



Parent Advocates for Autism Treatment in Saskatchewan

*Do you support the establishment of a national autism strategy? **Yes (X)***

*Will your party, if elected as government, continue to fund the working group and expedite the work to create the national strategy? **Yes (X)***

What will your party do to increase funding for the existing national surveillance program to track numbers and the data, tax credits, research money, and funding for vocational training and job creation specific to helping children with autism?

Canada is long overdue for a National Autism Strategy. The Green Party supports the working group to create a Canadian Autism Partnership. However, we believe that more federal leadership is required. The working group is a positive step in the right direction but we need direct and urgent action to address the crisis in families with autism. The Senate report made it clear eight years ago. We can “pay now or pay later.” We can no longer afford to leave families with children with autism and adults with autism unsupported.

Standards and services vary widely across provinces and territories. We need to expedite the creation of a National Autism Strategy, developed with all parties at the table. To facilitate federal leadership in support for people with autism, a [Council of Canadian Governments](#) – representing the provinces, territories, municipalities and Indigenous governments – could meet to draft a comprehensive strategy. With all levels of government present, we will be well-equipped to consult with people with autism and their families to determine exactly what is needed and how best to meet those needs. This plan would work in conjunction with our plan for a [National Housing Strategy](#) to ensure that people with autism are given the housing support they so desperately need.

We need this National Strategy to set funding levels for an improved national surveillance program and to increase tax credits and research. We need to help provinces bring funding for proven interventions like ABA and IBI under public health care plans. We need to work with local communities to better fund vocational training, job creation, and employment support and protection for people with autism.

The Green Party recognizes that for people with autism, success means support. Every child and adult with autism deserves the opportunity to live and work independently, with the support they need to do so. Green MPs will lead in creating a National Autism Strategy that truly supports people with autism and their families.