



Ontario Pledges Support to Improve Access to Developmental Services



Minister Jaczek announces \$12.5-million dollars in support of developmental services.

disabilities and their families by helping them better understand what options are available to better connect them with services available in their local community. New measures include:

- Hiring more Developmental Services Ontario staff to serve as Service Navigators, who will help people with developmental disabilities find services and supports in their community;

Minister Jaczek visited Contact Hamilton on June 21st with Ted McMeekin, MPP for Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale, to announce increased support for developmental services in Ontario.

The \$12.5 million investment aims to help improve the service experience for adults with developmental

- Expanding the Adult Protective Services Worker program, which matches adults who have a developmental disability and live on their own, with a worker who helps them with their everyday living needs, accessing community resources and setting and achieving goals;
- Increasing access to clinical professionals and specialized services at home and in the community for people with an exceptional dual diagnosis or complex behavioural and medical needs;
- Helping more people gain work experience by partnering with the Ontario Disability Employment Network (ODEN) to better coordinate services and increase capacity across developmental service agencies, ODSP Employment Supports (ES) service providers, school boards and employers; and
- Expanding family support networks, which are groups made up of family members and / or caregivers of adults with developmental disabilities. These networks connect families

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to one another and increase their sense of belonging within their communities. They are also known to help connect families with appropriate services and resources to support adults with developmental disabilities to achieve their goals.

The ministry will continue to work with people with developmental disabilities, their families, caregivers, agencies and community partners as part of our ongoing commitment to transform the developmental services system into one that is more responsive and person-centred. ■

“This targeted investment will help make important connections between people with developmental disabilities and the services they need in their communities. Our goal is to help transform the developmental services sector and make a meaningful impact in the lives of the individuals and families we serve.”

– Dr. Helena Jaczek, Minister of Community and Social Services



(From left to right) Miriam Gracey, Board Vice-Chair, Matt Fletcher, Board Chair, Contact Hamilton, Lea Pollard, Executive Director Contact Hamilton, Minister Dr. Helena Jaczek, Minister of Community and Social Services, and Ted McMeekin, MPP Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale at the announcement on June 21, 2017.

Premier Wynne, Minister Jaczek Attend Opening of Reena's Richmond Hill Behavioural Home

Premier Kathleen Wynne and Dr. Helena Jaczek, Minister of Community and Social Services, attended the grand opening of Reena's new Richmond Hill Behavioural Home on June 23rd.

The new home will provide 4,000 square feet of modern, accessible living space over two storeys, for six residents and staff. It features a custom designed floor plan, built-in-furniture and inset lighting, to promote safety.



(From left to right) Minister Helena Jaczek and Premier Kathleen Wynne tour the new Reena facility in Richmond Hill.

The Ministry of Community and Social Services continues to work to increase residential supports to help people with developmental disabilities live as inclusively as possible in their communities. Funding is being provided to support the individual needs of those who will live at this new Reena home.

Congratulations to Reena and their staff on the opening of this new home. This home will certainly be a new chapter for the individuals who will live there, and their families. ■



(From left to right) Harold Seidel, Chair, Batay Reena Board, Bryan Keshen, President and CEO, Reena, Dr. Helena Jaczek, Minister of Community and Social Services, Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, Daniel Duschinski, Board Associate, Reena.

Participation House Markham's FashionAble Gala Event Sees Outpouring of Support from Community, Sponsors

Minister Jaczek attended the Participation House Markham's FashionAble Gala fundraiser in June which was, once again, very successful, seeing an outpouring of support from the community and the event's many sponsors.

The unique gala event included live and silent auctions, and featured a fashion show from Canadian designers and vendors. Proceeds from the auctions in combination with tickets sales for the event raised nearly \$40,000 towards the purchase of accessibility equipment that, once in service, will help Participation House Markham better meet the needs of the people they serve.

Participation House Markham provides a warm, stable home for more than one hundred people

in need, in addition to the work they undertake in offering programming in areas such as literacy, computers and job skills training.

What made the Gala even more special was that it coincided with Participation House Markham's 45th year of operation. Since 1972, the organization has been a leader in enhancing the quality of life of individuals with disabilities through a variety of services designed to reflect individualized approaches to community involvement.

For more information on Participation Markham House, visit their [website](#). ■

“We are so grateful to the Markham and surrounding community members for supporting the Participation House, Markham FashionAble 2017 event. As a result of this generosity, we have raised close to \$40,000 which will enable us to purchase a number of Shower Trolleys. Having Minister Jaczek attend and speak on behalf of the Development Services sector was an honour and a privilege.”

- Frances DiCarlo, Executive Director,
Participation House Markham



(From left to right) Phil Garment, Past Chairman of the Board Participation House Markham, Dr. Helena Jaczek Minister of Community and Social Services, and Frances Di Carlo, Executive Director, Participation House Markham, at the FashionAble Gala last month.



