

For Immediate Release
July 24, 2007

**MCGUINTY GOVERNMENT MAKES LONG-TERM FUNDING
INVESTMENT IN COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCIES**
Agencies To Receive \$20 Million Funding Boost Over The Next Three Years

AJAX – The McGuinty government is investing more than \$20 million more over the next three years to bolster community social services organizations.

“This funding will help local organizations maintain and strengthen services and programs for people in need,” said Minister of Community and Social Services Madeleine Meilleur. “By investing in social services, we are investing in stronger, more inclusive communities for all Ontarians.”

This funding boost will allow community social services organizations to provide:

- Shelter and counselling services for women and their children fleeing domestic violence
- Interpreters and intervenors for people who are deaf, deafened or hard-of-hearing, and for those who are deafblind
- Homelessness prevention programs and hostels for medically fragile or hard-to-house individuals.

“It is crucial that women receive the necessary supports to allow them to escape violent situations,” said Minister Responsible for Women’s Issues Sandra Pupatello. “This increased funding will help women leave these terrible situations and allow them to rebuild their lives.”

The government is also providing a two per cent increase to base budgets for these programs effective April 2007. In addition, \$1.7 million will be available for costs that may include wage increases, legal obligations or other cost of living increases.

The minister was joined for the announcement by Pickering/Ajax/Uxbridge MPP Wayne Arthurs at the Ajax-Pickering Women’s Centre in Ajax.

“Growing communities like Ajax and Pickering are always being challenged to meet the diverse needs of their communities,” said Arthurs. “Additional provincial support for local organizations is always welcome and much needed.”

This is just one more example of how, working together, Ontarians have achieved results in providing strong community programs and services to vulnerable people. In addition, the government has:

- Created a new Ontario Child Benefit to help nearly 1.3 million children in low-income families
- Eliminated barriers to employment for people on social assistance by providing straightforward incentives and extra support to help them find and keep jobs
- Increased Ontario Disability Support Program and Ontario Works rates by two per cent - a seven per cent increase since 2003.

- 2 -

“I am confident that strong investments such as this will help to ensure that when people have nowhere else to turn, there are community resources there to help them get back on their feet again,” said Meilleur. “We have accomplished so much in the last four years, and I am confident that the foundation we have established for a system of strong community social services and programs will help to maintain and strengthen Ontario communities into the future.”

- 30 -

Contacts:

Marc Despatie
Minister's Office
416-325-5219

John Letherby
Communications and Marketing Branch
416-325-5187

Disponible en français

www.mcss.gov.on.ca