

Program Alert – Apr. 22, 2010

### **Canada AM's week-long series takes an in-depth look at Autism, beginning April 26**

Beginning Monday, April 26, **CANADA AM** launches a week-long special series on Autism. Each day, **CANADA AM** will examine different issues, treatments, perspectives and resources for Canadian families. **CANADA AM** airs Monday – Friday beginning at 6 a.m. ET on CTV.

#### **Monday, April 26 – The Value of Early Diagnosis**

Today **CANADA AM** introduces Canadians to a family who believes that an early diagnosis changed the course of their son's Autism. Beverly Thomson and Seamus O'Regan sit down with top experts for tips on how early to have your child assessed, signs to watch out for and why early diagnosis is crucial in an Autistic child's long-term progress.

#### **Tuesday, April 27 – Therapy**

Today **CANADA AM** focuses on a Montreal father who began communicating with his non-verbal son, through drawings. He has now broadened out his 'discovery,' teaching his method to other Autistic children and their families. In studio, Thomson and O'Regan speak with a behavioural therapist to talk about mainstream Autism therapy, and a renowned Autism researcher, who will cover alternative treatments and therapy, to focus on what works and why.

#### **Wednesday, April 28 - Day in the Life**

Today **CANADA AM** follows a family with an Autistic daughter, from morning until night for a first-hand look at the challenges and the small daily triumphs each day brings, for a family living with Autism. Thomson and O'Regan host a panel of parents from across the country – each with a different perspective on how an Autism diagnosis changed their lives and how they cope with the challenges of raising Autistic children.

#### **Thursday, April 29 – Adults with Autism**

Today **CANADA AM** looks at the issue of adults living with Autism, profiling a 30-year-old man, his boss and his co-worker. In studio, Canada AM will interview his parents and an expert on adults living with Autism, to discuss the lack of support and resources for families and why so many Autistic adults seem to fall through the cracks when they leave high school.

**Friday, April 30 – Canada a Leader in Autism Research**

Today **CANADA AM** profiles Dr. Stephen Scherer, currently a world leader in Autism research, relating to genetics. Thomson and O'Regan sit down with Scherer and his colleague Dr. Peter Szatmari, to talk about their pioneering research, which could lead to a diagnostic test for Autism. They will also announce the results of what they say is a major discovery regarding Autism and genetics, based on their latest research.

In addition, [CanadaAM.ctv.ca](http://CanadaAM.ctv.ca) will provide additional resources for parents/families including links to support groups, different types of therapy available in Canada, a province by province breakdown of funding, and an interactive element where Canadian families can send in photos of their families and share their stories about living with Autism.

**CANADA AM** is Canada's most-watched national morning newsmagazine. Since its launch in 1972, **CANADA AM** has brought Canadians a unique blend of hard news and lifestyle stories, featuring in-depth interviews with top newsmakers, celebrities and musical stars. Lis Travers is the Vice-President and Executive Producer for **CANADA AM** and Robert Hurst is the President of CTV News.

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