

# Tip Sheet

### Meeting with your MPP:

BE PREPARED WHEN ATTENDING YOUR MEETING WITH THE MPP

If you need help, contact us at 905-723-8111

- ✓ MPPs are more likely to meet with you if you are a constituent.
  - If your MPP is a Cabinet Minister request the meeting in his/her home riding office not at Queen's Park.
  
- ✓ There is strength in numbers. Have one or two people accompany you to the meeting so that they can take notes or add to the conversation. You can also lean on them if you get flustered/nervous etc. Remember you do not want to show up with a lot of people as you will overwhelm the MPP.
  
- ✓ The backgrounder provides a lot of information. It identifies the issue, provides viable solutions and allows you to identify what you want to know from the MPP. Tailor it to what you are most worried about. Points to remember:
  - Send the backgrounder in advance—this allows the MPP to be prepared;
  - If they ask you to review it, just quickly identify the issue (broken system with too many levels of bureaucracy which takes funding away from the supports) and highlight the solution that you feel is the most valuable for your situation.
  
- ✓ Individualizing supports begin with the person:
  - If possible, take your loved one to the meeting—this really brings the person into the conversation.
  
- ✓ Let your loved one give the message: “I should be able to have *what is most important to them* just like everyone else”. *Do not make it too rehearsed, you want it to sound real and genuine.* Think of the old adage “out of the mouth of babes, the truth shall come”, this will be more impactful than coming from the parent/supporter
  
- ✓ If you do not know who your MPP is go to Elections Ontario website <https://www.elections.on.ca/en.html>. Scroll down to Voter Information Service and enter your postal code.

Listed below we have provided some scripts to help request a meeting with your MPP. Please feel free to change as needed.

### **Templates to request a meeting**

#### **Email:**

Dear **Local MPP name**

I would like to request a meeting with you to discuss current Developmental Services. After 15 years of working to transform Developmental Services into an “accessible, fair and sustainable system of community-based supports”, the system is far from accessible, fair or sustainable. Services alone cannot provide the vehicle for change necessary for people with developmental disabilities to have a regular life in community like their siblings, cousins, friends and neighbours.

I would like to get a better understanding of the public policy, political context and environment surrounding care for people living with developmental disabilities and supports for their families that has created and continues to support barriers to that regular life.

Please find enclosed a backgrounder about the issues.

Thank you for your consideration and hope to hear from you very soon.

Sincerely,

**Your name and telephone contact information here**

#### **Telephone Script:**

“I am a constituent in **your MPP’s name** riding. I would like to request a meeting to talk about **add your specific issue here** in the current Developmental Services.”

Offer to send a backgrounder with information.

Thank the person for their time and helping to make this happen.