



Year End Message from the Honourable Dr. Helena Jaczek on Developmental Services in Ontario

This has been another significant year for developmental services in Ontario.

This spring, the province renewed its commitment to supporting adults with developmental disabilities with the release of the 2017 Budget, which included an investment of more than \$670 million over four years to address situations of crisis involving people with urgent and complex care needs.

This investment will, in the first year alone:

- Provide over 375 additional developmental

services placements for individuals with urgent needs and youth transitioning from the child welfare program;

- Support 1,000 additional adults with developmental disabilities under Passport;
- Establish a specialized residential support home for individuals with complex needs who are moving from justice facilities; and
- Expand specialized clinical responses for individuals with complex care needs.



Building on these investments, this summer we announced we would be investing over \$12.5 Million for a series of supports that were aimed at helping people with developmental disabilities and their families by improving access to local community services by making the system easier to navigate and

■ *Continued on page 2*



better connecting people to local programs and resources. We are already seeing positive outcomes from these investments.

We are working to provide people and their families with greater flexibility, choice and inclusion.

Other Highlights from 2017 also include:

- eliminating the 2014 Passport program waitlist;
- our ongoing work with the Developmental Services Housing Task Force;
- funding the third phase of the Employment and Modernization Fund,
- improving partnerships with the sector (e.g. The Case Management Co-Design Workshop) in order to continue to find collaborative approaches to transformation
- the release of Ontario's Employment Strategy for People with Disabilities;
- increasing support for adults with Developmental Disabilities who also have complex needs;

- the passing of Bill 148, the Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act, 2017; and
- our ongoing efforts in closing sheltered workshops.

I would like to express my gratitude to all of the individuals, families and community partners, who have worked tirelessly, day in and day out, to benefit the lives of others.

I wish all of you a healthy and happy holiday season and

I look forward to continuing

to work together in the New Year to promote inclusion, choice and independence for people with developmental disabilities. ■



Ontario Pledges New Funds to DS Sector to Strengthen Agencies' Ability to Deliver High Quality Services

Bill 148, the Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act, 2017, includes a variety of new protections for workers and an increase to the minimum wage in Ontario to \$14 per hour as of January 1, 2018, and to \$15 per hour as of January 1, 2019. This Bill will improve wages and working conditions for workers across the province, including in the developmental services sector.

In coordination with the passing of Bill 148, also known as the Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act, 2017, the province will be providing more funding, beginning in early 2018, through a phased investment that will go to service delivery partners and individuals and their families to help ensure continuous and high-quality service that adults with developmental disabilities and their families rely on.

Passed in November, Bill 148 is part of Ontario's plan to create more opportunity and security for workers. It includes raising the minimum wage, ensuring part-time workers are paid the same hourly wage as full-time workers, introducing paid sick days for every worker, enabling at least three weeks' vacation after five years with the same employer and stepping up enforcement of employment laws.

Ontario will continue to work across government, and with the developmental and community services sector, on a coordinated approach to this and other ongoing pressures in the sectors. ■

“Our investment reflects the importance that we place in the hard-working Ontarians who work in the developmental and community service sectors who work day in and day out to provide high quality services to some of the province's most vulnerable. We will continue to work with our partners in these sectors to support the implementation of labour changes. We are committed to continuing the dialogue and working collaboratively.”

— Dr. Helena Jaczek,
Minister of Community and Social Services

‘What We Heard’ Report Delivers Feedback from Ministry’s Co-Design Case Management Workshop

This fall, the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) helped to organize a developmental services (DS) Co-Design Case Management Workshop at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre led by Dr. Leighton Jay, a consultant from Perth, Australia.

The workshop brought together people with developmental disabilities, their families and caregivers, service providers from developmental service agencies, system planners, and others from across the province. Over 130 participants worked together to discuss solutions to improving case management services, drawing from the experiences and stories shared by people with developmental disabilities and their caregivers.

Based on the valuable feedback received at the workshop, MCSS will soon be releasing a *What We Heard* report, outlining some of the key themes and ideas generated. The report will be available on the ministry’s website in January 2018.

Engagements such as these are essential to maintaining an ongoing and open dialogue, and to “keep the conversation going”, as we work together to develop innovative and inclusive person-centred services for adults with developmental disabilities. When participants were asked to describe how they felt about the workshop, the two words most frequently used were “encouraging” and “collaborative”.

The ministry is always accepting feedback on transformation of the Developmental Services sector at DStransformation.css@ontario.ca. ■



Ontario to Launch Family Support Network Funding

Ontario will be launching a call for applications to fund the expansion of Family Support Networks (FSNs), with a formal announcement expected early in the new year.

This funding will recognize the significant role of FSNs and is intended to assist them in achieving their goals and to provide quality, family/person-centred and peer-to-peer support to members.

The province will be seeking applications for 2018/19 funding that will provide much needed supports to help foster the creation of new FSNs, and to enhance the work of existing ones.

FSNs are typically made up of family members and/or unpaid caregivers of people with developmental disabilities and are valuable and essential components in Ontario's partnership to

support people with a developmental disability. Family Support Networks play an integral role in:

- Connecting families/unpaid caregivers to one another and increasing their sense of belonging within their communities.
- Helping connect families/unpaid caregivers with the appropriate services/supports that can assist their children in achieving their goals.
- Supporting members through training, education, peer mentoring and future planning.

Ontario's commitment to supporting FSNs is part of the government's investments to improve access to services for people with developmental disabilities.

Stay tuned for more from the ministry on the call for applications. ■

Developmental Services Workers Celebrate Success

A group of Developmental Services Workers (DSW) and Algonquin College alumni have won a major prize for their proposed health initiative.

The proposal, created by Claire Maxwell, Lisa Murray, Dawn Tait and Elisabeth Van Kooy, took home \$15,000 for founding the DSW Cooperative, working to transform the way developmental services are provided in communities. The unique idea was one of 83 proposals submitted to the William G. Davis

Innovation Fund, part of the 50th anniversary celebration of the Ontario Colleges.

The concept of the Cooperative, as explained by Lisa Murray, one of the co-founders, was inspired by the parent of a woman with developmental disabilities, who brought to light the challenge in securing high quality Developmental Service Workers. The DSW Cooperative offers a solution to this, by providing families with reliable workers, while providing workers with an active role within the business, and increasing their employee engagement.

■ *Continued on page 7*





The DSW Cooperative project team: Claire Maxwell, Elisabeth Van Kooy, Dawn Tait and Lisa Murray.

The group credits the DSW Program at Algonquin College for providing them with the right skills and values that they've been able to apply to the DSW Cooperative.

The prize money won by the DSW Cooperative will be used to develop their website, in order to improve access to services and expand their network to other DSWs who may be interested in joining.

For more information about the DSW Cooperative proposal, go to http://amazing50.ca/innovation_fund/dsw-cooperative/



While supporting and guiding individuals with developmental disabilities in reaching their goals and dreams in the way they choose, workers will feel a sense of fulfillment in their work and long term connections (that are so desperately needed) will be made.”

— Lisa Murray, co-founder of the DSW Cooperative


Ministry of Community and Social Services
Community Supports Policy Branch

Tel: 416-327-4954 ■ Fax: 416-325-5554 ■ Toll-free tel: 1-866-340-8881 ■ Toll-free fax: 1-866-340-9112

Email: DStransformation.css@ontario.ca ■ Read more about developmental services at ontario.ca/community

Connect with us  twitter.com/ONSocialService

 facebook.com/OntarioSocialServices

 Our videos: ontario.ca/b87j