

The following message is being sent on behalf of Dr. Sharon Penney and Dr. Kimberly Maich to invite you to participate in an upcoming research study about ASD and supportive housing in Newfoundland. If you wish to participate please follow the instructions outlined in the following message, replying to this email about the study will not put you in contact with Dr. Penney or Dr. Maich.

Hello,

Our names are Sharon Penney and Kimberly Maich, and we are Associate Professors in the Faculty of Education at Memorial University of Newfoundland. We are conducting a research project called ASD & Supportive Housing in Newfoundland & Labrador. The purpose of the study is to investigate the needs and wants of/for adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) around supportive housing in Newfoundland and Labrador.

We are contacting you to invite you to participate in a focus group or interview in which you will be asked to answer questions relating to your experiences with supportive housing services for adults with ASD. We will hold separate focus groups for parents and caregivers, and focus groups for service providers. In the event that focus groups are not possible for you, either due to time conflicts or discomfort within group settings, an interview may be arranged. Furthermore, if you are an adult of 18 years of age or older, we invite you to participate in either a private interview or an interview with a parent or caregiver present. Participation will require one hour to one hour and a half of your time and will be held in a private room at Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador, a private room in a public school or public library. All focus groups and interviews will be audio recorded for the sake of later transcription.

You were invited to participate in this focus group because you are a caregiver or service provider for an adult with ASD.

Focus groups and interviews will be held in St. John's, Clarenville, Grand Falls-Windsor and Corner Brook. The exact location of the focus groups and interviews will be determined at a later date once the number of participants is determined. Please note that all focus groups and interviews will take place in a private area. In St. John's and Corner Brook, all focus groups and interviews will be held on Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN) campuses. In Clarenville and Grand Falls-Windsor, a private room will be booked in a public building such as a library or community health office.

If you are interested in participating in this study, please contact us at autismsupports@mun.ca for further details.

If you have any questions about us or our project, please contact Sharon Penney by telephone at 709 864-7556, Kimberly Maich by phone at 709 864-4793 or email autismsupports@mun.ca.

If you know anyone who may be interested in participating in this study, please give them a copy of this information.

Thank you in advance for considering my request,

Dr. Sharon Penney and Dr. Kimberly Maich

The proposal for this research has been reviewed by the Interdisciplinary Committee on Ethics in Human Research and found to be in compliance with Memorial University's ethics policy. If you have ethical concerns about the research, such as your rights as a participant, you may contact the Chairperson of the ICEHR at icehr.chair@mun.ca or by telephone at 709-864-2861.

Adults with ASD

PARTICIPANTS NEEDED FOR RESEARCH

Autism Spectrum Disorder Housing Support Analysis

We are looking for volunteers to take part in a study examining supportive housing for adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). As an adult (over the age of 18 years old) diagnosed with ASD we are interested in your experiences in accessing and utilizing supportive housing in Newfoundland and Labrador. You will be asked to participate in a one-on-one interview in which the researchers will be asking questions related to your experiences with accessing and using supportive housing in Newfoundland and Labrador. You are invited to participate in either a one on one interview alone or an interview with a parent or caregiver present.

Participation is not required by either the Autism Society of Newfoundland and Labrador or the regional health authority. Your participation is **completely voluntary** and would take up approximately one to one and a half hours of your time. By participating in this study, you will have the opportunity to influence the direction of research and policy in the province in relation to supportive housing for adults with ASD. With your permission interviews will be audio recorded for the purpose of later transcription.

To learn more about this study please contact:

Principal Investigators: Dr. Sharon Penney; telephone: 709 864-7556, Dr. Kimberly Maich; telephone: 709 864-4793

To participate in this study please contact: autismsupports@mun.ca

Focus groups and interviews will be held in St. John's, Clarenville, Grand Falls-Windsor and Corner Brook. The exact location of the interviews (with or without a parent or caregiver present) will be determined at a later date once the number of participants is determined. Please note that all interviews will take place in a private area. In St. John's and Corner Brook, all interviews will be held on Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN) campuses. In Clarenville and Grand Falls-Windsor, a private room will be booked in a public building such as a library or community health office.

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Parent or Caregivers of Adults with ASD

PARTICIPANTS NEEDED FOR RESEARCH IN:

Autism Spectrum Disorder Housing Support Analysis

We are looking for volunteers to take part in a study examining supportive housing for adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). As a parent or caregiver of an adult with ASD, we are interested in your experiences in accessing and utilizing supportive housing in Newfoundland and Labrador. As a parent or caregiver, you will be asked to participate in either a focus group or a one-on-one interview (the type of participation is up to you) in which researchers will be asking questions related to your experiences with accessing and using supportive housing in Newfoundland and Labrador. The focus groups will include other parents and caregivers of adults with ASD; whereas, individual interviews will be with you and the researchers alone.

Participation is not required by either the Autism Society of Newfoundland and Labrador or the regional health authority. Your participation is **completely voluntary** and would take up approximately one to one and a half hours of your time during a one-time interview or focus group session. By participating in this study, you will have the opportunity to influence the direction of research and policy in the province in relation to supportive housing for adults with ASD. The focus groups and interviews will be audio recorded for the purpose of later transcription.

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Principal Investigators: Dr. Sharon Penney; telephone: 709 864-7556, Dr. Kimberly Maich; telephone: 709 864-4793

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Service provider of adults with ASD

PARTICIPANTS NEEDED FOR RESEARCH

Autism Spectrum Disorder Housing Support Analysis

We are looking for volunteers to take part in a study examining supportive housing for adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). As a service provider participating in this study, we are interested in understanding your experiences with adults with ASD and supportive housing. In this study, you will be asked to participate in either a focus group or a one-on-one interview (the type of participation is up to you) in which the researchers will be asking you questions related to your experiences with assisting and supporting adults with ASD in accessing supportive housing in Newfoundland and Labrador. The focus groups will include other service providers of adults with ASD; whereas, individual interviews will be with you and the researchers alone.

Participation is not required by your employer or the regional health authority in which you work. Your participation is **completely voluntary** and would take up approximately one to one and a half hours of your time during a one-time focus group or interview session. By participating in this study, you will have the opportunity to influence the direction of research and policy in the province in relation to supportive housing for adults with ASD. The focus groups or the interviews will be audio recorded for the purpose of later transcription.

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