

Message from the minister

Throughout July and August, I toured the province, listening to and speaking with individuals, families and staff in developmental services agencies. We know there are significant pressures and challenges in the developmental services system. But there is also energy and creativity. Here are some of the things I heard or saw over and over again:

1) There is enormous potential for social enterprise and community partnerships in this sector.

I saw it first-hand. Businesses like the Good Foot Delivery Service that puts social aims first in their business plan. The Creative Village Studio that enlists community volunteers to teach art, and a local gallery to display and sell the pieces. The “Home of Our Own” project that empowers Trent University nursing students to become “intentional neighbours” to residents with developmental disabilities. There are so many great examples.

Good work is happening all around us. I believe we, as a government, need to encourage more of these creative and innovative partnerships within the sector and within our communities.



Minister McMeekin with Donna from Creative Village Studio.

Message from the minister continued

2) Every individual is different.

This may seem like an obvious statement, but I think it's an important point. There is no one "picture" of a person with a developmental disability. And the unique needs of each person means there is no "one-size-fits-all" approach to providing developmental services, and no simple solution to the challenges we face in this sector.

I believe we need to do more to understand and tailor support to each individual's needs.



An innovative residential model in Peterborough has eight adults with a developmental disability living with two nursing students from Trent University — an arrangement that benefits everyone.

3) Community inclusion and engagement is crucial.

We need to engage the broader community in building a more inclusive society where people with a developmental disability can participate more fully and lead more independent lives.

We need to shift attitudes – to help our communities truly include people with a developmental disability. But inclusion and engagement come from the ground up. I think it's really important that all of us involved with developmental services seize every opportunity to tell our stories.

When it comes to building the future of developmental services, we all have a role to play. We need families and individuals to tell their stories, communities to become more involved, and agencies to be creative.

As for government, we are committed to building a better system of supports – one that is more responsive, more efficient and has a stronger focus on individual needs.

I want to thank everyone who took the time to meet with me this summer, and who welcomed me into their homes and their lives. By continuing to work together, I believe we will succeed in helping more people with a developmental disability not only live in the community, but become part of the community.



~ Ted McMeekin

Partnering for success:

Working together to expand Person-Directed Planning Capacity

Through the 2012/13 Person-Directed Planning Capacity Building Initiative, many local person-directed planning efforts grew stronger, more effective and were able to reach more people in more communities. Below are some of the many positive examples of diverse partnerships across Ontario.

The success of these collaborative projects is largely due to the fact that they were initiated and guided by local community insights and experience. They built stronger relationships among independent facilitation organizations, local community groups, agencies and family groups, in order to create meaningful opportunities for inclusion and community change.

- **St. Catharines Mainstream Non-Profit Housing** brought together staff from six different agencies for training to become certified person-centred thinking trainers. A person-centred thinking trainer teaches those around a person with a developmental disability (such as co-workers) how to use a variety of tools and value-based skills to support the person to live as independently as possible. As part of the certification process, each trainee then had to carry out two-day person-centred training sessions for other staff. The ripple effect resulted in more than 120 people developing skills in person-centred/person-directed approaches.
- **Service Coordination des Services and Regroupement des Partenaires** Francophones partnered to present two French workshops to over 100 people in Eastern Region on a variety of topics including: person-directed planning, support circles, parental roles, financial planning and employment supports.
- In the Kingston area, collaboration between **Community Living Ontario**, the local **Pressures and Priorities Committee** and the **Eastern Region Community Network of Specialized Care** resulted in the delivery of two workshops for close to 70 direct support staff encouraging the use of person-centred and person-directed planning approaches in their work.
- **Windsor Essex Brokerage for Personal Supports** hosted a one-day meeting to encourage dialogue and support the region's Regional Independent Facilitation Network. The project brought together six allied organizations, 13 family leaders and many independent facilitators to discuss how to strengthen and build capacity for local independent facilitation.

