



2020

PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION

Budget to lift the disability community up into a
Barrier Free Ontario.

Key Facts:

There are an estimated 97,000 to 235,000 children and youth with special needs in Ontario

97% of children with complex needs are on lengthy waitlists for rehabilitation services.

65% of families surveyed spend over \$8K annually on private therapy.

29% of shelter users are on ODSP

The Ontario Ombudsman received 1,436 complaints that individuals with developmental disabilities were being abused and misplaced in long term care beds, mental health units and the criminal justice system due to lack of appropriate community services and supports.

The Ontario Disability Coalition's primary goal is advocating for health care services that a person needs to reach their full potential, whatever their abilities

Disability does not discriminate - by race, region, economic background or age. Yet persons with disabilities daily run into barriers and gatekeepers and are low on the Ontario Government's priority list. This is a human rights violation and it also disrespects the revised Accessible Canada Act. These issues are exasperated by the COVID19 pandemic.

Supporting Ontario's vulnerable citizens is a human right - it is not charity.

INVEST IN A BARRIER FREE ONTARIO

Ontario's Disability Program

The Ontario Government must stop ignoring the over 1/4 of Ontarians with disabilities and develop an equitable fully funded, needs-based Ontario Disability Program. A robust and comprehensive Ontario Disability Program, can lift the disability community up into a Barrier Free Ontario by:

Needs-Based Therapy for ALL disabilities

Stop the discrimination based on disability. The responsible Ministries should extend direct funding for therapy for ALL disabilities. Parents, caregivers and disabled adults need access to ongoing and therapy with choice and control over therapy funding.

End Wait Lists

Individuals and their families are suffering, waiting to receive much needed supports, services or reimbursement for approved funding from Special Services at Home, the Assistive Device Program, OAP, Passport Funding. Applications should be processed in weeks rather than months. Disability has no age-cutoff make a smooth transition from childhood to adult, and adult to senior, funding and services.

ODSP Funding

Many disabled people live in poverty, are homeless, or almost homeless. People with disabilities often choose between food, costly medication or essential treatments/services.

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Assistive Device Program

Provide for 100% ADP coverage for people with permanent disabilities and expand assistive devices that will receive funding (i.e. ramps, porch lifts, toileting, vehicle modifications, repairs, etc.).

Caregiver Funding

Family caregiving is typically the core of what sustains children, youth and adults with complex needs, Caregivers often make major sacrifices to help loved ones remain in their homes. Caregivers loss of income, pension and benefits pushes families into poverty. When they seek assistance, many community agencies cannot provide adequate supports due to funding constraints and outdated policies.

Develop a legacy you can be proud of Ensure that every Ontarian can be a contributing member now, and into the future.