New Guidelines for Supporting Adults with Developmental Disabilities and Long-Term Care Homes

The Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) has partnered with Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) to develop guidelines that aim to improve knowledge, planning and service coordination for adults with a developmental disability who are considering applying to, moving into or are living in a long-term care (LTC) home.

The Guidelines for Supporting Adults with a Developmental Disability When Applying to, Moving Into and Residing in a Long-Term Care Home will:

- Provide information to inform decision making and outline roles and responsibilities of the individual and service providers;
- Provide information about the application processes for the developmental services and LTC home sectors;
- Emphasize the importance of planning, choice and consent as well as an integrated and coordinated approach to care within and between the DS and LTC home sectors;
- Reinforce that LTC homes are residents' homes and their rights must be respected;
- Clarify that eligible adults with developmental disabilities who choose to live in a LTC home may receive MCSS-funded developmental services and supports, as applicable; and
- Outline the discharge process from a LTC home

The guidelines further our goal of transformation in developmental services and the ministry's commitment to a person-centred approach in the delivery of services and supports, including a variety of housing options.

The new Guidelines will be released to the public this summer... Stay tuned for more information. ■

Recommendations Coming Out of the Ombudsman's Annual Report

The annual Ombudsman report was released at the end of June with recommendations for improvements to governance and resolving issues related to service provision.

Ontario's Ombudsman, Mr. Paul Dubé, evaluated the Ministry of Community and Social Services and made recommendations on how our processes can be run more effectively.

In fact the Ombudsman cited the ministry's progress in this area, stating that "Although families continue to come to the Ombudsman... the province has taken a more active role in working with community agencies and providing supports."

The government is committed to the developmental services transformation to ensure those who need supports are able to easily access them. The ministry's focus is on

strengthening the navigation, coordination and accessibility of these services. To do so, Ontario is investing \$677 million over the next four years to help individuals live as independently as possible within their communities across Ontario. This includes the \$12.5 million investment to help improve the service experience for adults with developmental disabilities and their families.

However, we recognize it is not just about a financial investment. We are entrusted with providing service to people with developmental disabilities and we know more work needs to be done to improve the quality of care provided.

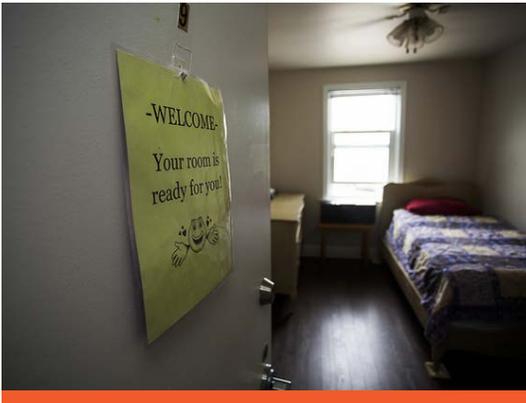
We will continue to proactively make changes to better suit the people we serve, to ensure we are constantly working towards our goal of an inclusive Ontario. ■

Community and Developmental Service Agencies Receive Support for Repairs, Renovations and Upgrades

Last month, Minister Jaczek was at the Women's House Serving Bruce & Grey in Kincardine to announce it will be one of eight facilities in that region, receiving funding for repairs, renovations, upgrades and fire safety improvements.

The announcement was part of more than \$22 million in funding from two programs: Partner Facility Renewal (PFR) and Fire Code Compliance.

In 2017/18, under the PFR program, Ontario is investing approximately \$16 million in more than



A look into one of the rooms at the Women's House Serving Bruce & Grey in Kincardine.

150 community and developmental service agencies for approximately 850 projects across Ontario. Agencies receiving this funding include agencies who provide supports and services to developmentally disabled adults as well as agencies who provide supports and services to Indigenous people delivered through the Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy. It also includes those who provide supports and services to women and children who have experienced domestic violence.

Ontario is the first province to make sprinklers mandatory in residential occupancy facilities servicing clients with cognitive and physical limitations and are incapable of evacuating the occupancy without assistance. To help with the cost of bringing their buildings up to the Fire Code, the province is also investing \$6.5 million in 2017-18 in more than 90 facilities from over 30 community and developmental service agencies across the province. Approved projects include fire alarm system upgrades, installation of fire doors and separations and sprinkler system installations. ■

“ We applaud the provincial government for investing in necessary repairs to our facility. This support helps ensure that we can focus on the work we do best - serving the needs of women and their children who are fleeing violence.”

— Lisa Owen, Interim Executive Director, Women's House Serving Bruce and Grey



(From left to right) Lisa Thompson - MPP for Huron- Bruce, Lisa Owen - Interim ED, Women's House Serving Bruce and Grey, Anne Eadie, Mayor of Kincardine, Minister Jaczek - Ministry of Community and Social Services, Lori Harding - Board of Directors Chairperson, Women's House Serving Bruce and Grey

Bruce Peninsula Association for Community Living Supports Greater Independence for Adults with Developmental Disabilities

Providing adults with greater independence is at the centre of a new initiative out of the Bruce Peninsula Association for Community Living.

