

Pivot Point Newsletter



National AccessAbility Week (NAAW)

What is National AccessAbility Week 2026?

This is an annual event that celebrates the contributions of people with diverse abilities and advocates for a barrier-free Canada. Running from May 31 to June 6, 2026, this year's theme is "Building a Strong, Accessible Canada." It serves as a nationwide call to action to promote inclusion across our schools, workplaces, and local communities.

At Pivot Point Family Growth Centre, we see [National AccessAbility Week](#) as more than just a date on the calendar; it is a reflection of our daily mission. For over two decades, our support agency has had the profound honour of walking alongside individuals and families as they navigate the complexities of autism, neurodiversity, and mental health.

Our evidence-based experience is rooted in these shared journeys. We have seen firsthand that when the right supports are in place, every individual — regardless of their neurodiversity, can live a life of immense meaning and purpose. Our role as a [support professional](#) is to help bridge the gap between "what is" and "what is possible," ensuring that a higher quality of life is accessible to everyone we serve.

In 2026, the way we speak about our community matters. While the week is titled "AccessAbility," we choose to focus on the term "diverse abilities." This shift in language moves us away from a deficit-based mindset and toward a strengths-based perspective. We know that neurodivergent minds and varied ways of experiencing the world are not barriers to be overcome, but unique perspectives that make the fabric of our Canadian society stronger and more resilient.

A key pillar of a "Strong, Accessible Canada" is the recognition that mental health support must be inclusive of all cognitive styles. At Pivot Point, we advocate for a world where mental wellness resources are tailored to the individual. True accessibility means creating environments where sensory needs are respected, emotional safety is prioritized, and every person feels they truly belong.

For more than 22 years, Pivot Point's team of dedicated professionals and staff have shared their extensive experience in supporting individuals with Autism and Diverse Abilities. [Our services](#) are client-centred, family-oriented, and evidence-based, drawing from Applied Behavior Analysis, Mental Health, Education, Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Psychiatry, Neurofeedback, and other interventions as needed. All creating Positive Change!

Newsletter Content Submissions

If you would like to participate in writing content, sending in photographs and/or sharing ideas for the staff newsletter, please contact Rochelle at: marketing@pivotpoint.ca

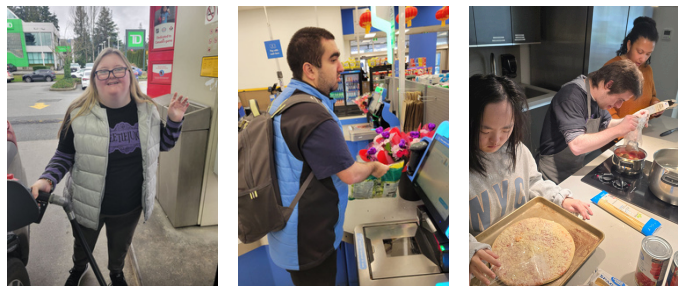
Newsletter Feedback

Rochelle would like to hear from you! Please provide her with your feedback or let her know of specific topics that you would like to see in upcoming newsletters by completing our [Feedback & Suggestion Form](#). Thank you for your input!

Global Community Inclusion Program - Adult Life Skills

Our newer Global Community Inclusion Tri-Cities and Burnaby/New Westminster groups are quickly becoming favourite programs within our [Adult Services](#). Led by Program Manager, Sandra Haukeland and a dedicated support team, participants spend 5 days per week building independence, friendships, and confidence while out in the community.

From pumping gas, grocery shopping and cooking homemade meals together, every activity supports real-life skill development in fun and meaningful ways.



These programs are filled with laughter, teamwork, community exploration, and opportunities for adults with diverse abilities to learn, connect, and thrive.

Community Classroom Public Outings

At Pivot Point Learning Centres, our experienced team guides autistic and neurodivergent youth through structured community outings to build practical life skills. By practicing communication, self-advocacy, and problem-solving in real-world environments, students develop the confidence and autonomy to navigate daily life.



Explore more about our [Learning Centres](#) today.

Navigating Autism Elopement: Safety, Support, and Impulse Management

Elopement - the tendency to leave a safe area without notice - remains a critical safety concern for caregivers of autistic children. Data shows nearly 50% of children on the spectrum will attempt to elope, often driven by sensory overload, a specific interest, or a lack of danger awareness. Moving from constant hyper-vigilance to manageable safety requires a dual approach: high-tech protection and evidence-based behavioural intervention.

Modern safety strategies now integrate AI-driven GPS wearables that provide proactive "smart alerts," notifying caregivers the moment a child deviates from a routine path. This technology is most effective when paired with a Functional Behaviour Assessment (FBA) conducted by a [Board Certified Behaviour Analyst \(BCBA\)](#). By identifying whether a child is "running to" a preferred item or "running from" a sensory stressor, caregivers can teach specific replacement behaviours.

Building impulse control in public involves generalizing these safety skills through visual schedules and "stop/go" drills. When children are empowered with communication tools such as AAC devices or keywords to request a "break", the impulse to bolt is often replaced by a functional request for help.

By combining these advanced monitoring tools with consistent skill-building, autistic youth can develop the awareness necessary to help them navigate public spaces safely. This proactive framework ensures that safety is not just about physical barriers, but about empowering your child with the tools to manage their environment.

Beyond home locks and alarms, ensure your local first responders have access to your child's [Safety Plan](#). Community-wide awareness is the final, essential layer of protection in ensuring our children can explore the world with confidence.

Request a Meeting

Navigating support for a loved one? You don't have to navigate this journey alone. Book your [complimentary consultation](#) with our team today.