

Barrier Free Rehabilitation Direct Funding Option For Children and Youth with ALL Disabilities

Special Needs Tragedy.

Ontario's current rehabilitation system is broken and fragmented.

Thousands of children are either too disabled or not disabled enough to qualify for services.

Access to physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and speech & language services, is extremely limited or non-existent for the vast majority in need of these services.

There is no Strategy despite 4 years of "work". It's time for real change!

The Erosion of Children's Rehabilitation in Ontario

Key Facts:

Ontario has an increasingly broken and fragmented rehabilitation systems.

97% of children with complex needs are on lengthy waitlists for rehabilitation services or just never referred.

Private therapy services are putting a large financial strain on families with 65% surveyed spending over \$8k annually on private therapy.

(MPP Tracey MacCharles 2013)
(Deloitte - Review of School Health Support Services 2010)

The Painful Reality for Children

- Human Rights Violations.
- **Discrimination** due to diagnosis or severity.
- It is reckless and irresponsible to expect the parents to be the unpaid medical professional.
- Short treatment blocks or denying therapy is NOT supported by evidence based research.

(Ottawa Thrive CHEO/LHIN Report 2017)
(We have something to say 2016)

OUR SOLUTION

Direct Funding Option (DFO)

Parents & caregivers need a choice, DFO ensures **timely, ongoing and consistent access** to physiotherapy, occupational therapy, & speech and language services for children and youth with ALL disabilities regardless of diagnosis or severity.



Direct Funding Option gives back to families:

Control, Choice,
Confidence,
Brighter Futures
& Better Lives

(Australia National Disability Strategy 2010-2020)
(British Columbia - Medical Benefits for Children and Teens with Complex Health Needs)
(People before Systems Transforming the experience of Disability in Saskatchewan - 2015)

Trust Parents & Caregivers

Administors and managers don't help our children and youth with disabilities. We know our children needs better than the government. We love our children more than you do. We will squeeze every ounce of value out of every penny we get.

- 1976 Developmental Services Act was passed.
- 1982: The Human Rights Code-legislation implemented that prohibits discrimination on the basis of 'handicap'
- 1982: Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms- "Every individual is equal before and under the law, and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability."

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