

# **Evaluation of employment-support services for adults with autism spectrum disorder**

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People with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) face an unacceptably low employment rate. While employment support services may lead to positive outcomes, little is known about these services. This study examined employment support resources for people with ASD. A total of 137 service providers who were working with employment support programs in Canada took part in an online survey. Interviews were also conducted with 51 people with ASD and 71 parents/caregivers. Findings show that employment support services may be more favorably perceived by those providing the services than those using them. Further, service providers were more negative about ASD employment support programs within their community, compared to their own programs. Individuals with ASD and their families wanted services that helped to both gain and keep employment. Improving ways of providing employment support for youth and adults with ASD is recommended. Suggestions are provided along with a model for employment support in ASD.