Partnering for success continued

- **Thunder Bay Family Network** developed and promoted an online discussion forum to enable networking and information sharing on person-directed planning and other topics between people with a developmental disability, their families and service providers.
- **Family Services Toronto, Community Living Toronto, Montage Support Services, Corbrook, JVS Toronto, and Operation Springboard** came together to create a unique mentor/mentee pairing process, which resulted in person-directed plans being created for people on the Toronto region's community needs list.
- **Facilitation Wellington Dufferin, Facile Waterloo and Community Living Guelph Wellington** partnered to help support the establishment of a new grass-roots, multi-stakeholder group interested in making independent facilitation an option in their local communities.
- More than ten organizations came together to promote an online forum for the **North East Facilitator/Planner Network** which has the goal of connecting facilitators online (both independent facilitators and those working within agencies) to encourage collaboration, networking and knowledge sharing.

If you are interested in learning more about these projects, please contact the Ministry of Community and Social Services, Community and Developmental Services 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

We're on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube!

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Here's where to find us:



www.twitter.com/ONSocialService



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www.youtube.com/OntarioSocialService

What is person-directed planning?

Person-directed planning is an approach to helping people with developmental disabilities build everyday lives in the community.

With the help of their families, friends and others, person-directed planning can help individuals identify their life vision and goals, and then find and use services and supports in the community to meet these goals.

What is independent facilitation?

Independent facilitation provides support to engage individuals with a developmental disability in person-directed planning, connecting with community life and relationship building. It is a process offered by independent facilitators and is separate from direct service delivery.

There are independent facilitators practicing in a number of communities in Ontario. Independent facilitators may work on their own or they may work within an organization or collaborative group of other independent facilitators. Typically, they belong to a network of independent facilitators.

When should you consider independent facilitation?

You should consider independent facilitation if you are interested in working with someone to help with plans for your future, expand your personal networks and connect with people in the community. For example, independent facilitation may be worthwhile for you if things are changing in your life, such as leaving for school or a move, or if you are looking for assistance from someone outside your friends or family to help make plans for the future. You may feel the cost of hiring an independent facilitator is not justified in your case if you are only interested in finding out what services are available in your community through your DSO.

What should you look for when selecting an independent facilitator?

As a first step you want to ensure a facilitator is qualified and compatible with your needs. Facilitators typically work through local non-profit organizations and networks who provide initial screening such as interviewing new facilitators, and conducting reference and police checks.

Visit the Ontario Independent Facilitation Network website for more information and for examples of questions you may want to ask: www.oifn.ca.

New online resources for independent facilitation

You can now access two new Ontario-based online resources to learn more about person-directed planning and independent facilitation.

1) www.oifn.ca

This site is a resource and information hub created by The Ontario Independent Facilitation Network (OIFN) – a provincial network whose purpose is to inform, educate, encourage, support, link and promote independent facilitation and planning in Ontario.

The network offers opportunities for people from across the province to:

- connect with one another
- learn more about the values and best practices of independent facilitation and planning
- share resources
- find mentoring opportunities, and
- exchange information on what is happening around independent facilitation in their area and across Ontario.

2) www.independentfacilitation.ca/map/

Created by two organizations – Facile: Independent Facilitation Perth County and Facile: Independent Facilitation Waterloo – this link leads you to an online map and directory which provide background and contact information for independent facilitators and independent facilitation and training organizations across the province. Later this year, the map contents of this site will be incorporated into the OIFN site above.

The Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) provided financial assistance to develop these websites. The content is developed by third party organizations for informational and educational purposes and does not necessarily represent the views of MCSS.

2013 Ontario Budget update

Details of the Ontario government's new \$42.5 million budget investment are now available.

This new investment focuses on better supporting adults with a developmental disability facing the highest risks, including:

- support for an estimated 600-800 adults with a developmental disability when they have an unexpected temporary need, such as the sudden illness of a caregiver
- training and specialized equipment (e.g., bed lifts) for community agencies to help adults with complex needs
- new or additional direct funding for 850 adults with a developmental disability to support community participation and provide respite to caregivers
- residential accommodation or support for up to 250 adults facing safety and security risks.

