

Autism Ontario Updates

May 2024

Please Provide to your SEAC

One-to-One Summer Support Worker Reimbursement Fund

The Summer Fund opens to applications from **May 6 to May 31, 2024**. The One-to-One Summer Support Worker Reimbursement Fund is available to Ontario families of children or youth with ASD who retain the services of a one-to-one worker or send their child to a camp or program virtual or in person. Maximum reimbursements of \$600, per child or youth, (up to 18th birthday) will be made to subsidize services between July and August. Reimbursement will be provided based on a random selection made from all eligible applicants who apply. <https://www.autismontario.com/camp>

Autism Ontario on The Agenda with Steve Paikin

Autism Ontario CEO, Margaret Spoelstra, alongside Jessica Brian of Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital and Anne Borden King of Autistics for Autistics Ontario, recently appeared on TVO's The Agenda with Steve Paikin to discuss autism policy, inclusion, and human rights. This conversation highlights the critical need for accessible and equitable services. Watch the full segment: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VOBj4mC8E6g>

Supporting the Mental Health of Autistic People Living in Rural and Remote Communities

This 3-part series promotes positive mental health in rural and remote communities.

- **Part 1: [Autistics Edition](#):** designed for autistic youth and adults who may be struggling with their mental health or who are looking for tools and strategies they can try at any time.
- **NEW! Part 2: [Caregivers Edition](#):** designed for parents and caregivers of autistic children, youth, and adults who may be struggling with their mental health or who want more information on what mental health means for rural and remote communities. Activities in this toolkit are designed for individuals across the lifespan.
- **Part 3: [Community Professionals Edition](#):** designed for community professionals (e.g., librarians, teachers, coaches, etc.) who support autistic children, youth, and adults who may be struggling with their mental health or who want more information on what mental health means.

Webinar- Finding Balance: Navigating the Tension Between Intervention and Neurodiversity

Join Matt Ley as he sits down with clinician Katy Albert and self-advocate Jane Vincent for an in-depth interview exploring the balance between intervention and advocacy within the realm of neurodiversity. In this webinar, Katy Albert, alongside Jane Vincent, will delve into the complexities surrounding behaviour change within a neurodiversity framework. Together, they will address the challenges of balancing conflicting needs between autistic individuals and their families, providing valuable insights and strategies for navigating these tensions.

Date: May 7, 2024
Time: 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Register: <https://bit.ly/4a2Feb3>

'Feel Better Box'- A toolkit for school-aged children with anxiety and autism

*Registration for this event opens **May 6, 2024 at 9:00 am EST***

Autistic children are twice as likely to be diagnosed with an anxiety disorder compared to their neurotypical peers. This workshop will provide brief, solution-focused strategies to support parents in helping their school-aged children cope with symptoms of anxiety. They will be given practical strategies for teaching emotional awareness, emotional literacy, and improving coping skills. Parents will be given ideas of “tools” to create a “Feel Better Box” for their child.

This workshop is appropriate for families and caregivers of autistic children aged 6-12, as well as professionals working with this population.

Date: June 6, 2024
Time: 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
Register: <https://www.autismontario.com/civicrm/event/info?id=9490&reset=1>