

**Autism Nova Scotia's Public Statement:**

Earlier this month, Autistics United Nova Scotia's chapter leader Alex Kronstein brought to light that an upcoming film screening in a public facility will be presenting content that causes harm to autistic individuals within the community.

Autism Nova Scotia stands against the content and the screening of the film, Vaxxed II. As a community organization that fosters understanding, acceptance and inclusion for individuals on the autism spectrum, we believe this film is problematic and harmful to our community at large.

Vaxxed II promotes the unfounded claim that vaccination causes autism. This is a deliberate distribution of false medical information: Countless scientists, medical professionals, researchers, and even the Canadian Department of Public Health have cited there is no scientific evidence linking vaccines to autism. Screening this film in a public municipally owned building causes a serious concern for public health safety.

Furthermore, the film is harmful to the autism community by equating autism to tragedy. This notion directly contributes to the discrimination of those living on the autism spectrum and it stigmatizes autistic individuals as "damaged". This type of misinformation has no place within our province.

We are strongly asking the municipality to reconsider their decision to allow this film to screen in a public facility and we urge the cancellation of this film immediately. We hereby stand in solidarity with the many advocates and autistic leaders in the community who have spoken out about the public health risk and the ramifications this film has on our community.