

2. What strategies and resources would help individuals receive seamless supports throughout their lives, including points of transition?

THE KEY TO PROVIDING SEAMLESS SUPPORTS LIES IN THE BEGINNING OF PLANNING WHEN A DISABILITY IS FIRST IDENTIFIED AND CONTINUING THAT PLANNING THROUGHOUT THE INDIVIDUAL'S LIFETIME. THIS NECESSITATES ACCESS TO UNENCUMBERED PLANNERS / FACILITATORS TO ENCOURAGE THE INDIVIDUALS / FAMILIES / SUPPORT NETWORKS TO DREAM WITHOUT PREVIOUSLY CONSTRUCTED BARRIERS HINDERING THEM. INDEPENDENT PLANNING MUST BE SEPARATE FROM SERVICE PROVISION.

THIS THEME IS SUPPORTED BY THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS FROM OUR RESPONDENTS

- inclusion approach which begins in education system must continue into post secondary education and employment
- consistency / continuity requires a cross jurisdictional approach involving cooperation & reform of Citizenship and Immigration, Children and Youth Services, Education, Ministry of Community and Social Services and Health as well as many others
- individualized funding that is flexible and portable to address changing needs
- personal planning key to full participation
 - access to regionally knowledgeable independent planners
 - planners/advocates to help attain necessary resources/services as it always seems to be a fight
 - facilitators will get to know individuals as they grow and therefore will have deep connection with the family/support circle and the community
 - allowing citizens to choose their life plan
 - periodic reviews of the life plan
 - designing supports to meet needs

- facilitators for change, hired to educate & assist Ministries to better understand the rights, needs, options
- single access point of entry for services that will track **all** needs in community not just accommodation to fully identify the needs of the community
- citizen's advocacy network to assist those who cannot advocate effectively
- develop family networking opportunities, to help families share ideas, successes etc
- involve school boards
- eliminate the need to apply yearly for SSAH funding
- remove restrictions on use of funding
- remove SSAH cap of \$10,000
- adequate legislated resources to alleviate the uncertainty of future funding due to changes in governments; bureaucrats
- more dollars are necessary to improve existing supports and develop new individualized funding model
- use of brokerage models
- one caseworker per individual
- devising a 5 year plan for individuals and families
- independent living/housing options
- use of support circles to assist in planning, accessing services, advocating
- proper identification of needs
- proper supports from day one
- educate families and society
- provide families with funding security & assistance with advocacy at all levels (preschool, school, community) as necessary
- needs to be someone to ensure continuity otherwise services/ supports become disjointed increasing possibility of 'falling through the cracks'
- parents/support networks are driving force behind equity and change
- start community networks (circle of friends)
- teach young community to be accepting and as they age it will become the norm
- employment possibilities beginning in high school; allowing for different experiences, making use of job coach if required
- remember TRANSITION is not an event—it is an evolution and done properly an individual's life will truly be seamless