

AUTISME MONTRÉAL NEWSLETTER



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March 2016

April 2016 activities Autism Awareness month

This year, Autisme Montréal will take the opportunity of the autism month to promote awareness amongst the general public. The signature of our messages will be: GET INFORMED. By doing so, we are asking people to find out more about autism and the situation of our cause in Quebec.

April 1st

Distribution of blue pens with information pamphlet, in some metro stations of the Montreal region.

If you are available and would like to take part in this distribution, please contact us at 514-524-6114 extension 3055 or by email at ffirmin@autisme-montreal.com

April 2

As in previous years, we will participate in the Light It Up Blue event on April 2nd, commemorating the World Autism Awareness Day. Various monuments and companies will be lit in blue. Individuals are also invited to wear blue on this day to sensitize their surroundings about autism.

Blue light bulbs are available at our offices for a fee of 3\$.

April 4 to 17

Presentation of a video brief in the networks of the STM metro.
Keep your eyes open!

April 6

Be there at the Blue Cocktail signé Autisme, fundraising evening and celebration of the 35 years of existence of our organisation at Rosewood restaurant.

Watch the invitation (in French only): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WN_8GzuDT_E

Purchase your ticket directly online: <http://autisme-montreal.com/en/upcoming-events/month-of-autism-april/blue-cocktail-signé-autisme/>

April 7

Presentation of an awareness video on our social networks.

April 10

Participate to the Familiarisation day for children with autism spectrum disorders with Aéroports de Montréal. People interested in participating in this activity should complete this form: <http://autisme-montreal.com/en/familiarisation-day/>

April 24

Autisme Montréal is participating in the Scotiabank Charity Challenge. If you are a marathon runner and would like to raise funds for Autisme Montréal, you can register for the race at the following address:
<http://www.canadarunningseries.com/monthalf/charity/autisme.htm>

Membership renewal

It's time to renew your Annual Membership...

April is the time chosen by Autisme Montréal for the annual membership renewal. If not already done, it's time to renew your membership as well as your implication with Autisme Montréal. As you know, **all users of direct services must be current members of the organization** and that, every year.

You can renew your membership directly online: <http://autisme-montreal.com/en/upcoming-events/online-registration/>

Dancing night

Let's dance for autism
MUSIC BY DJ ALICE
18 and over
Friday March 18, 2016
8:00 p.m. to midnight
Sporting Club Montreal 4671 Blvd. Saint-Laurent Laurier
Get your ticket Online
http://autisme-montreal.com/en/dancing_night
10\$ In person
4450 Saint-Hubert, room 320
From 9:00 am to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Autisme montreal SCM

Let's go dancing!

For more information click on the link: <http://autisme-montreal.com/en/upcoming-events/>

Autisme Montréal NEWSLETTER – September to May, every first Monday of the month.

Where Is Public Funding Going???

When the provincial government gives \$1.3 billion to Bombardier and \$26 million for the expansion of the St-Félicien Zoo, what importance do severely disabled people with autism have, who are faced with losing their residences due to major funding cuts by the provincial government?

ATTENTION AUTISM COMMUNITY!

We still need your help to protect the homes of individuals with autism who are heavily disabled. It is essential to continue pressuring the government to reverse its decision to cut funding to specialised residential homes (known as "résidences intermédiaires") for individuals with autism who are severely disabled. **WE ASK YOU TO CONTACT YOUR PROVINCIAL MNA (MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY) AND DENOUNCE THE GREAT INJUSTICE PEOPLE WITH AUTISM ARE FACED WITH. THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE EXTREMELY VULNERABLE AND HAVE NO VOICE, SO THEY ARE COUNTING ON US TO DEFEND THEM!**

Various homes have already closed due to these funding cuts, ranging from 30% to 50%. Many more are still at risk of closing if the government does not reverse its decision.

We are asking you to write to your MNA (by letter, email, Twitter) or to call his office and inform them that:

- Funding cuts to the primary care of heavily disabled people do not represent the values of Quebec society.
- Funding cuts to the homes of people with autism are unjust for such a fragile population at risk of being left homeless.
- Individuals with autism and severe behaviour problems are heavily disabled and require specialised caregivers to attend to their needs on a daily basis.
- These cuts will place individuals with autism literally in danger, because their homes will not be able to ensure their physical safety and respect their integrity as humans.
- There are no other available residential services for these vulnerable individuals.
- Cuts in funding to the residential homes will consequently cause them to close and hence, reopen the door to the institutionalisation of individuals with autism, which in turn will cost the province of Quebec exorbitant amounts in state funds.
- The closure of these homes will cause an acute imbalance in all the areas of life for these individuals with autism, triggering an increase of behaviour problems and a decrease of their quality of life and an imminent regression in their daily functioning and integration in society.

