

# Autism Society of BC Launches ASBCTalentBank.com

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

VANCOUVER, BC – The Autism Society of British Columbia (“ASBC”) announced today that it has launched ASBC Talent Bank (<https://asbctalentbank.com/>) — an online tool to help parents and Behaviour Interventionists (BIs) find each other, province wide.

As part of their 40th Anniversary, the ASBC has created an online ‘reference tool’ that is a self-serve database of Behaviour Interventionists looking for work, allowing those looking for BI work, or searching for BIs to join their home-based treatment teams, to find each other anywhere in the province of BC. It is hoped that this new initiative will address the need for those receiving autism training to get job placements in their area of interest within their community, regardless of how remote it is. It is hoped that this new initiative will help individuals, families and organizations looking for a BI, find one.

This is important because the autism numbers are staggering. 1 in 68 Canadians are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and early and timely access to intensive behaviour intervention is crucial to outcome and treatment success. Here in British Columbia 56,000 individuals are diagnosed with ASD. Those under the age of 6 (1,700) and those between the ages of 6-19 (9,600) have a combined \$95 million dollar government treatment allotment, but are often hard-pressed, or even desperate, to find people to hire for entry level positions on their treatment teams — particularly those in rural and remote BC communities.

“When you look at those autism numbers and consider that the Canadian youth unemployment numbers are rising, with graduates often struggling to carve out a solid career path in an area earmarked for growth, it’s time to do something.”, says Tamara Leger, Director of Special Projects, who created the tool. “We created this website to help Behaviour Interventionists and families find each other, no matter where they live in British Columbia.”

In addition to running “BI Basics Training Workshops” throughout the province, the ASBC felt the acute need for an online BI matching tool. The result is the development of the “ASBC Talent Bank” (<https://asbctalentbank.com/>) that will make it easier for families to support Behaviour Intervention as a treatment model in their community.

“I am very excited about creating an online provincial platform and sharing it with our province-wide Autism Society of BC membership. It is the magic of momentum that was created over four decades of partnership, vision and collaboration in the field of autism treatment — with an overriding goal to continually improve on what is there to help make things better for those with Autism Spectrum Disorder.”, says Laurie Guerra, Autism Society of BC Vice-President.

## **Additional Quotes**

“My kid needs help—which means I need help. And this online tool is great! I can search on my breaks at work, or at 2am when I’m up worrying how to fill a regular shift because my current BI is going back to school.”

**Carole H. Parent from Kelowna**

“I work with an autism centre in the Okanagan and think that as a Behaviour Interventionist new to the field, or looking for work, it could be a valuable tool to help you find full-time work, and put yourself out there to families, consultants and centers looking to hire. It could even be handy for someone considering relocating to places such as Kelowna, or even more remote or rural communities in BC. They can choose a new community based on how much full time work there is in the field of autism.”

**Verity Teagle, B.A., M.A., Behaviour Interventionist and Tutor, ASCEND Program at Stepping Stones Counselling Group, Okanagan**

“As a Consultant I often am asked to help families find good people to fill their team. This online tool is really helpful. It let’s me look at a candidate's LinkedIn to see professional experience and allows them to post their self-declared area of expertise and interest. What is really unique is that parent-clients can endorse these areas of expertise giving the BI a raw “gold star” score. Knowing that someone enjoys peer-play is great, but having 10 parents give them 4.5 out of 5 stars for peer-play is even better.”

**Julee Bassetto M.Ed., BCBA, Behaviour Consultant**

## ***About the Autism Society of British Columbia***

Founded over 40 years ago, the Autism Society of British Columbia (“ASBC”) is one of BC’s most established and trusted autism information providers. The ASBC has four (4) regional offices (Vancouver, Nanaimo, Prince George and Kelowna) — supporting community groups, providing library support and referral services, offering a summer reimbursement program, and hosting a variety of educational and social events throughout the province — making them the only autism information resource with a true provincial footprint. The ASBC is recognized for being a family-oriented organization. It is a place for people to connect, share and learn about current trends and best practices in autism treatment. Because of their ongoing commitment to the people they serve, the society has become a leading contributor to the national dialogue on autism inclusion and amelioration. As you would expect from an organization with over 40 years in the field, the ASBC has been instrumental in creating much of the autism infrastructure that exists today: including self-advocacy, education on “best practices” in autism treatment, and the creation of the country’s first province-wide funding program for children and teenagers.

To view the ASBC Talent Bank app please visit: <https://asbctalentbank.com/>

## **A video overview of how the ASBC Talent Bank works is posted here**

For more information on the Autism Society of BC please visit: <http://www.autismbc.ca/>

Autism Society of British Columbia: 1-888-437-0880 OR 604-434-0880