

# AutismONTARIO

## TEN FACTS ABOUT AUTISM

### AUTISM IS NEURODEVELOPMENTAL

Autism is a lifelong neurodevelopmental disorder affecting the way a person communicates and relates to people and the world around them.



### AUTISM HAS NO CULTURAL BOUNDARIES

Autism exists in all cultures, ethnicities, races, and gender identities.



### AUTISM IS A TYPE OF NEURODIVERSITY

Being autistic means that a person's brain may process information differently than non-autistic, or neurotypical, people.



### AUTISM MEANS SOMETHING DIFFERENT FOR EVERYONE

A person on the spectrum might talk about autism one way, while an autistic person's family or a medical professional may refer to it another way.



### NEURODIVERSITY DOES NOT MEAN DISORDER

Many autistic people prefer the terms neurological "difference" or "condition", which remove the negative associations with the word "disorder."



### NOT EVERY AUTISTIC PERSON IS THE SAME

Autism exists on a spectrum, meaning each person on the autism spectrum experiences autism in a different way and the support they need varies.



### AUTISM DIAGNOSES ARE PREVALENT IN CHILDHOOD

1 in 66 Canadian children and youth (ages 5-17) are diagnosed with autism.



### 1-2% OF CANADIANS ARE AUTISTIC

Approximately 1-2% of the Canadian population is on the autism spectrum, which means there are approximately 135,000 autistic people in Ontario.



### USE PERSON-FIRST OR IDENTITY-FIRST LANGUAGE

People talk about autism using person-first language (person with autism) or identity-first language (autistic person). When in doubt, just ask. The phrase, "on the autism spectrum" is usually a safe bet.



### EVERY AUTISTIC PERSON CAN THRIVE WITH THE RIGHT SUPPORT

Many autistic people prefer the terms "high or low support needs" rather than "high or low functioning".