Hence, we request the Quebec government:

- Reverse its decision to cut funding in order to avoid the closure of specialised residential homes for individuals with autism and severe behaviour problems.
- Review the existing protocols housing individuals with autism and severe behaviour problems, considering their real needs and ensuring their physical safety, well-being and integrity as humans, as well as that of their caregivers.

To find the contact information of your MNA, go to <http://www.assnat.qc.ca/en/deputes/index.html> and enter your postal code in the left column.

To see the press conference of Mr. Jean-François Lisée denouncing the funding cuts to specialised homes for people with autism and severe disabilities go to <http://www.assnat.qc.ca/fr/video-audio/archives-parlementaires/activites-presse/AudioVideo-63047.html?support=video>.

We thank you on behalf of people with autism and their families.

Did You Know?

There are foundations that might be able to help you finance some services for your child. Please check the following links to verify your eligibility.

-Fondation maman Dion (back to school)
The request must be made before March 27, 2016 for the beginning of school year, in August 2016.
<http://www.fondationmandion.org/fr/aide-rentree-scolaire.html> (in French)

-Répit Québec (camps)
The request must be made between March 1 and 31, 2016.
<http://www.repitquebec.org/subvention/subvention.html> (in French)

-Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities (camps)
<http://jumpstart.canadiantire.ca/en/what-we-do/want-to-apply> (French and English)

- President's Choice Children's Charity (respite, camps, therapies...)
http://www.presidentschoice.ca/en_CA/community/pccc/apply-for-funding.html (French and English)

2016 Summer Respite Service!

Once again this year, participants aged 3 to 24 years old will have the opportunity to enjoy a much appreciated stay, once their registration has been confirmed. The Summer Respite Service welcomes individuals with autism spectrum disorders who live with their natural families.

The Summer Respite Service aims to provide support and respite for families, as well as enable participants to preserve the skills they have learned throughout the school year. All participants will have the opportunity to attend a camp session, in which they will be exposed to new experiences through their daily activities. The camp emphasizes the pleasure of learning alongside one's peers. We also work on helping participants develop a greater sense of autonomy, allowing them to take pride in their accomplishments, and to participate actively in community life. We select individual activities, group activities as well as outings in the community and municipal facilities.

Bergamote and only "socialisation" group of Rock-Camp-Bol :

1st stay: June 27 to July 22, 2016

2nd stay: July 25 to August 19, 2016

Rock-Camp-Bol and Wasabi :

After multiple efforts to find a camp site location for the Rock-Camp-Bol and Wasabi sections, we are unfortunately faced with the unpleasant task of having to decrease the number of days of camp for these two sections for summer 2016. Due to new regulations at the Montreal School Board as well as various renovations that must take place in schools, we can only have access to schools for a period of 7 weeks (except for Étincelle school).

1st stay: June 27 to July 19, 2016 (3 weeks and 2 days)

2nd stay: July 21 to August 12, 2016 (3weeks and 2 days)

TIME: Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Daycare service available for a fee of \$14/hour (from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.).

The Summer Respite Service is divided into 3 sections:

Bergamote section: for participants aged 3 to 15 years old.

Rock-Camp-Bol section: for participants aged 14 to 24 years old.

Wasabi section: for participants with severe behavior problems and/or special needs.

The Summer Respite Service offers a ratio of one shadow for each participant, which can be adjusted as necessary.

FEES: You must be a member of Autisme Montréal (\$30/year).

The camp fees are \$850 for 4 weeks participation at Bergamote.

The camp fees are 730\$ for 3 weeks and 2 days at Rock-Camp-Bol and Wasabi.

Fees include registration, activities and outings.

For more information about the procedures and registration date, please click on the following link: <http://autisme-montreal.com/en/our-services/summer-respite-service/>

For more information about other summer respite service in Montreal click on the following link: http://autisme-montreal.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/r%C3%A9pertoire-camp_ANG_2016.pdf

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Montreal, QC, H2J2W9**

For the complete contact information of our team, please visit:

<http://autisme-montreal.com/en/about-us/staff/>



Did you get all your receipts from Autisme Montréal?

Did you know that you might be entitled to benefit from tax credits, reimbursable or not, for the services you have paid for? Depending on your financial situation, the expenses incurred for our camps, La Maissonnette and the swimming lessons could reduce your tax bill. Please make sure you have them to be able to give them to the person who prepares your income tax returns.

Childcare expenses

Gather your receipts from the summer respite, Christmas camp, spring break camp and weekends at La Maissonnette.

Children's fitness tax credit

Your swimming lessons receipt is eligible for this credit. Autisme Montréal can send you a duplicate of your receipts. You simply need to contact the reception or send an email to Chantal Pivin (accueil@autisme-montreal.com).

To conclude, please do not forget all your receipts from private caregivers. You could also use them as childcare expenses!

