# Brampton Autism Centre Proposal

Presented by:

South Asian Autism Awareness Centre (SAAAC)

February 2022





Scarborough's South Asian Autism Awareness Centre:

#### Why we exist

To help all families in need of access to autism services

To build inclusive communities through culturally responsive autism practices and accessible programming

To focus on and build resource awareness among culturally and linguistically diverse families and high needs communities



## Who we help

Ninety per cent of families served have come to Canada within the past 15 years

Commonly spoken languages by families at our centre include: Tamil, Urdu, Arabic, Tagalog, Cantonese

Sixty per cent of families identify as low-income (household income \$40,000 and less)

Average age of diagnosis is 5 Average age of entry into clinical service is 6



#### How we grew

2008	Founded by accountant/dance instructor Geetha Moorthy run out of her basement
	Initial clientele: <b>2 kids</b> & their families Run by: 6 volunteers, 0 staff
2012	Clientele grows to <b>100 kids</b> /families Charitable status obtained
2013	First full-time staff person hired
2014	Clientele grows to <b>120 kids</b> /families 5,000 sq. ft. industrial unit rented
2016	Clientele grows to 260 kids/families
2018	SAAAC moves to 11,000 sq. ft. industrial unit, provided at a nominal fee by the City of Toronto
2022	Clientele grows to <b>450 kids</b> /families 150 volunteers 23 full-time staff
	Centre expands to include 2,000 sq. ft.

job training facility for young adults

Toronto approves a proposed 10,000 sq. ft. expansion as City-owned space

becomes available



## How we help

Free and subsidized programs for kids with autism and their families:

- Applied Behaviour Analysis
- Speech Language Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Caregiver Mental Health Program
- Just Dance Program
- Functional Fitness and Movement
  Skills
- Living N Learning Day Adult Program
- Mobile Development Outreach
  Clinic
- Creative Arts Program
- Foundation for Success Program
- Case Management
- Everyday Practical Strategies for Caregivers
- Entry to School



## Who we would help in Brampton

Majority of families served will be new Canadians

Services will be available in English, as well as Punjabi, Urdu, Gujarati, Hindi, Tamil, Tagalog and other languages as required

Majority of families served will come from lower-income households (income of \$40,000 a year or less)

Average age of diagnosis will be 5 years old





Provide a 10,000 to 15,000 sq. ft. building (preferably close to a park or other community amenity)

Fund any necessary renovations to the building

Fund the annual cost of operating the building

#### How can Brampton help?

What would SAAAC bring to the table?

- Professional staff: Part-time inhouse doctors, therapists, mental health experts
- Partnerships with numerous community agencies
- Partnerships with longestablished autism service providers
- Partnerships with provincial hospitals and physicians
- Partnerships with public health departments, schools and the Ontario government
- Partnerships with established foundations and donors
- Stable fee-for-service funding model



Who would SAAAC bring to the table?

> Public partners

Canada





An agency of the Government of Ontario Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario Ministry of Children, Community & Social Services Ontario 🕅

Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development







McMaster Autism Research Team

Advancing autism care through meaningful research







Who would SAAAC bring to the table?

> Private partners

La fondation **McConnell** Foundation HONDA KAYAN KANESALINGAM **AUTISM SPEAKS<sup>®</sup> CANADA**\*











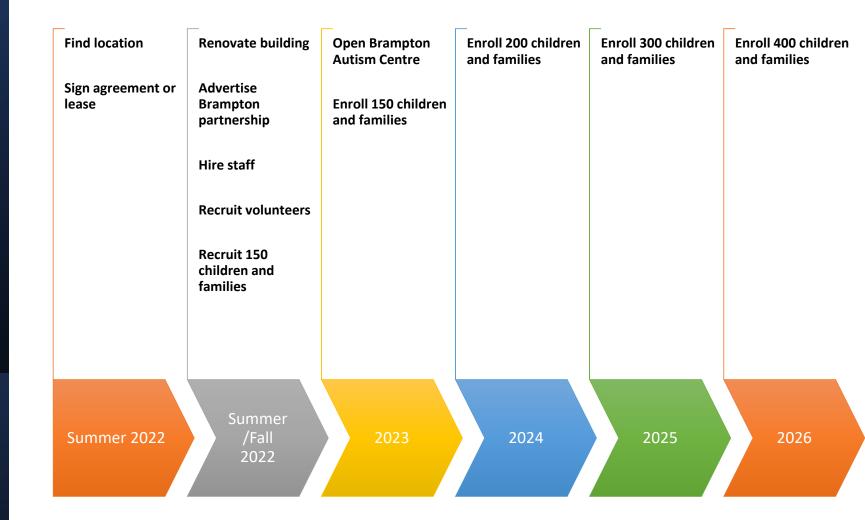


Who would SAAAC bring to the table?

Volunteers



Proposed timeline for Brampton Autism Centre



### Brampton Autism Centre Proposal

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> Submitted by: SAAAC Autism Centre February 2022





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