

## **TEMPLATE NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release// [INSERT YOUR CITY/TOWN/REGION], Ontario [INSERT DATE], 2025**

### **An Urgent Plea for Help from People with Developmental Disabilities Over 52,000 People are on Waiting Lists for Critical Supports and Services**

People living with Developmental Disabilities are issuing an urgent appeal for help directed at all Candidates running in the 2025 Provincial Election. Over 52,000 people in Ontario are currently waiting for critical support and services due to serious funding shortfalls within the sector, including here in [INSERT NAME OF YOUR CITY/TOWN/REGION]. “Since 1993, the Ontario government has increased core funding to support agencies by less than 7%”, says Community Living Ontario CEO Chris Beesley. “Over that same time, the cost of living has soared by over 60% and **the system is no longer sustainable**”.

“[INSERT BEGINNING OF QUOTE ABOUT STRUGGLES FACED BY YOUR ORGANISATION],” says [INSERT NAME OF YOUR ORGANISATION] [INSERT TITLE AND NAME OF YOUR ORGANISATION’S LEADER]. “[INSERT END OF QUOTE].” Some people have been on waitlists for years and even decades for life-changing supports and services. They need help coping with basic life skills, medications and appointments, to assistance in finding a home, job and finding community activities to participate in, so they can truly belong.

“We’re not a statistic, we are people,” says Amber Taylor, President of The Council for Community Living Ontario. “Even though we have a disability we can still do normal things but sometimes we need a little help.”

People with Developmental Disabilities are asking that immediate action is taken to ensure they are not forgotten. **They would like all Parties and Candidates to provide a proposed solution to address the long waiting lists and funding shortfalls that have plagued the developmental services sector for decades.**

“It hasn’t been funded properly,” points out Chris Beesley. “You can create a vision and be aspirational but unless you put the resources behind it, it’s meaningless.” Robert Walsh, CEO of OASIS agrees. “This chronic underfunding leaves agencies struggling to provide the critical services on which people with intellectual disabilities and their families depend. The gap forces families to shoulder more of the burden—financially, emotionally, and physically—just to meet basic needs. Is this the Ontario we want to live in, where families are left to bridge the growing divide between what’s needed and what’s funded?”

[INSERT NAME OF YOUR ORGANISATION] and Developmental services agencies across the province also have a message for voters in the upcoming Provincial Election. “Please keep families in mind when casting your vote. Lead with your head and vote with your heart”.

**#WaitingToBelong [www.waiting2belong.ca](http://www.waiting2belong.ca)**

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