

Dear Family:

Autism Nova Scotia launched the Respite Database Program in October 2014. It was rolled out through a partnership with [respiteservices.com](http://respiteservices.com) in Ontario. This database has been operating highly successfully in Ontario for over seven years and in the few months that it has been available in Nova Scotia it has already lead to many successful matches. The database matches families with independent respite workers (not directly employed or paid by Autism Nova Scotia) based on the specific needs of the individual. The database will often refer to respite workers as “RSNS workers”. RSNS stands for community helpers for active participation. The workers on our database have all been screened through a criminal record check, vulnerable sector check, and a child abuse registry. They are also required to provide a copy of their first aid certification. Additionally, all workers have completed an intake interview and an online training course providing them with general information on both ASD, and respite care. Workers and families both fill out a similar application, detailing information to help us find appropriate matches.

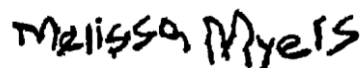
After a family fills out an application, I approve their profile and they are sent an email detailing their username and password for the database. I then find 3-4 potential workers that I feel may be a good fit based on the important aspects of the profile (such as availability, diagnoses, the community the family is in, the rate that they can afford to pay etc.). Once the coordinator sends you these potential workers, there are 3 steps to be completed in order to select the best fit for your individual:

- 1) Review his or her profile
- 2) Contact workers you are interested in to set up interviews.
- 3) **Report responses** to the Respite Coordinator (Melissa Myers) at 902-446-4995 or email at [melissa.myers@autismns.ca](mailto:melissa.myers@autismns.ca)

By following these 3 steps, the process of hiring a respite worker becomes one that ensures quality of service and a faster connection to an appropriate community support worker. If you feel that you were not able to identify a good fit, you can contact the Respite Coordinator at any time and she would be happy to provide you with additional profiles.

If you are interested in becoming part of Autism Nova Scotia’s respite database the directions to apply are as follows: Go to [respiteservices.com](http://respiteservices.com), select Nova Scotia,” and click on “Family Online Application” to fill out an application

Sincerely



Respite Coordinator

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