

MEMBERSHIP POLICY

To become a member of AUTISME MONTRÉAL, you must comply with certain provisions, namely those listed in the organization's general rules. Those interested in becoming members must submit an application and:

- endorse AUTISME MONTRÉAL's objectives, mission and values; and
- pay the annual membership fee.

Note that the board of directors must approve the membership application. To be processed promptly, applications must be received at least one month before the board meeting.

As soon as you submit your application, you will enjoy all the advantages offered to members, namely access to the organization's various services and activities. However, you will only be able to participate in AUTISME MONTRÉAL's associative life (right to vote during meetings, possibility of being nominated to the board of directors) once your application has been approved by the board.

AUTISME MONTRÉAL'S OBJECTIVES

- a. Bring together individuals with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD), their family members and anyone called to support the cause.
- b. Educate the public, raise awareness of autism spectrum disorder and the diversity of individuals with an ASD, and represent these individuals before the agencies concerned.
- c. Defend the individual and collective rights of people with an autism spectrum disorder and their family members.
- d. Encourage the development and quality of services that meet the needs of people with an autism spectrum disorder and their family members.
- e. Promote integration within the community and universal accessibility for people with an autism spectrum disorder.
- f. Promote research on autism spectrum disorder and help spread the information in the medical and educational communities and to the general population.

- g. Offer moral support to people with an autism spectrum disorder and their family members.
- h. Develop support and mutual aid activities of all types for people with an autism spectrum disorder and their family members.
- i. Develop services and recreational activities for people with an autism spectrum disorder and their family members.
- j. Obtain the funding needed to pursue the above objectives.

MISSION

“AUTISME MONTRÉAL is a non-profit organization that strives to improve the lives of individuals with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and their family members.”

In fulfilling its mission, AUTISME MONTRÉAL takes action at the social level, in addition to supporting people directly affected by an ASD. Through its various actions, it aims to educate the public about different issues affecting people with an ASD and the diversity of such individuals, contribute to research and skills development in this field and support actions taken to defend the individual and collective rights of people with an ASD and their family members.

In order to tangibly improve the well-being of its members, AUTISME MONTRÉAL also offers a wide range of services and activities. Whether moral support, mutual aid, respite, recreational activities or any other form of support, the organization strives to meet the needs expressed by its members as best it can. It strives to improve its members' quality of life, increase their autonomy and power to act, and favour their integration in society.

Operating in the Greater Montréal area since 1981, AUTISME MONTRÉAL brings together people with an ASD, their family members, professionals, students and many individuals and organizations that support the cause. AUTISME MONTRÉAL is known for:

- recognizing the development potential of all people with an ASD;
- being open to biomedical approaches and other treatments likely to improve the health and/or well-being of people with an ASD;
- making ongoing prevention efforts;
- supporting educational, health and social service institutions;
- promoting and disseminating ASD research;

- endorsing universal accessibility and supporting the social integration of people with an ASD;
- making a sustained effort to obtain quality services adapted to the specific needs of people with an ASD and their family members;
- the values its personnel upholds and promotes to the organization's members and the public.

AUTISME MONTRÉAL'S VALUES

Openness

AUTISME MONTRÉAL's first value, openness is at the heart of our mission. It evokes welcome, tolerance, acceptance of differences and invites everyone to question their beliefs and prejudices, to discover and recognize the true value of others.

Mutual support

Much more than a kind gesture, mutual support inspires solidarity, collaboration and reciprocity. It is a shared intention to help one another, to do good, to band together to reach a common goal. It can involve teamwork, a verbal exchange where everyone feels heard, a simple helping hand or a major joint achievement. No matter the shape it takes, mutual support demonstrates consideration of others, the trust we place in them and our willingness to join forces for the well-being of all concerned.

Courage

Courage is the value that led to AUTISME MONTRÉAL's creation. Always beating at the organization's heart, we owe our existence, services, and commitment to advocating for our members' collective and individual rights to courage. Courage is what helps us undertake a difficult task, overcome our fears and forge ahead despite risks, hardship, failure, and even outright contempt and rejection. Courage is the inner strength that lets us look beyond appearances, state our convictions, give ourselves permission to act, take charge of our destiny, and be ourselves among others.

Perseverance

If courage gives rise to hope, it is often perseverance that leads us to fulfill our aspirations. Combining patience, determination and unwavering commitment, perseverance helps us to push further, to take a step closer to our goals, to overcome the seemingly insurmountable, and to make our vision a reality. Being perseverant means tolerating ambiguity, letting yourself make mistakes, learning from them, and always being ready to start over if need be.

Professionalism

To be professional is to choose meticulousness, excellence and principles over ease, complacency and excuses. It means investing all your personal resources into doing good and being of service to others. Being professional is taking responsibility for the task we have been confided and ensuring the quality of our own contribution. It is choosing to evolve, to develop our full potential and to surpass ourselves in order to offer the best of ourselves to others.

LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP

According to sections 8 to 11 of AUTISME MONTRÉAL's general rules, membership can be revoked for the following reasons:

resignation: A member can resign by giving written notice to the secretary. The resignation will come into effect when the board of directors receives the notice.

expulsion: The board can, by resolution, suspend (for a determined period not exceeding one year) or exclude a member whose actions it considers to be damaging to the organization's interests or objectives. Before proceeding with suspension or exclusion, the board will notify the member of the grievances against him/her and give the member the opportunity to respond in writing or verbally, during the board meeting at which the suspension or exclusion will be deliberated.

non-payment of the annual membership fee by the end of the financial year in which it is due: Members must pay an annual membership fee. The terms of payment vary by member category and are established by the board each year. **Membership fees are non-refundable.**