

IQ was never developed as a means to limit services. IQ is not a good identifier of a person's ability to live and act independently.

It's time for a change to this policy.



Our Vision

A province where people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their families are valued and respected, and where they receive services and supports based on their individualized differences, needs and preferences.

Our Mission

The Autism Society, Newfoundland and Labrador, is a charitable organization dedicated to promoting the development of individual, lifelong, and community-based supports and services for persons with ASD, their families and caregivers.

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The Facts About IQ 70



Autism Society
Newfoundland & Labrador



For many families and people diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, their access to vital services relies on whether the person diagnosed with autism has an IQ lower than 70.

- IQ 70 has to do with the definition of an intellectual disability.
- Autism is not an intellectual disability
- Many services persons on the autism spectrum require, have nothing to do with intelligence.
- Autism is a social, sensory and communicative disorder.

“Because of IQ 70 my son has missed out on the help he needed.”

- Parent

Unfair, Untrue & Devastating

In our province, no supports are provided for youth, adults, families or caregivers if the individual with ASD has an IQ above 70. This stems from the assumption that supports are not needed if an individual has average or above average cognitive performance. This is unfair, untrue, and devastating for too many families.

Not an Accurate Indicator

Repeated studies, and personal accounts from people with ASD, demonstrate the IQ score is not an accurate indicator of general ability across domains of living.

However, it's still being used by government to determine whether to provide services to people with ASD. Government needs to examine how an individual can function, given the daily routines of life.



What needs to change

Adaptive behaviour assessment

The criterion for determining service needs and provision cannot be just an IQ score in isolation. The critically important criterion must be an assessment of a person's **'adaptive behaviour'** which refers to an individual's typical performance across various domains of daily life.

IQ was never developed or meant as a means to limit services. IQ is not a good identifier of a person's ability to live and act independently. It's time for a change to this policy.

“Primarily, IQ testing predicts how a child will perform in a standardized testing environment, but it does not evaluate how a child will perform in an everyday context.”

-Kelly Herzberg, Med,CSP