

**Ministry of Community
and Social Services**

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**Ministère des Services
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Sous-ministre

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*copied to Provincial Network
March 16/06 K*

March 10, 2006

Ms. Agnes Samler
Chair
Provincial Network on Developmental Services
20 Spadina Road
Toronto, ON
M5R 2S7

Dear Ms. Samler:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the gap in salaries among agencies in the developmental services (DS) sector. Compensation of employees in DS agencies is an issue of great importance to all of those involved in supporting people who have a developmental disability. Community partners have told us that agencies need increased funding in order to continue to provide professional, caring supports. This sentiment is also echoed in your letter.

The Government appreciates the dedication and commitment that staff in the developmental services has shown over the years as well as the excellent quality of care provided. Over the last two years alone, we have increased agency base funding by \$20.1 million. Agencies have discretion in how this money is used to best meet their needs, including salaries, operating cost and safety and security measures.

Like the Provincial Network, the Government is also concerned with the compensation issue, but does not necessarily concur with the size of funds requested. The Ministry would like to explore ways to approach this issue, including a better understanding of the wage discrepancy, by collecting and analyzing the most current, accurate data on compensation. We are interested in exploring how to collaborate with the Provincial Network in obtaining agreeable outcomes.

Thank you for taking the time to write me and we look forward to working with the Provincial Network on this important issue.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Costante".

Kevin Costante
Deputy Minister