



2024 Provincial Election Toolkit: A Call for Action and Inclusion

Autism Nova Scotia is committed to advancing the rights and needs of autistic individuals, as well as their families and caregivers, across the province. With the 2024 Provincial election approaching, we invite you to join us in advocating for essential support and inclusive policies.

Our Priorities

1. The Autism Action Plan

Building on the work of [Choosing Now: Investing in Nova Scotians Living with Autism](#), a report released by Autism Nova Scotia in 2016, the top priority during this election cycle is seeking a commitment from each political party that the Autism Action Plan will continue to be developed, and most importantly, implemented. This Plan is essential for timely, equitable services across Nova Scotia, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

2. Community and Health Care Supports and Services

Including diagnosis, early years supports, and access to care for physical and mental health and wellbeing.

3. Education and support for student transitions

Every autistic student should have access to autism-trained staff and specialized resources, creating safe, accessible and inclusive learning environments. We are calling for greater support and resources to ensure that existing inclusion policies are effectively implemented, enabling teachers and staff to support smooth and successful transitions for autistic students across all educational stages.

4. Economic inclusion & social inclusion

Autistic people deserve the chance to participate fully in the economy, including access to income, employment, and housing. This also means autistic people are fully participating in society, promoting community involvement, and improving access to recreation and transportation.

Overall, we ask parties to commit to policies that ensure inclusion, accessibility, and autonomy for autistic people in Nova Scotia.

Take Action

• Contact Candidates

- Ask candidates about how they plan to prioritize the Autism Action Plan, including community and health care supports, inclusive education, and economic and social inclusion.
- Sample Questions:
 - *“Are you aware of the importance of the Autism Action Plan for Nova Scotia?”*

- *“Will you commit to following through with the development and implementation of an Autism Action Plan for Nova Scotia?”*
- *“What will you do to make autism a priority in this election and in the years that follow?”*

- **Social Media Advocacy**

- Follow us, share your stories, and raise awareness on social media. Some hashtags you can use include: #AutismActionPlanNS #NSvotes #NSpoli #NSElections2024

Together, let's make autism a priority during this election, for each party, and for every single candidate.

Thank you for your support!