

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 12, 2018

Issues That Matter: New Position Statement Booklet Released by Autism Society NL

St. John's, NL - Today, Autism Society, Newfoundland & Labrador (ASNL), released the third volume of its Position Statement Booklet, titled *Issues That Matter*. It details the organization's advocacy priorities for improving the lives of those affected by autism, and their families.

In October 2018, ASNL surveyed families, adults with autism, and professionals about the issues that matter most to them. This booklet is a summary of the feedback that was received.

"There are many issues that matter to families across our province. Our hope with this booklet is to bring more attention to those issues that challenge families the most, and offer recommendations for service improvement, particularly as government moves towards the release of its Autism Action Plan in 2019."

CEO Scott Crocker, Autism Society NL

The booklet is divided into four sections. Each section provides ASNL's position on priority issues and gives recommendations for service improvement.

- **Lifelong:** Removal of IQ70; Continuity of Care; Access to Mental Health Services
- **Preschool:** Timely Assessment and Diagnosis; 18-Month Screening; Timely Referral and Early Identification; Access to Therapeutic Services & Interventions; Improvements to the Early Intervention Program
- **School-Age:** Transitioning into School, Between Grades and/or Schools, and Out of School; Public School Supports; Professional Development for Educators and Support Staff
- **Adult:** Employment Equity; Post-Secondary Education Supports; Residential Options

The full publication can be viewed on ASNL's website [here](#).

Media Contacts:

Tess Hemeon

Manager, Advocacy & Communications

Autism Society, Newfoundland & Labrador

709-722-2803

themeon@autism.nf.net

-30-



Autism Society