



SIMCOE COMMUNITY SERVICES

Preschool Services Simcoe



Community Living Simcoe

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

McGuinty Government's Commitment to Developmental Services Encouraging

Barrie, ON (26 March 2007)

Simcoe Community Services is pleased with the recent budget announcement of \$200 million over four years in the developmental services sector as well as \$7 million in new capital funding for community agencies. This is a step in the right direction to make sure that the necessary community supports will be available to ensure the inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities. The McGuinty Government began a transformation process of the sector three years ago and this investment will start to fill some major service and support gaps.

“We had hoped for a budget that would respond to the concerns voiced by many family members,” said David Barber, President of Simcoe Community Services. “\$200 million will be helpful assuming that the vast majority of this funding will be available within the first year. Further resources are needed to fully address the needs of the sector. We will continue to work with government to explore ways to make additional investments in developmental services to improve the quality of life for people with intellectual disabilities.”

“This is a much needed infusion of dollars into the developmental services sector,” remarked Susan Clough, a parent of a teen with autism. “However, it certainly doesn’t fully meet the total needs of those individuals with a developmental disability nor the agencies that serve them.”

This year’s increase, along with previous increments in recent years, reflects a commitment to annual cost-of-living increases to ODSP. “This is what we have been calling for and it is a positive step for people,” said Barber.

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