



**Ontario Agencies Supporting Individuals with Special Needs**  
**Agences ontariennes de soutien pour les personnes qui ont des besoins spéciaux**

Dear Minister,

I am writing as President of OASIS (Ontario Agencies Supporting Individuals With Special Needs) to express our appreciation for the announcement in your budget speech of the intention to create a program whereby families can accumulate a fund of up to \$200,000 with tax deductible contributions and some matching Government funds that can be used for the benefit of their handicapped children.

This is a bold step- perhaps too late for most aging parents but of great benefit to younger families who can plan for the future in the knowledge that in the event of their demise their handicapped children can be looked after.

OASIS does not support developmentally handicapped people directly. Our 130 member agencies do that. They help some 37,000 of them throughout Ontario with a staff of over 26,000 and a collective budget of close to \$800 million. OASIS was created ten years ago to share ideas, resources, systems and information and liaise with the provincial government in order to assist our members in providing cost effective, quality support to people with special needs. We have no office and no permanent staff; our work is performed on a volunteer basis using that wonderful invention- the internet- to transmit information and ideas.

I look forward to receiving more specific information on how the proposed funds are to be structured and once this is available we shall distribute it to our member agencies so that they in turn can pass it on to their family members.

Parents who were into their eighties used to outlive their handicapped dependants. Now, thanks to the improved quality of health care and stimulative programs, this is no longer so, and they are worried.

As a parent yourself you understand this concern. I am a parent too and I would like to thank you personally for establishing this imaginative program.

Sincerely,

Gerald Sutton,  
President, OASIS