The new *Connectivity to Inclusive Project* embraces a new way forward in providing programming for the people it serves. The initiative supports people with developmental disabilities by helping the Community Living agency transform and modernize its day programming, with a focus on inclusion and a person-centred approach.

This project was made possible by an investment from the Ontario Government as part of the second phase of the Employment and Modernization Fund (EMF), in which the province invested over \$7 million for 38 initiatives to help promote greater inclusion and independence for people with developmental disabilities. The Bruce Peninsula Association for Community Living received \$178,000 as part of this investment.

Minister Jaczek had the opportunity to visit Wiarton and the Bruce Peninsula Association for Community Living in July to see first-hand the success they've had so far with the program. She was also able to meet and hear the personal stories from some of those who have benefitted from this and the other programs they provide.



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(From left to right) Joanne Young (Director, Support Services), Michele Bell (Executive Director, Bruce Peninsula Association for Community Living, BPACL), Ross Davidson (Board President, BPACL), Cheryl Craig, Eric Brandsma (Employment Counsellor), Megan Mallard (client), Jeanie Finger (Program Manager), Minister Jaczek, Christi Ronholm (Community Development Worker), Tiffany Wilson, Thomas Fenwick, Jason Tout and Laura Balint (Program Manager)



Michelle Bell, Executive Director, Bruce Peninsula Association for Community Living with Dr. Helena Jaczek, Minister of Community and Social Services after touring the facilities where the government funding will be utilized.

In an article entitled [Minister's visit an 'exciting first for Wiarton Community Living'](#) the organization discusses how valuable the funding will be in terms of removing barriers to inclusion for adults in their program.

To read more about the EMF including more on the 38 projects that received funding, visit our [website](#). ■

“The Bruce Peninsula Association for Community Living is pleased to receive funding from the Ontario Government for our From Connectivity to Inclusion project. The initiative will have a meaningful impact of the people we serve in ensuring they receive personalized services that promote full inclusion in their communities.”

— Michele Bell, Executive Director,
Bruce Peninsula Association for
Community Living

Ministry Moving Forward with Improvements to Huronia Regional Centre Cemetery

For some time now the Ministry of Community and Social Services has been working on how best to beautify the Huronia Regional Centre cemetery located on Memorial Avenue in Orillia to ensure that it is maintained in a thoughtful and respectful manner that will preserve the site's important historical legacy and the memory of those interred there.

The government is now moving forward with improvements to the [Huronia Regional Centre cemetery](#). These improvements will begin this summer, with completion of the project expected by the end of fall. A fully licensed archeologist will also be on site during key parts of the work to make sure the work is done in a respectful and professional manner.

The ministry has worked with a number of interested parties to respect and honour former residents and their families. In fact, their recommendations were used to develop the cemetery improvements, which will include the following features:

- an arched entrance way into the cemetery with a plaque or monument there.
- a path through various sections of the cemetery.
- a garden area with benches.
- an additional plaque by the flat marker monument, and

- a number of benches and row end-markers in the unmarked and numbered sections of the cemetery.

All improvements will also be compliant with the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)*.

One of those consulted on the improvements to the cemetery was Paola Di Paolo, whose Uncle John Haskie is buried in the cemetery.

Ms. Di Paolo was quoted in a recent [Orillia Today article](#) as saying:

"Some people will say that (the memorial project) should be done in a certain way, or they might not like the way the government is doing it, but I think we have to work collegially and meet them, within reason...People who are survivors, or like me who have family members who passed away here, we need to see this finished, we need to see it honoured."

MCSS would like to thank you all those involved for providing the valuable recommendations on which the site plan is based.

The government remains committed to honouring and protecting the memory of all former residents, helping tell their stories and ensuring that the lessons of this time are not lost. ■

MCSS Thanks Assistant Deputy Minister Karen Chan for her leadership

The Ministry is bidding farewell to Assistant Deputy Minister Karen Chan who oversaw the Community and Developmental Services Division over the past four years.

During her time with the ministry, Karen led the significant expansion and improvement of supports for people with a developmental disability including the creation of many more meaningful employment and community participation opportunities.

Karen has been relentless in her efforts to advance the transformation of Ontario's developmental services and strengthen our ministry's regional service delivery. She also helped launch Ontario's Strategy to End Human Trafficking, and worked closely with other ministries, agencies and stakeholders to improve services in communities across the province.

Karen's last day with the ministry before her retirement was on August 4, 2017. ■

“Thank you Karen for your hard work, dedication and countless contributions in the Community and Developmental Services sector. You have helped make a meaningful impact in the lives of the individuals and families we serve and for that we are all grateful.”

- Dr. Helena Jaczek, Minister of Community and Social Services

It is my privilege to thank Karen for her many contributions to the Ontario Public Service, to the Ministry of Community and Social Services and to Ontarians who rely on our programs to reach their potential. I wish her all the best in her retirement.”

- Janet Menard, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Community and Social Services

Ministry of Community and Social Services
Community Supports Policy Branch

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