



Autism Awareness Centre Inc. *believe in change*

Halifax, NS – April 16 & 17, 2020 Featuring Speakers **Dr. Cathy Pratt** and **Peter Vermeulen** Hotel Halifax, 1990 Barrington Street, Halifax, NS

Thursday, April 16

Dr. Cathy Pratt

Supporting Individuals on the Autism Spectrum with Co-occurring Mental Health Issues

Individuals on the spectrum can present numerous challenges to the professionals and family members who support them. However, when an individual also has a mental health issue the support needs can be more complex and complicated.

Starting with an understanding and strategies for assessing behaviors, practical strategies will be presented that address the whole child, including the role of trauma and stress in a child's life and how to promote self-regulation.

Dr. Cathy Pratt, BCBA-D, is the Director of the Indiana Resource Center for Autism located at the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community, Indiana's University Center for Excellence in Disabilities. Most recently, Dr. Pratt has become the director of the Indiana School Mental Health Initiative. Dr. Pratt serves on numerous Advisory Boards, including the Advisory Boards of Maap Services, Inc., the Temple Grandin/Eustacia Cutler Autism Fund, the Autism Society of Indiana and the College Internship Program. In the past, she served on the Board of the National Autism Society and is a Past Chair. Dr. Pratt also serves on the Panel of Professional Advisors for the Autism Society. In addition, she is a member of the National Autism Leadership Collaboration. She also served as a member of the expert working group on services and as a member of the public review committee for the Research Roadmap of the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee and in 2010 was invited to the White House to provide feedback on the president's initiatives on autism spectrum disorders.

Dr. Pratt was the Shibles Distinguished Visiting Professor in the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Maine. In 2016, Dr. Pratt was awarded with the Charles Heineman Allied Professional Award through the Indiana Psychological Association. She writes and presents internationally on the following topics: autism spectrum disorders, functional behavior assessment/positive behavior supports, applied behavior analysis, instructional approaches, evidence-based practices, systems change, and policy.

Friday, April 17

Peter Vermeulen

Autism as Context Blindness: Absolute Thinking in a Relative World

Anyone wanting to support people with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) needs to understand how people on the spectrum perceive and understand the world. Anyone who wants to empathize with people with autism, should learn to see the world 'through autistic glasses'.

In this presentation, we will present a framework that helps us to gain a deeper understanding of the typical information processing style in ASD, which we have named context blindness. The concept of context blindness unifies the existing cognitive models in autism (theory of mind/extreme male brain, executive functioning, and central coherence) and it is embedded within the new findings in brain science about the predictive mind: the brain is not computing, but guessing and it makes its guesses based on contextual sensitivity; but most of all, the concept of context blindness offers a unique and practical understanding of autism.

Difficulties understanding and using context can explain why communication, social interaction and (unpredictable) changes are so challenging for people with autism. We will explain the concept of context blindness in interaction with the audience and provide concrete examples and anecdotes. We will explain how a good understanding of the autistic mind is the cornerstone of autism friendliness and the first step in striving for Quality of Life and happiness for people with autism.

Peter Vermeulen, MSc and PhD in Psychology and Educational Sciences, has worked with people with ASD and their families for more than 30 years. He is a Senior lecturer at Autisme Centraal, a training and education centre for autism spectrum disorders. Peter is an internationally respected lecturer/trainer and he presents all over Europe and beyond. Peter has written more than 15 books and several articles on autism. His books include, "This is the Title: On Autistic Thinking" (2001), "I am Special: Handbook for Psycho-Education" (2000, revised edition 2013), and "Autism as Context Blindness" (2012), a book that won several awards in the USA.

Register Online or Call:

www.autismawarenesscentre.com

Toll Free: 1-866-724-2224

Autism Awareness Centre Conference April 16 & 17, 2020 with Dr. Cathy Pratt & Peter Vermeulen

Please Print Clearly

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(Including area code)

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(We will only send you emails about upcoming conferences or other important information in your area.)

REGISTRATION FEE SCHEDULE

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATIONS **April 8, 2020**

PROFESSIONAL

BEFORE March 31, 2020

AFTER March 31, 2020

2 Days

\$325.00 + \$48.75 HST = \$373.75

\$355.00 + \$53.25 HST = \$408.25

\$ _____

1 Day Only

\$240.00 + \$36.00 HST = \$276.00

\$270.00 + \$40.50 HST = \$310.50

\$ _____

Day Attending

Thursday _____

Friday _____

PARENT/PARA-PROFESSIONAL

BEFORE March 31, 2020

AFTER March 31, 2020

2 Days

\$285.00 + \$42.75 HST = \$327.75

\$315.00 + \$47.25 HST = \$362.25

\$ _____

1 Day Only

\$165.00 + \$24.75 HST = \$189.75

\$195.00 + \$29.25 HST = \$224.25

\$ _____

Day Attending

Thursday _____

Friday _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED

\$ _____

REGISTRATION INCLUDES: Sessions, session materials, refreshment breaks. If you do not receive a confirmation seven business days prior to the conference please contact Autism Awareness Centre. Registrations received after the deadline may not be sent a confirmation before the conference.

METHOD OF PAYMENT

FEES MUST BE PAID PRIOR TO EVENT

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUE PAYABLE TO AUTISM AWARENESS CENTRE INC.

Visa

MasterCard

Cheque Enclosed

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Special Needs: Do you have any special dietary needs?

Yes

No

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