[Read the full announcement online.](#)

Have Your Say!

We want to hear your opinions about our Spotlight newsletter. Please take a few minutes to complete our short survey and let us know how we can improve Spotlight.

Take the online survey now fluidsurveys.com/surveys/mcssreu/spotlight-readership-survey/. Or, you can fill out the survey found at the end of this issue of Spotlight and mail it back to us.

This survey will be open until December 13, 2013.

This survey is voluntary and all of your answers will remain anonymous and confidential. Please note, all data collected will be analyzed in aggregate and responses will not be connected to any individual. Any personal information collected is protected under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy.

Spotlight Readership Survey

Spotlight Readership Survey

We want to hear your opinions about our Spotlight newsletter.

This survey will take approximately 5 minutes to complete. Thank you in advance for your time and feedback. This survey will be open until December 13, 2013. This survey is voluntary and all of your answers will remain anonymous and confidential.

Please note, all data collected will be analyzed in aggregate and responses will not be connected to any individual. Any personal information collected is protected under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Marta Huebsch at Marta.Huebsch@ontario.ca or 416-325-5441.

Please mail your completed survey back by December 13, 2013 to:

Spotlight Readership Survey
Ministry of Community and Social Services
Communications and Marketing Branch
80 Grosvenor Street
7th Floor, Hepburn Block
Toronto, ON M7A 1E9

How often do you read the Spotlight newsletter?

- I read every issue
- I read a few issues a year
- I read Spotlight once a year or less
- This is the first issue I have ever read

How do you get the Spotlight newsletter?

- I read it on the Ministry's website
 - I read it on the Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) website
 - It is emailed to me by the Ministry
 - It is emailed to me by someone else (please specify...)
-

- I receive print copies from my community agency
 - I receive print copies from the Ministry
 - Other, please specify...
-

How much of each issue do you read?

- I generally read the entire newsletter
- I skim and read a few articles that interest me
- I mostly read the headlines or look at the photos

Below are some of the types of articles that appear in Spotlight. Please identify how important it is to you that they are included in the newsletter.

	Not at all Important	Somewhat Important	Neutral	Important	Very Important
Policy / program changes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Features on agencies / people / events	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Government direction/long-term plans on adult developmental services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other government initiatives impacting people with a developmental disability in general	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Articles asking for your feedback	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Articles on community inclusion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Developmental services research and best practices	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Q&As from readers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other, please specify...	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If other, please specify...

Generally, are the articles easy to read and understand?

- Never
- Rarely
- Sometimes
- Often
- Always

Generally, are the articles:

- Too long
- Too short
- Just right / a good mix

We are considering changing the format of Spotlight so that we can reach the widest audience. If given a choice between the following options, how would you prefer to receive the Spotlight newsletter?

- Email notification to go online/to a website
- Full e-newsletter emailed to me
- Print copy mailed to me
- Shorter, more frequent e-newsletter updates emailed to me
- Other, please specify... _____

What do you like most about Spotlight?

What do you like least about Spotlight?

In what area of Ontario do you live?

- Toronto/GTA
- Central East
- Central West
- Eastern
- South Western
- Northern
- North Eastern
- I do not live in Ontario
- I don't know

What is your age?

- Under 18
- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65 or Above
- Prefer Not to Answer

Please check off the item(s) in the list that best describes you (*check all that apply*):

- I have a developmental disability
- I am the parent/caregiver of a child (under age 18) with a developmental disability
- I am the parent/caregiver of an adult (18 years or older) with a developmental disability
- I have a family member with a developmental disability (but am not their parent/caregiver)
- I work in a developmental services community agency
- I work for or am a member of a developmental services advocacy organization
- None of the above (if so, please help us understand your interest in our developmental services newsletter...) _____

Do you have any comments you would like to share with us about the Spotlight newsletter?