenter: Kim Richard, Provincial Program Consultant, Department of Social Development, Government of New Brunswick

This flash presentation will offer attendees a brief overview of the Disability Support Program (DSP) offered through the Department of Social Development in New Brunswick. DSP offers flexible and person-centered supports for individuals with a disability between the ages of 19 and 64. The presentation will share the core philosophy of the program, the application process, how eligibility is determined as well as highlight some of the support services that may be accessed through the program. There will be an opportunity for questions following the presentation.

“Social Inclusion Program: Housing/Supported living”

Presenter: Roxane Perreault, Manager of *Social Inclusion* / New Brunswick Association for Community Living

Supported living is about people having choice, a decent and secure home, personalized supports, and opportunities to develop relationships and participate in the broader community in which they live. The social inclusion program has a number of important roles in helping people plan for and live in a home of their own through a supported living arrangement. The association has had much success stories in establishing community support and supported living arrangements in the community. As a community organization, we continue to use a person centered approach to validate the importance of a better quality of life within a community.

“Independence and Employment Skills-building for adults with ASD”

Presenter: Margaret Tusz-King, Executive Director Open Sky Co-operative Ltd Sackville

Margaret Tusz-King, B.Sc. (Pharm), M.Ed. is a parent of 2 adult sons with ASD, and is the Executive Director and founder of Open Sky Co-operative in Sackville NB. Open Sky was created to fill the gap in services for young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder following high school. Located on an organic farm, Open Sky uses the opportunities of working with animals and organic gardening, and a home as well as work environment, to teach social, life and employment skills. Educational programs are individualized and based upon the results of functional skills assessments, incorporating best practices for learning. Margaret will tell the story of one young man whose year with Open Sky demonstrates the significant documented progress possible with Open Sky's strategic approaches, and how individuals with ASD, their families and practitioners can connect with Open Sky programming.

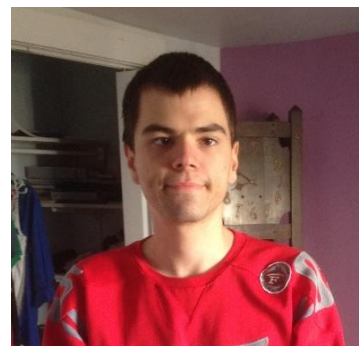
ART GALLERY ARTISTS

Enjoy the breaks, visit the booths and meet artists from the Autistic Adults Summit Art Gallery. Among them discover or rediscover:

The author **Gabriel Doiron** lives at the *Manoir O'Leary* in Richibucto, where he manages the *O'Leary Art Café*. His fondness for writing steered him to *J'écris ma vie Nouveau-Brunswick Inc.*, which is where his book entitled ***Randonnée en mer*** took shape. His work symbolizes, to some degree, great teamwork and exemplary community inclusiveness. While reading this book, you will be whisked off on a unique trip at sea. The adventures of Captain Syd, which are as fascinating as Ulysses', will take you on a visit through a special universe. This novel reflects some of the author's life experiences, beliefs, knowledge and convictions.



The artist **Samuel Leblanc**, originally from Quebec, has been living at the *Manoir O'Leary Art/Café inc.* for two years and in New Brunswick for about the past five. He enrolled in visual arts at UdeM. He took painting and graphic animation. In the fall of 2017, he enrolled in Drawing 1 and French 1006. His passion is animated drawing. He takes guitar lessons each week.



Catherine Jose, a native of Southern France, a mother of two and



accomplished writer, she recently moved her little family and settled in Moncton, New Brunswick. This marks a new chapter in her life, which also sees her start her studies in administration and management. Her paintings are inspired by the emotions she feels. She discovered in working with resin the light and movement that enable her to express herself.

Dr Valérie Bonnardel, one of our Friday night panelists, is showing her work. She uses writing and photography as her favorite means of expression. Valérie is founder and co-president of the LEONARD ALGERNON think-tank dedicated to the recognition of difference and social integration of adults with Asperger Syndrome (since 2013). She is also CEO of a consulting company helping companies to identify, develop and maximize the potential of their "different and unique" employees.



If you want to learn more about purchasing artwork from these artists please contact the CONNECT team at connect@mssu.ca.

NOTES

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SUMMIT SPONSORS

MARITIME SPOR SUPPORT UNIT



The Maritime SPOR SUPPORT Unit (MSSU) is one of several Support for Patient-Oriented Research and Trials (SUPPORT) units dedicated to bringing health research findings to life by helping integrate them into patient care. We engage with patients from across Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, and collaborate with the research community on governance, priority setting, and the planning and conducting of research.

The MSSU and other SUPPORT Units across Canada are administered by SPOR, the Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research. A Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) initiative, SPOR is focused on more effectively integrating health research into care.

CONSORTIUM NATIONAL DE FORMATION EN SANTÉ



Cette recherche a été rendue possible grâce à l'appui financier du Consortium national de formation en santé (CNFS), qui est financé par Santé Canada dans le cadre de la Feuille de route pour les langues officielles du Canada 2013-2018

SPONSORS:



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Société

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