

4. How should a reasonable level of government funding for an individual be determined?

DETERMINING A REASONABLE LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT FUNDING IS A TASK FOR A HIGHLY INFORMED TECHNICAL GROUP, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION: INDIVIDUAL NEEDS, GOALS & DREAMS; LESSONS LEARNED IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS; USING QUALITY OF LIFE AS THE TRUE INDICATOR WHILE ENSURING FULL PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY.

THIS THEME IS SUPPORTED BY THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS FROM OUR RESPONDENTS

- task for highly informed technical group which should use experiences of other jurisdictions in Canada and throughout the world

Possible tools/mechanisms to assist that group include:

- using existing generators such as the Educational System I.S.A.; SSAH; combining the two generators to develop a level of funding that once allocated will not be lost if it is not used as people's lives change constantly and therefore their needs vary from day to day
- linking individualized planning and funding to help secure better support and help society learn better ways to include people
- considerations to be made include:
 - flexibility
 - equity
 - unit costs of support specific to needs based on strengths, preferences, necessary support required to live and actively participate in the community
 - existing supports i.e. aging parents not always be available
 - non-pd supports are not equally available throughout the province, therefore they cannot automatically be factored into the equation
 - health concerns
 - geographic area and availability of and distance to supports (differ from small town to large cities)

- travel costs to & from services
- accessibility of services
- develop a system by which individuals who are able to engage in employment and try to better their status are not taxed at a rate of 100% as is presently the case (this does not promote innovative thinking or taking risks)
- suggestion that a local network be established to pool any extra resources to enable fluctuations in needs to be shared by others who might need more at a specific time, i.e. increased need due to times of transition; ailing family member; personal emergency
- community supports already available or which could be developed (i.e. United Way, Big Brothers/Sisters, Lions and other service clubs)