

Dear George,

On behalf of **Community Living Peterborough** I want to thank OASIS Leaders for making this initial consultation process happen.

Firstly, as a leader of OASIS I thought it was important to inform you that many families are saying the same thing as listed in the document but often state that they see that it is the agencies that are getting in the way due to their rigid (*read old methodologies/thinking*). Conversely, where there is effective support that it is not available to all. This is coming particularly from families of individuals who are younger than 30 years of age.

Although it is just a beginning of what can be, as to what was suggested at the Nov. 8th meeting, “*a generational change*” to developmental services I think it was important, and welcome, an opportunity to have the parties openly discuss this transformation.

Staff members from Community Living Peterborough have reviewed the summary submitted to us and for the most part agree with its contents. I will address more specifically under each of the sub headings.

Vision:

Although it is agreed by all at this agency that a common vision should be shared by the parties, we believe that Oasis should, in its capacity, declare a strong statement of **full citizenship for people with Intellectual Disabilities**. This was declared at the meeting on November 8th, debated but never recognized as an important first point. Until the parties agree that this be at the forefront of any discussion you leave the door open, in our minds, for systemic discrimination or assumed/implied. It had been suggested that a “**Bill of Rights**” be adopted by the Province that guides all of its Ministries, Departments and Transfer Payment Agencies. A Provincial Secretariat would be a good step to this end. Unfortunately, we believe that there are too many “bureaucrats” at the helm, who do not clearly understand the issues faced by those your members support, and therefore make misguided decisions.

Resources:

We believe that the OASIS leadership has a good handle on this issue. One is only to do the math, assuming my figures are correct: \$1.2 Billion (the amount of money spent on Developmental Services) divided by the 12,000 people in Ontario labeled with a Intellectually Disability equals \$10,000 per person. That is not near enough when the cost of support is so expensive.

Service System Characteristics:

Again the summary captures the salient point that need sorting out. It is our belief that any system or service should be established and delivered with respect for individuals as full citizens of our community, deserving of a **decent home, control over personal life choices, opportunity to participate in meaningful activities in their community and to be safe and have security**. It is recognized that this is actually happening on many different fronts, but it is not consistent nor is it available to all. Further, no clear and consistent direction to this end is given by the Ministry.

Individualized Funding is working well for a few people in our community and desired by more but is not the answer to all. Having the option to choose this strategy for support would be important to have. Third party planning processes is critical in our minds if this strategy is to be effective.

Accountability:

In addition to that which is detailed in the summary more emphasis and discussion is required regarding the accountability for the delivery of services in assisting people to have a good Quality of life.

Community Capacity:

That which was expressed in the summary seems to only deal with the capacity of services in the community to support all people labeled with an Intellectual Disability. It is our belief that with stronger affirmative awareness efforts by the Government, internally and to the broader community, is required. It is our belief that any community's social capital is there for all to benefit from.

I trust that you will find this submission helpful and we thank you for asking.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Gillan,

Chief Operations Officer
Community Living Peterborough