



March 14, 2016

Executive Committee of Council  
Office of the City Clerk  
4949 Canada Way  
Burnaby BC, V5G 1M2

To the Executive Committee of Council:

Please find attached the *Autism Speaks Canada's* request letter. We are the premier awareness and walk event for the autism community and we are returning to Burnaby after an absence of many years. This event brings together families, service providers, entertainers, corporations and other nonprofits from the autism community. We are hoping to make Burnaby our permanent home for the walk.

As outlined in our earlier proposal we may have the title "Walk" in our event name but we are primarily about "Awareness". Awareness is one of the four pillars of *Autism Speaks Canada* as well as Advocacy; Resource and Research. Awareness is the primary focus of this family festival event.

This event is a free day of Celebration for the Autism Community. As with the *Pride Festival* we are a festival and walk that celebrates who we are. We walk in the community to inform and proudly display and inform. Although it is a fundraiser and is *Autism Speaks Canada's* largest campaign only 42% of our 2000 participants will actually raise any funds at all or even register. The entire event is free with families and organizations attending from all over the lower mainland.

### About Autism Speaks Canada

Autism Speaks is the world's leading autism science and advocacy organization. Since its inception, Autism Speaks and *Autism Speaks Canada* have invested over \$6 million in Canadian autism research; building the capacity for services across the country; raising public awareness; collaborating with other organizations to advocate alongside the autism community. *Autism Speaks Canada* is committed to raising the funds necessary to improve lives today and transform lives tomorrow across the autism spectrum and lifespan. Our *Walk Now for Autism Speaks* events, family services grants and *Light It Up Blue* campaign are examples of ASC's annual programs.

### What is our Mission?

- At *Autism Speaks Canada*, our mission is to change the future for all who struggle with autism spectrum disorders.

### Why ASC needs funding:

- Each year costs increase and funding becomes harder to obtain. It was this reason that the event has been relocated to Burnaby from Vancouver. It allows for free parking for our families

and Skytrain access. However relocating comes with increased costs with more advertisement and possible venue costs (larger participation costs will increase park route fees).

- **Who does ASC support?**

*Autism Speaks Canada* supports the whole community. ASC is dedicated to helping all individuals impacted by autism spectrum disorder (individuals with ASD, caregivers, family members, service providers). Through our Awareness, Advocacy, Family Services and Scientific Research initiatives, we fund programs and collaborate with others to ensure that the needs of our ASD stakeholders are met **today** and **tomorrow**.

- **Where does the money go?**

All money raised in Canada stays in Canada.

The dollars go towards funding the four pillars of *Autism Speaks Canada*'s mission – to raise **awareness** of autism; fund autism related **research** into the causes, biology, better diagnosis, effective treatments, and the dissemination of knowledge into practice; to **advocate** for the whole community; and to increase the resources that are provided to individuals, families and communities.

- **What types of community family services community grants does Autism Speaks Canada fund?**

*Autism Speaks Canada* funds service providers in the areas of education, recreation and community activities, and young adult/adult services. Any charitable organization across Canada is eligible to apply for these grants. Grants are up to \$25,000 for a one year duration. **We have funded Burnaby organizations for the last four years of up to \$25,000 per year for a total of \$100,000.**

• YEAR	• # of Orgs	• Total Awards
• 2015	• 23	• \$400,000
• 2014	• 20	• \$396,140
• 2013	• 27	• \$469,221
• 2012	• 30	• \$530,000
• 2011	• 27	• \$569,000
• 2010	• 26	• \$550,000
• Total	• 110	• \$2,118,221

- **What is Autism Speaks Canada's program spending ratio?**

We are well within the CRA guidelines and our 2015 fundraising ratio was under 25%.

- **How does ASC spread autism awareness?**

- LIUB / Walks/ Partnerships/ Engagement with corporate partners
- Government awareness/ Blue Puzzle Piece/ Education
- Knowledge Translation/ Media Partnerships/ Social Media/ Community Engagement

- **Advocacy**

- Collaborating with other ASD organizations (CASDA, service providers across the country, engagement with federally or provincially supported organizations).
- Engagement with provincial and federal government.

- **Highlights for 2015**

- Federal Budget Announcement for CommunityWorks Canada and Ready, Willing and Able & the establishment of provincial offices
- Significant growth of our ASC team and expansion across Canada
- Family Services Community Grants Research Initiatives
- Leadership team for CASDA, member of POND – Patient Advisory Council)

**Goals for 2016**

Increase participation levels to 2500/ Expand on Resource Fair Exhibitors

Expand on Kid's Zone activities/ Increase revenues to increase funding to grants

**Artistic Merit**

Bring in autistic groups to perform and inform during the festival. In the past this has included: Shiamak's Victory Arts Foundation/Dance for therapy/Shiamak's Dance for Good Dancers/Astro Collar and more.

We are applying for \$1500 in grant funds. We plan to use the fees to increase participation levels by offering enhanced Kids areas with more interactive programmes. Supplies will also be covered with this. We would also be able to enhance Children's performers with a small honorarium. Performers to be determined.

For further information please visit our website at [www.autismspeaks.ca](http://www.autismspeaks.ca) or contact me at any time.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

**Janet Anderson**

**Regional Manager BC**

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Autism Speaks. It's time to listen.