

4. Questions to Ask Your Candidates

These are questions on federal issues that affect autistic people. You will not have time to ask all of them to a candidate, but you can choose the ones that mean the most to you.

A) **Autistic Consultation - Nothing About Us Without Us!**

- Will your party commit to **meaningfully consulting with autistic-led organizations and autistic people of diverse backgrounds** whenever creating national autism and disability policy?

This means that the party will talk to many different autistic people, such as autistic people who are BIPOC, women, 2SLGBTQIA+, non-speaking, AAC-using, houseless, and/or requiring significant supports. The party must actively work with autistic people, and make sure autistic people's ideas and perspectives are followed through.

B) **Health Care and Child Care**

- Will your party implement a **universal, single-payer public pharmacare system**? This means that prescription medications will be funded by the government.
- Will your party ensure that the **national mental health strategy** will provide accessible, affordable, and diverse mental health support options for disabled and

neurodivergent people?

- Will your party commit to **defund and ban harmful “therapies” for autism**, including Applied Behavioural Analysis and pseudoscience “cures”? Will your party commit to funding neurodiversity-affirming, trauma-informed supports and services created by and in consultation with autistic people instead?
- Will your party commit to **implementing the full meaning and scope of [Jordan’s Principle](#)** to make sure First Nations children have equitable access to government services?"
- Will your party commit to **funding affordable, inclusive, neurodiversity-affirming child care** and **protecting the rights of disabled parents** to keep and raise their own children?

C) Violence towards Autistic and Otherwise Disabled People

- Will your party commit to **defunding police and prisons**, and instead fund community-based services that address the roots of violence (e.g. mental health, housing, education, transportation, financial, & child and family supports)?
- Will your party commit to working with provincial and territorial governments to **ban seclusion and restraint in schools**, strengthen reporting and accountability

requirements, and provide trauma-informed conflict and de-escalation training for school staff?

- Will your party resolve to take **stronger measures to crack down on deadly non-evidenced “treatments”** for autism such as Miracle Mineral Solution and chelation?
- **Will your party commit to reforming Medical Assistance in Dying legislation to align with Article 6 and 26 of the [UN ICCPR](#) and the [Vulnerable Persons Standard](#)**, by:
 - 1) restoring more stringent safeguards to protect those vulnerable to coercion?
 - 2) implementing safeguards that disabled people who request MAiD are guaranteed meaningful, timely alternatives to access disability services and supports?
 - 3) collecting and publicly reporting comprehensive data about MAiD (including disaggregated demographic data) to assess whether Canada’s safeguards are adequate?
 - 4) meaningfully involving and actively addressing the concerns of diverse groups of disabled people, especially multiply marginalized disabled people in any review or changes to MAiD?

D) **Stigma vs. Acceptance**

- Will your party resolve to end stigma towards autism, stop harmful awareness campaigns that further stigmatize autistic people, and **work with autistic people to instead promote [autism acceptance](#)**?

E) Equitable and Affordable Housing

- Will your party **fund affordable and accessible housing** using **Housing First strategies** for people of all disabilities?
- Will your party adopt legislation to **protect the right to independent supported living**?
- Will your party commit to desegregated housing by **closing institutions and re-routing funding towards independent supported living**?
- Will your party commit to a target larger than merely 20% of **new accessible housing** in the National Housing Strategy?

F) Poverty and Employment

- Will your party **reform the Disability Tax Credit**: expanding eligibility, improving transparency of approval process and criteria, ending clawbacks, and simplifying application forms and processes?
- Will your party commit to working alongside provincial and territorial governments and Indigenous peoples to **create a universal guaranteed basic income program**?

- Will your party work with autistic people to **adopt more equitable hiring practices**?
- Will your party work alongside provincial and territorial governments to **end sheltered workshops** and instead transition disabled people to **competitive integrated employment**?

G) Communication Access

- Will your party adopt a [Communication Bill of Rights](#), enshrining the specific rights of those facing communication barriers, to guide legislation and government programs?
- Will your party commit to working with provincial and territorial governments to fund **affordable early access to Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)**?
- Will your party **work with AAC users to create a national education program** for health care providers, educators, and other professionals working with autistic and otherwise AAC-using people?
- Will your party commit to providing **plain language and accessible format** versions of all legislation, policies, and services that impact people with disabilities?

H) Research

- Will your party invest in programs that fund **participatory autism research** that requires autistic co-design, consultation and input?
- Will your party invest in **research on supports rather than cures**, such as AAC supports, integrated employment supports, supports in educational settings, and autistic burnout and mental health?

I) Beyond the Accessible Canada Act

- Will your party commit to creating a **national disability strategy** with consultation of diverse disabled people, including autistic people?
- Will your party commit to **collecting independent, disaggregated demographic data on autistic people's social and economic status**, including income, employment, education, incarceration, housing, mental and physical health, access to basic needs, and access to assistive devices, supports, and services?