



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 3, 2009

***DR. TEMPLE GRANDIN TO PROMOTE "ANIMALS MAKE US HUMAN"
AT DOWNTOWN LUNCH AND LEARN***

TORONTO, ONTARIO –Autism Ontario is proud to sponsor the appearance of world-renowned author and animal scientist Dr. Temple Grandin at a downtown Toronto lunch and learn event promoting her latest book ***Animals Make Us Human*** – where some of the attendees will be of the four-legged canine variety.

Drawing on more than three decades of research, experimentation, and experience, Dr. Grandin's moving new book delivers extraordinary insights into how animals think, act, and feel. Using both her own work and the latest research, she identifies the core emotional needs of animals, then explains how best to fulfill them – for dogs, cats, horses, farm animals, and zoo animals – while challenging our deepest-held assumptions about animal contentment.

Karyn Dumble, Autism Ontario's Chapter Liaison, offered this thought about the event: "We think this is an exciting opportunity for people to meet a professional who is knowledgeable about animal science, and who just happens to have autism. The focus here is on an expert in her field of study and what she uniquely brings to that subject, rather than challenges one typically associates with autism. That shift in thinking is an important part of public awareness about the range of abilities in all people."

Dr. Grandin will speak at the Toronto Carpet Factory Resource Centre, 67 Mowat Avenue, Suite 340, on **Thursday, February 5, 2009, between 12.00 noon and 1.00 p.m.**, followed by a book signing until 1.30 p.m.

(more)

Dr. Grandin holds a Ph.D. in animal science and is currently an Associate Professor at Colorado State University. In addition to her work in this field, she has written several books on autism, including the seminal *Thinking in Pictures*. One of the most celebrated and effective animal advocates on the planet, Grandin revolutionized animal movement systems and spearheaded reform of the quality of life for the world's agricultural animals. Her extraordinary insights into animal behavior, as well as her personal experiences with Autism Spectrum Disorder, have made her a highly-respected and much sought-after speaker.

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About Autism Ontario

Autism Ontario (formerly Autism Society Ontario) is the leading source of information and referral on autism and one of the largest collective voices representing the autism community. Members are connected through a volunteer network of Chapters throughout the Province of Ontario.

Autism Ontario is dedicated to increasing public awareness about autism and the day-to-day issues faced by individuals with autism, their families, and the professionals with whom they interact. The association and its chapters share common goals of providing information and education, supporting research, and advocating for programs and services for the autism community.