

**Ministry of Community
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MAY - 7 2010

Mr. Brian Young
President
Ontario Agencies Supporting Individuals with Special Needs
c/o 339 Centre Street, Box 1210
Petrolia, Ontario
N0N 1R0

Dear Mr. Young:

Thank you for your letter regarding funding for the developmental services sector. I understand that you met with Valerie Picher and Adam Nowina from my office to discuss concerns outlined in your letter. I have been advised that it was a very positive conversation.

I have seen first hand the valuable support provided by agencies across the province. It was with regret that I had to inform our developmental services agencies that we would not be increasing funding for base budgets this year. It was a very difficult decision to make however, as you know, we are currently in a time of economic challenges. Our government must allocate funding to the most pressing demands, and our funds are limited.

I am proud of the significant investments our government has made in a range of programs and services to support individuals with a developmental disability and their families. Our government has invested over \$500 million in developmental services since coming to office. Almost half of this investment has been committed to agency base budget increases and wage enhancements of front-line workers in the sector.

I would like to reiterate that we are not taking money out of the developmental services system. We have increased funding by \$36 million to address the urgent support needs of people who do not have any other care options. We have also allocated another \$20 million to help develop the structures needed for developmental services transformation and to improve fairness and equity in Ontario's developmental services system.

.../cont'd

We will continue to engage you and your organization in an open and honest dialogue as we move forward with the transformation of the developmental services system.

Once again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'mmeilleur'.

Madeleine Meilleur
Minister