

## **Event Invitation**

Connect-Belong-Grow Autism Support Association (CBG) is pleased to invite you to join us as for the upcoming Autism Expo 2024 at Chateau Louis Conference Centre on Saturday September 28th from 1-5pm. AUTISM EXPO 2024 is a free event for families and caregivers to connect with local service providers and community supports within the greater Edmonton area. This event will give those caring for a loved one with Autism the opportunity to meet and learn about local supports accessible within their community.

We have invited a carefully considered variety of local service providers who can provide support services to families and caregivers at different stages of development. This event welcomes families who are pre-diagnosis, as well as those seeking services beyond diagnosis, to find helpful resources for their needs.

#### **Event Purpose**

- Raise Autism Awareness.
- Connect families, caregivers and support workers to local community supports accessible within the Edmonton area
- Provide community support information for professionals supporting autistic individuals and their families (such as educators, community supports, etc.)
- For more information on this event visit www.edmontonautismexpo.com

#### **Community Supports Exhibitors**

- Indigenous Support and Resources
- Specialized Services
- Respite
- Recreational Supports

### Respectfully yours,

**Connect - Belong - Grow Autism Support Association** 

For inquiries about Connect-Belong-Grow Autism Support Association, please check out our Facebook page at Connect-Belong-Grow Autism Support Association or send us an email at connectbelonggrow@gmail.com.

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aturday, September 28, 2024 Chateau Louis Conference Centre

# Connect-Belong-Grow Autism Support Association

Connect-Belong-Grow is a Non-Profit Society established to support autistic individuals and their families. Our fundamental mission is to foster acceptance and a feeling of respect for those living with autism. Our Non-Profit Society allows families to engage in free sensory-friendly social events the whole family can experience, that may otherwise be challenging for those with autism.

Our goal is to empower families by connecting them with one another and to local resources, to find the support they need within their community. Since our non-profit was established in 2017, we have organized many events for families, including play gym meetups, movie nights, Maskwacis family BBQ, sensory Santa events, virtual parent meetups and the virtual Autism Expo 2020 & 2022. All our events are free of charge to allow all families to attend. We have received great feedback from families, with some sharing that our events have been the first time their child could attend and enjoy their time there.

The Virtual Autism Expo 2020 & 2022 was held to help families and individuals with autism learn more about local community supports available during the pandemic. It was apparent how helpful having numerous organizations and agencies on a centralized platform was for families to learn about services available within their community. With your help, we are happy to offer the Autism Expo to families in the Edmonton area this year. This event will provide an opportunity for individuals and families with autism to connect with local community support in person and online. This is especially meaningful for newly diagnosed and those overwhelmed by the process of finding support. For this

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reason, we plan to make this a regular event, providing families with the most current information on the support and resources available within their community.

#### **CBG Members services include**:

- Sensory friendly social events
- Connection to local resources and community resources
- Parent events
- Indigenous community support

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