

TRANSFORMING DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

SUBMISSION BY OASIS

KEY POINTS

In light of comments received from the majority of the transfer payment agency members of OASIS, and on their behalf, the Board of OASIS is pleased to submit the following views and recommendations in relation to the “Transforming Services in Ontario for People who have a Developmental Disability” initiative.

Specific recommendations are set out in the attached Annex. The central points the Board of OASIS wishes to register are the following:

- To ensure the funding issue is effectively and efficiently addressed, it is imperative that the Government accord priority to revamping the funding model for transfer payment agencies to one that:

Is responsive to the dynamics and impacts of legislative and regulatory change initiated across the Government and the effects of cost pressures arising from such change and from other sources.

Provides required funding on a multi-year basis to permit transfer payment agencies to plan and budget properly, and to introduce and maintain quality services on a longer term basis.

Reflects the additional recommendations set out in the attached Annex

- In developing a new, longer term Vision for the developmental services sector, the Government should aim high. OASIS recommends that a new Vision establish, as a core objective for the Government and its partners in the sector, the goal of becoming as soon as possible, but before 2015 at the latest, the pre-eminent jurisdiction in Canada with respect to the provision of high quality developmental supports and services
- To this end, OASIS recommends that a new Vision for the developmental services sector in Ontario establish specific goals and commitments to be achieved by the earliest possible date, but no later than 2015. Among these, the Board of OASIS recommends:
 - Achievement of a continuum of high quality, life-long and “seamless” supports and services for all persons with developmental disabilities and their families, and thereby providing more choices for recipients of the service
 - A significant reduction in, and preferably elimination of, “waiting lists” for developmental supports and services in Ontario

- Strengthening the transfer payment agency system, in recognition of its value as the cornerstone of the developmental services sector. This includes transforming employment in developmental services to a “profession of choice”
- Achievement of improved accountability on the part of all partners in the developmental services sector
- Adoption of a “holistic” inter-disciplinary governmental approach to developmental services, based on full coordination and collaboration on the part of all concerned Ontario Ministries, including the ability to move funds between Ministries when needed, and all sector stakeholders
- The availability, in all regions of Ontario, of adequate and accessible professional supports (medical, dental, psychiatric, behavioral and therapeutic) for the developmental services sector
- Full inclusion of persons with developmental disabilities in all aspects of Ontario society