

The Latest Buzz on the Hill ...

Our monthly report
Staying in touch with
“News you can Use”



Ken Hardie

Member of Parliament
Fleetwood-Port Kells

Important announcements ...

OCTOBER 2024

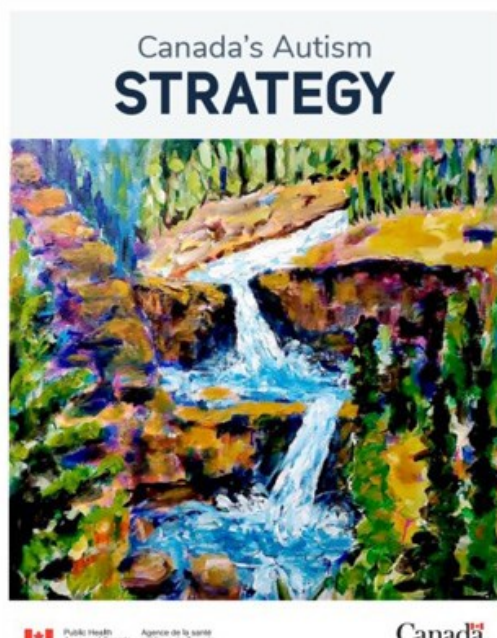
National Autism Network - Call for Applications

The creation process for the National Autism Network has launched along with a call for applications. The Network is intended to bring together the skills and resources of autism organizations and stakeholders, including people with living experience, to support the implementation of activities outlined in Canada's Autism Strategy.

Eligible organizations are invited to respond to the call for applications by November 25, 2024.



To learn more, scan the QR code or go to: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/funding-opportunities/grant-contribution-funding-opportunities/apply-establish-national-autism-network.html>



We are REDUCING CREDIT CARD INTERCHANGE FEES for Small Businesses



Starting
October 19

Small Business Month in Canada

October is Canada's Small Business Month and with it come new measures to support small businesses.

A revised Code of Conduct for the Payment Card Industry has been implemented. It will help businesses that accept credit and debit payments compare prices and offers from different payment processors and shorten the complaint handling response time to 20 business days.

These changes come into effect October 30, 2024, and more complex changes will be in effect by April 30, 2025.

Credit card transaction fees for small businesses are also being reduced. Lower rates and reduced interchange fees are expected to save eligible businesses about \$1 billion over five years. **These changes went into effect on October 19, 2024.**

To learn more, scan the QR code or go to: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2024/10/government-announces-significant-new-support-to-help-small-business-owners.html>



Emergency Treatment Fund - Call for Proposals

The first call for proposals for the Emergency Treatment Fund (ETF) has been launched. The ETF will invest \$150 million to help municipalities and First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities address their urgent needs and support rapid responses to the overdose crisis.

The funding will help rapidly mobilize and build capacity for better access to substance abuse treatments with integrated services, and harm reduction supports such as naloxone distribution and drug checking equipment.

Applications for this call for proposals will be open until November 08, 2024, at 2:00 PM EST.

To learn more, scan the QR code below, or follow the link: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/publications/healthy-living/emergency-treatment-fund-anticipatory-call-proposals-2024-guidelines-applicants.html>



Mental Health of Black Canadians Fund - Call for Proposals



A call for proposals under the Mental Health of Black Canadians Fund has been launched. \$1 million will be allocated to support projects that seek to build organizations' capacity to develop and deliver programs that promote the mental health of Black people in Canada. Community-based organizations can apply for up to \$100,000 in funding.

The deadline to submit a proposal is November 15, 2024.

To learn more, scan the QR code or follow the link: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/funding-opportunities/grant-contribution-funding-opportunities/promoting-health-equity-mental-health-black-canadians-fund-incubator->



Canada Retraining and Opportunities Initiative - Call for Proposals

Canada Retraining and Opportunities Initiative has launched its call for proposals. Over two years \$30 million in funding will be supplied to initiatives focused on community-based workforce retraining projects in exceptional situations of significant job losses.

This initiative will bolster community resilience by complementing existing programs and services at the provincial and territorial levels to help displaced workers transition into new jobs. **This call for proposals will be open until March 31, 2025.**

To learn more, scan the QR code or follow the link: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/future-skills/community-workforce-development.html>



Funding Boost for Canada's High-Performance Athletes

The Athletes Assistance Program (AAP) is receiving additional funding to help support the development of Canada's high-performance athletes. **There will be \$35 million provided over 5 years with an additional \$7 million annually thereafter.**

Key support programs will see an increase including:

- Approximately 23% to monthly living and training allowance for carded athletes retroactive to April 1, 2024
- 23% to the monthly Excellence Living and Training Allowance and the Child Dependent Allowance
- 30% to the monthly Training and Competition Allowance for Paralympic Athletes with High Support Needs

For more info scan the QR code or go to: <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance.html>



Democracy in ACTION Legislation before the House

Bill C-63 – An Act to enact the Online Harms Act, to amend the Criminal Code, the Canadian Human Rights Act and legislation that would require internet service providers to report Internet child pornography.

This Bill, now under consideration in parliament, would establish the Digital Safety Commission of Canada and the support it would need to protect Canadians from content that sexually victimizes a child, revictimizes a survivor of sexual violence, or communicates intimate content without consent. Simply put, this legislation would make it more difficult to access things like child pornography, revenge porn and other such content.

Bill C-322 – An Act to develop a national framework for a school food program

This bill would pave the way for a school food program to make sure all children in Canada have access to healthy food. In fact, it is already helping kids in Newfoundland and Labrador and will be offered to all provinces and territories. **The actual legislation is in the final stages of debate in the House of Commons**

To learn more scan the QR code or visit: <https://www.parl.gc.ca/legisinfo/en/bills>



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