

Your name and address

Date

The Honourable Todd Smith, MPP  
Minister of Children, Community and Social Services  
6th Floor, Hepburn Block  
80 Grosvenor Street  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1E9

Dear Minister Smith:

In your Social Assistance Reform announcement of November 22<sup>th</sup> you acknowledged that many people in this province have severe disabilities that make it very difficult to support themselves and that they would be met with compassion and dignity in the new system. You also said that your social assistance reform would be a coordinated multi-ministry approach to reduce red tape, eliminate unnecessary rules and support individual action plans. We are herewith asking you to apply these same principles to the Developmental Services Sector.

Canada has signed and ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and as such Ontario's Developmental Services must uphold the rights afforded under this convention. However, after 15 years of working to transform developmental services into an "accessible, fair and sustainable system of community-based supports", people and families are still waiting for that regular life in community just like their siblings, cousins, friends and neighbours.

- having the opportunity to build meaningful relationships
- having opportunity for meaningful contribution in their community
- having a safe home that you choose and can afford
- having access to the supports needed to have that regular life

Investment in **autonomous family networks** (freely given family to family support); **help to imagine a regular life in community** (assisting people to think differently and walking with them as they explore their gifts and talents in their community) and **real individualized funding** (portable, self-directed individualized funding attached to the person who then has access to and control over funds for necessary support) creates the early intervention necessary to move people away from the very costly unsustainable service system to a regular life in community. These investments will ultimately transform the lives of people and families who have historically been deeply devalued in society and as a result truly transform developmental services in Ontario and distinguish Ontario as a leader in social change.

We know that there is a significant amount of wasted money in the various levels of bureaucracy that people must pass through to access funding and supports needed to build that regular life in community. For years, people and families have been asking that a significant percentage of any new investment in the Developmental Services sector be allocated directly to the people who need the support. Knowing that Premier Ford identifies his government as one for the people, and having heard that Ministry of Children, Community

and Social Services (MCCSS) is the Ministry of 'Heart'; and that the information and solutions provided in the attached backgrounder speaks to your thinking, we would like to ask:

When will you make the same commitment you made to Social Assistance Reform, that of:

- compassion and dignity
- multi-ministry approach
- reducing red tape
- eliminating unnecessary rules; and
- supporting individual action plans

to people with developmental disabilities and their families?

Sincerely,

*Your Name*  
*Your Address*  
*Phone number*  
*Email address*

cc **Your local MPP**