



## How the Project Started:

- Have an interest in making post secondary education more accessible
- Reached out to Dr. Ames based on her interest in post-secondary supports for autistic students

## Why Create a Peer Mentorship Program?

- Approximately 44% of transition aged autistic adults pursue post secondary education (Ames et al., 2022; Newman et al. 2011)
- Low graduation rate of autistic students due to lack of supports (Duerksen et al., 2021)
- 1 in 66 children in Canada are autistic (Public Health Agency of Canada, 2018)

# Creating a Peer Mentorship Program for Autistic Students

## Where We Are Now:

- Received human ethics committee approval to use prepared student survey
- Have support of the Society for Students with a Disability (SSD)
- Created a list of on campus resources for students
- Created a recruitment poster

## Future Plans:

- Distribute survey and analyze responses
- Create an advisory board for the program
- Get feedback and resources from College Autism Network Virtual Association of Scholars (CANVAS)
- Create a training program for mentors
- Recruit mentors

### LOOKING INPUT FROM STUDENTS WHO IDENTIFY AS AUTISTIC

We need your input on potential supports for autistic students at UVIC. Please participate in our 5-10 minute survey!



Link to survey here:

Please contact [mames@uvic.ca](mailto:mames@uvic.ca) or [jacobdewijze@uvic.ca](mailto:jacobdewijze@uvic.ca) with any further questions.



## Sources

1. Ames, M. E., Coombs, C. E. M., Duerksen, K. N., Vincent, J., & McMorris, C. A. (2022). Canadian mapping of autism-specific supports for postsecondary students. *Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders*, 90, 101899. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rasd.2021.101899>
2. Blackmoon9. (2021). Layered rainbow infinity symbol stock illustration. iStock. Getty Images. Retrieved August 16, 2023, from <https://www.istockphoto.com/vector/layered-rainbow-infinity-symbol-gm1317104280-404634367>.
3. Duerksen, K., Besney, R., Ames, M., & McMorris, C. A. (2021). Supporting Autistic Adults in Postsecondary Settings: A Systematic Review of Peer Mentorship Programs. *Autism in Adulthood*, 3(1), 85–99. <https://doi.org/10.1089/aut.2020.0054>
4. Canada, P. H. A. of. (2018, April 19). Autism Spectrum Disorder among Children and Youth in Canada 2018. Canada.ca. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/autism-spectrum-disorder-children-youth-canada-2018.html>

The rainbow infinity sign used as the background of this poster, is seen by many as a symbol of pride in being autistic. This is a stark difference to the medical view of autism, which treats it as something that is inherently bad.