

**Ministry of Community
and Social Services**

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**Ministère des Services
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June 16, 2010

Dear OASIS members:

Thank you once again for having me at your conference. I always look forward to this annual opportunity to bring you up-to-date on our activities and the significant progress we have made on our road to transforming supports and services for people with a developmental disability. It is also a pleasure to meet with all of you and hear the stories of those people who are on the front lines of providing invaluable support to Ontarians with developmental disabilities.

I wanted to reiterate something I said while at your conference: you are strong partners with my ministry – accomplishing so much to support our transformation – and we appreciate your support and your advice. That input will be even more valuable as we move further along the road to transforming our programs and services to work better for the people who need them most.

The direction we have decided to take will allow us to invest **\$56 million dollars** in developmental services this year to:

- provide critical support and immediate stabilized funding to hundreds of clients who are in need of urgent care. As well as,
- additional funding to many more people who we know will need urgent care in the coming year, and importantly,
- we will continue to make progress towards our shared dream of transformation and we will provide financial support to assist agency change along with us.

We need your help in caring for and providing services to the emergency and crisis cases that we have all encountered. You and your agencies will be involved in identifying those cases that require emergency funding and support. Through case resolution tables, agencies and the ministry will work together to help those in need.

But most of all, we need your leadership and your professional advice if we are going to successfully navigate the challenges ahead. Our goal is to improve service and increase choice and fairness for people with a developmental disability, their families, and the agencies who serve them. It is a goal I know we share.

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The next step in transformation is establishing a single application point for each region – application entities. These entities are one of the most important aspects of our long-term plan for developmental services. In fact they are key to bringing our vision of a more equitable, accessible and financially sustainable system to life.

As of June 8, 2010, we are inviting expressions of interest from Ontario corporations that are interested in establishing and operating application entities for developmental services.

Corporations that wish to apply may contact the ministry's regional office closest to them to receive a copy of the Expression of Interest package, and details regarding upcoming information meetings for applicants. Please visit the ministry's website at www.mcass.gov.on.ca/en/mcass/regionalMap/regional.aspx to find your regional ministry office.

OASIS is a valued member of our developmental services network, and I encourage you to continue to work with us toward a new era of modern supports and services that will improve the lives of all Ontarians with a developmental disability.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Madeleine Meilleur
Minister of Community and Social Services
Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs