



## MCSS Delivers Progress on Developmental Services Transformation in Ontario

Over the past six months, the ministry has continued to work closely with our partners - and the people we serve and their families to continue to transform and improve how we provide supports and services to adults with a developmental disability in Ontario.

The 2017 Ontario Budget, included an investment of more than \$670 million over four years to assist with continued improvements to the developmental services sector. This builds on previous investments and reflects on the government's continued commitment to assist individuals' lives and participate as inclusively as possible in their communities. It also helps address situations of crisis involving people with urgent and complex care needs.

This new investment will continue our work in important areas such as:

Working with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) and Cancer Care Ontario to **improve data collection and identification** of people requiring more suitable housing for their specific needs.

### **Establishing measures to prioritize**

**individuals** that are housed in hospital settings, shelters/hostels in addition to a new program to support transitions out of hospital beds and into the community.

### **Investing in a variety of initiatives aimed at improving the service experience and navigation**

for people and their families, by helping to better understand what options are available to them and connect them with community services.

### **Increasing access to specialized supports for people with complex needs, and increasing access to Adult Protective Service Workers (APSW's),**

who help adults with a developmental disability living independently in the community to build and maintain a range of skills they need for everyday living.

### **Funding Advocates Against Abuse,**

a province-wide educational program where people with disabilities educate other people

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with disabilities about protecting themselves and knowing when to report that an incident has occurred.

Working with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) to **improve cross-sector partnerships and create seamless transitions for people requiring service.**

**Providing better and more accessible online resources and communication tools** available to families and caregivers.

All of these initiatives would not be possible without the input and support of individuals, their families and community partners, who have contributed and provided feedback to the ministry.

The Ministry of Community and Social Services continues to transform and improve developmental services as well as respond to the Ontario Ombudsman's recommendations for addressing the needs of adults with developmental disabilities who are in crisis situations.

Visit our [Transforming Developmental Services in Ontario](#) web page to learn more. ■

## Did You Know?

Annual funding for developmental services in Ontario will be more than \$2.3 billion in 2017/18. This is more than double what annual funding was for developmental services in 2003. (\$1.1 billion in 2003 to \$2.3 billion in 2017-18).

# Sailing School Helps Eliminate Barriers for People with Disabilities

On Wednesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, Minister Jaczek and Lou Rinaldi, MPP for Northumberland-Quinte West had the opportunity to visit Quinte SailAbility in Trenton.

Quinte SailAbility, a non-profit organization established in 2001, has created an opportunity for every person to participate in sailing, regardless of their age or ability.

As the largest sailing school in Ontario, Quinte SailAbility operates out of the CFB Trenton



**The Hon. Dr. Helena Jaczek, Minister of Community and Social Services and Lou Rinaldi, MPP for Northumberland Quinte West spent the afternoon on Wednesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> with Dennis Fletcher (Fletch), President and Co-founder of Quinte SailAbility, learning about the programs and meeting individuals who have had the opportunity to learn how to sail.**

Yacht Club at Baker's Island in Southern Ontario. It aims to be accessible and affordable to its members and people in the surrounding communities.



**Instructor Emily Schmidt assists Sandy Watson, former volunteer and now student at Quinte SailAbility prior to getting on the boat.**

Their view is that everyone deserves to get out and enjoy the sea and sunshine, no matter their abilities.

To encourage people with disabilities to participate, boats are modified to meet the sailor's individual needs which in the past this has included a 'sip and puff' system that allows quadriplegics to participate fully in all aspects of sailing.

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The organization plays a vital role in its community and fosters true inclusion for people with disabilities.

### “Yes, I sail on my own!”

The organization has touched many lives including Sandy, who started off as a volunteer and inspires others with her love of the sport and ability to sail despite having Cystic Fibrosis.

In the spring of 2015, Sandy interviewed for a volunteer position through the Loyalist College Social Service Worker Program at Quinte SailAbility. She worked as a volunteer receptionist and eventually learned to sail on her own through the 10-week program.

The boat she sails was designed with a joystick similar to the one on Sandy’s power chair and because it is electronically connected to the sails and the rudder of the boat, she is able to pull in and let out the sails, controlling the direction of the boat on her own.



**(From Left to Right) Keavan McKinney instructs students Sandy Watson, Tony Beswick, Kathy Smith, Ben Pelletier and Scott Smith at CFB Trenton Yacht Club.**

While her power chair remains on the dock, Sandy navigates the water outside of the constraints of her chair. To her, and many like her, Quinte SailAbility’s program is therapeutic and provides a sense of complete freedom.

The organization has given individuals like Sandy an opportunity to say “Yes, I sail on my own” and a sense of accomplishment when asked how she pursues her passion.

During their visit Minister Jaczek and MPP Rinaldi were given the opportunity to learn more about the programs, meet with participants and staff and even go out on boats to witness a class in progress.

Thank you to Quinte SailAbility, for hosting Minister Jaczek and MPP Rinaldi and for promoting and providing truly inclusive recreational opportunities to people with disabilities. ■

“We are a community based program that focuses on sailing as a healthy, active sport that offers people at any age and with any type of disability the uncommon ability to participate independently. Students who learn how to sail also experience increased confidence and self-esteem that allows them to venture out into the community to try other activities that they may have avoided up until now.”

— Dennis “Fletch” Fletcher,  
President and Co-Founder,  
Quinte SailAbility

# Agency Empowers Through New Job Path Program

The Niagara Training and Employment Agency (NTEC) has developed a new program to help people with a disability find a job in the workplace by giving them the resources, hands-on experience and support needed to succeed.

In an article by Paul Forsyth in Niagara this Week, the author talks about how the program's first graduates participated in a "hot dog day" to demonstrate the new skillset they developed during an eight-week training program. Graduates were tasked with organizing the day, cooking, serving and handling cash transactions with their fellow classmates.

The program received \$209,172 in 2017 as a two-year funding commitment from the



**First Graduates of Niagara Training and Employment Agency's Job Path Program (From Left to Right) Graduates Lindsey Beller, Alisha Stirling and Marc Fletcher in front, Matthew McAffe in back. Joined by NTEC employment services supervisor Jodi Delage in front, and job development facilitators Lesley Candler and Kathleen Kelly in back.**

government of Ontario. Its goal is to get people with disabilities into the workforce and in a job they can succeed in and enjoy.

Jodi Delage, Supervisor of Employment Services, NTEC believes that employers should become partners and advocates of this program because it truly benefits their company's bottom line.

In her experience, people with disabilities are proud when they get a job and are more likely to keep it, reducing the turnover rate and the need to train new employees. Adults with a developmental disability have proven to be extremely cautious in the workplace, meaning they are less likely to injure themselves. Lastly, she states, people with disabilities are extremely hard-working and will boost employee morale just by being present.

Delage has gone above and beyond to help her graduates find and keep employment. One of her clients was hired by a recycling plant and the shift began before public transportation was available. For the first few days she showed up at his home at 5:15 a.m. to coach him on how to use a cab, and even followed the cab in her car to the plant to ensure he was settled in at the facility.

Delage and her team are currently looking for vacancies in the Niagara area that her recent graduates can fulfil. ■

## Interim Assistant Deputy Minister of the Community and Developmental Services Division

Rupert Gordon has accepted the position of Interim Assistant Deputy Minister of the Community and Developmental Services Division. Rupert enters the role following Karen Chan's retirement from the Ontario Public Service last month.

Rupert has more than 10 years of experience as a leader envisioning and delivering policy, program, organizational and culture change across a range of economic and social policy ministries and central agencies. Prior to joining the Community and Developmental Services Division, he held the position of Director of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Office (PRSO). In this role, he has overseen alignment and public reporting on the Poverty Reduction Strategy's 60 plus initiatives in more than 13 ministries

including a multi-ministry team approach to envision and drive system change to reduce the risk of homelessness following discharge from provincial systems in corrections, health care, child welfare and other sectors. Working with community and Indigenous partners, he also led the development and implementation of the Local Poverty Reduction Fund and championed the office's enterprise-wide leadership role to improve every Ontarian's ability to reach his or her potential.

Rupert will continue to support all Ontarians to reach their full potential in his new role as the Interim Assistant Deputy Minister of the Community and Developmental Services Division. ■

## Province Promotes Employment Opportunities for Young Adults with Developmental Disabilities in Kenora

On August 22nd, Minister Jaczek and Deputy Minister Janet Menard visited the Kenora Association for Community Living to see first-hand how provincial funding is helping young

adults with developmental disabilities pursue greater employment opportunities in this part of the north.

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**Jazmin Romaniuk offers a traditional greeting before a tour of the teaching garden that was a part of the Rhizome program.**

The Kenora Association for Community Living (KACL) is currently working with two high schools, local businesses, parents and the nearby First Nation community of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug on its



**Teaching Garden**

*Collaborations to Promote Youth Employment* program to create co-op placements and summer employment for young adults interested in earning real pay in mainstream workplaces.

The program has received \$315,000 in funding. It is one of 38 projects that has received support through Ontario's second phase of the Employment and Modernization Fund, which is helping promote greater inclusion and independence for people with developmental disabilities.

The Minister and Deputy Minister received a beautiful traditional welcome to KACL in their teaching garden, before having the opportunity to meet with staff and personally hear from the individuals who have truly benefitted from the programs at the new Employment Support and Host Family Services Centre.

We look forward to seeing how KACL will continue to expand the exceptional programming they already offer and further promote greater inclusion in their community. ■

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“As I visit agencies across the province, I see the continued expansion of strong partnerships that are driving more inclusivity for people with developmental disabilities in our communities. We have already begun to see the progress that the Employment and Modernization funding has had on agencies being able to deliver programs that are giving individuals with developmental disabilities greater opportunities for employment.”

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

“The Kenora Association for Community Living welcomes funding from the Ontario Government for our Collaborations to Promote Youth Employment program. Through this initiative we’re able to empower young adults who have a developmental disability, allowing them to experience inclusion in their community as well as the opportunity to pursue real work for real pay in community workplaces.”

— Deborah Everley, CEO, Kenora Association for Community Living



**Keric Funk, Supervisor, Transitions and Community Connections, KACL helps explain aspects of the Teaching Garden to Minister Jaczek and Deputy Minister Menard.**

# DS Housing Task Force Projects Demonstrating Success

Since 2015, the Ministry of Community and Social Services has supported the implementation of the 18 demonstration projects, for creative, inclusive and cost-effective housing arrangements for people with a developmental disability, through recommendations provided by the province's Developmental Services Housing Task Force.

The government is committed to ongoing funding to support individuals who are now living in their new, individualized housing arrangements and will be conducting a third-party review. Outcomes of the review will inform the ministry's decision-making about how successful projects might be expanded or replicated in other parts of the province.

Through this multi-year investment, we are already seeing successful projects emerge including:

## **Bridges to Housing – City of Toronto**

The aim of this project is to provide a housing solution for homeless individuals with developmental disabilities who may have other behavioural and mental health needs. As the first of its kind, the funding is used for staff, community-based treatment and supports. The project has received \$964,736 in funding over two years.

The partners making this possible are [Community Living Toronto](#), [Surrey Place Centre \(Toronto region's DSO\)](#) and [Inner City Family Health Team](#).

## **Continuing Housing Innovation in Windsor-Essex County**

Over two years, this project will receive \$870,888 in funding to support new residential arrangements for adults with complex needs. This creative partnership includes the Windsor-Essex Innovative Housing Project Advisory Group, [the City of Windsor](#), [Community Living Windsor](#), [Windsor-Essex Brokerage for Personal Supports](#) and [Windsor-Essex Family Network](#).

## **Housing is a Community Issue – Durham Association for Family Respite Services**

This collaboration includes two dedicated housing coordinators that will help the people with a developmental disability and their family find and secure suitable housing using available resources in the community. The project recognizes that family resources are available and calls on personal networks for ideas and connections. Partners include [Brockville Association for Community Involvement](#), [Community Involvement Legacy Homes](#) and Intentionally Built Community.

For more information on the Housing Task Force and other projects that were funded, check out the MCSS P4P brochure: [here](#) ■

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“In Durham region, partnership with families is key when thinking about home, housing and support. In addition, the two part-time housing coordinators provided by Housing Task Force funding have been instrumental in bringing families together through monthly meetings. Over 30 families have learned and shared many kinds of housing models to more fully understand creative financing options. They are now looking to encourage personal networks of family, friends and neighbours so that people are truly part of their neighbourhoods and community, and to lay out modest individualized support budgets that supplement or combine natural supports with paid support.”

— Janet Klees, Executive Director,  
Durham Association for Family  
Respite Services

“Because the housing needs of Ontario adults with developmental disabilities are so great, every step forward deserves to be celebrated. The 18 innovative projects recommended by the Developmental Services Housing Task Force and funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services are cases in point: on one hand, they are already providing the kind of real and meaningful support that will allow individuals to move toward greater independence and quality of life; on the other hand, experience in these projects will help fuel more creative approaches to meeting the needs of others as expansion and replication are considered.”

— Ron Pruessen,  
Chair, Developmental Services  
Housing Task Force

For more information please see the web bulletin released on September 15, 2017: [here \(insert web link\)](#)

# 2017 Accessibility Innovation Showcase

Are you interested in learning about innovative new technologies and how they are helping people with disabilities and changing the world? If so, the [2017 Accessibility Innovation Showcase](#) is for you. Now in its third year and as part of the [2017 Invictus Games](#), this showcase will profile innovative accessibility technologies and assistive devices through 50 made-in-Ontario interactive exhibits.

The event promises motivational speakers, artists and athletes sharing their experiences to demonstrate how technological advancements are improving the lives of people with disabilities.

Exhibits at the event include a self-driving wheelchair, an exoskeleton for children, apps to assist with anxiety and dementia and a wearable visor device that enables the legally blind to see.

We look forward to seeing you there!

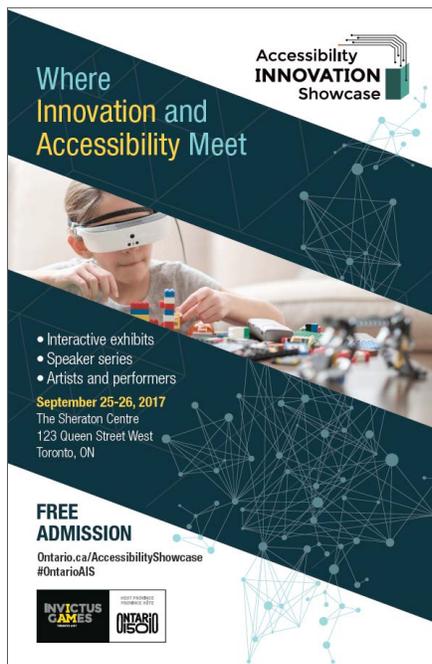
Date: September 25-26, 2017

Location: [The Sheraton Centre](#) – Civic Ballroom

123 Queen St. West Toronto ON M5H 2M9

Tickets: Free Admission

If you have any questions about the event please email: [accessibility.showcase@Ontario.ca](mailto:accessibility.showcase@Ontario.ca) ■



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