

## **2. RESOURCES**

### **A. TRANSITION PLANNING RESOURCES**

- **Person-Centred Planning Tools**

#### **MAPS and PATH**

[www.inclusion.com](http://www.inclusion.com)

#### **Persons with Developmental Disabilities Central Alberta Community Board**

Person Centred Planning in Central Alberta is an initiative of the Persons with Developmental Disabilities Central Alberta Community Board that is intended to ensure that all supports and services provided to individuals with developmental disabilities are based on, and contribute to, each person's interests and desires. A number of documents, resources and tools have been developed for use by individuals, families, and support staff and are identified specifically below or through the following link:  
[www.pdd.org/Central/resources/personcp.shtml](http://www.pdd.org/Central/resources/personcp.shtml)

*Person Centred Planning Guidebook.* January 2004.

[www.pdd.org/docs/cent/PCP%20Guidebook\\_Jan2004.pdf](http://www.pdd.org/docs/cent/PCP%20Guidebook_Jan2004.pdf)

*My Person Centred Plan.*

[www.pdd.org/docs/cent/PCP\\_811\\_Jan19.pdf](http://www.pdd.org/docs/cent/PCP_811_Jan19.pdf)

*Self Advocacy My Life Workbook.* Prepared by the Persons with Developmental Disabilities Central Alberta Community Board. October 2003.

[www.pdd.org/docs/cent/SA%20CET%20WORKBOOK%20-%20Oct%20201.pdf](http://www.pdd.org/docs/cent/SA%20CET%20WORKBOOK%20-%20Oct%20201.pdf)

*Person Centred Planning Approaches. A Literature Review.* May 2001.

[www.pdd.org/docs/cent/PCP\\_Lit\\_Review.pdf](http://www.pdd.org/docs/cent/PCP_Lit_Review.pdf)

## **The Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario**

*Creating a Good Life in Community: A Guide on Person-Directed Planning*

This group supports the self-determination of persons with disabilities. Members include self advocates, parents, individuals and organizations working together to make individualized funding in Ontario a reality. A Guide on Person-Directed Planning has been written to assist families and people with developmental disabilities to plan for their future. This guide provides some steps in which to approach person-directed planning. A detailed version and a plain language version are available on-line.

*Creating a Good Life in Community: A Guide on Person-Directed Planning*

Detailed version:

[www.individualizedfunding.ca/Guide%20on%20Person-directed%20Planning.pdf](http://www.individualizedfunding.ca/Guide%20on%20Person-directed%20Planning.pdf)

Plain Language Version

[www.individualizedfunding.ca/Guide%20on%20Person-directed%20Planning,%20Plain%20Language.pdf](http://www.individualizedfunding.ca/Guide%20on%20Person-directed%20Planning,%20Plain%20Language.pdf)

<http://www.individualizedfunding.ca>

## **Casey Life Skills**

Easy to use tools are available to help young people prepare for adulthood.

[www.caseylifeskills.org](http://www.caseylifeskills.org)

## **• Transition Planning Guides in Canada**

### **British Columbia**

*Your Future Now. A Transition Planning & Resource Guide for Youth with Special Needs and Their Families.* BC Ministry of Children and Family Development.

[www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/spec\\_needs/pdf/your\\_future\\_now.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/spec_needs/pdf/your_future_now.pdf)

*Transition Planning for Youth with Special Needs. A Community Support Guide.* BC Ministry of Children and Family Development.

[www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/spec\\_needs/pdf/support\\_guide.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/spec_needs/pdf/support_guide.pdf)

## **Alberta**

*A Parents Guide to Transitional Planning.* Persons with Developmental Disabilities Central Alberta Community Board.  
[www.pdd.org/Central/resources/transplanning.shtml](http://www.pdd.org/Central/resources/transplanning.shtml)

## **Saskatchewan**

*School to Life Transition Handbook. Five Steps to Successful Planning.* Rita McLeod for the Saskatchewan Association for Community Living.  
[www.mcleod-educational.com/misc/to\\_work.pdf](http://www.mcleod-educational.com/misc/to_work.pdf)

## **New Brunswick**

*Building Bridges: A Parent Guide on Transition from School to Work, Adult Life and Community Participation for Youth with Intellectual Disabilities (1997).* New Brunswick Association for Community Living, Fredericton, NB.

## **Ontario**

*Planning for Success: Adolescence to Adulthood (December 2004).* Erinoak, Ontario.  
[www.erinoak.org/resources/publications/Transit.Manual%20rev.%20Feb2005.pdf](http://www.erinoak.org/resources/publications/Transit.Manual%20rev.%20Feb2005.pdf)

## • Transition Planning Guides in the United States

### California

*A Guide for Parent and Families to Prepare Students with Special Needs to Enter Post-Secondary Environments.* WorkAbility I and the Family Transition Network. [www.everhart.leon.k12.fl.us/waguide.htm#whatis](http://www.everhart.leon.k12.fl.us/waguide.htm#whatis)

*Best Practices for Transition Services from School to Adult Life from the Consumer/Family Viewpoint.* California School to Work Interagency Transition Partnership (SWIPT). [www.everhart.leon.k12.fl.us/ts\\_bestprac.htm#1](http://www.everhart.leon.k12.fl.us/ts_bestprac.htm#1)

### Washington

*Transition Guide for Washington State.* The Center for Change in Transition Services, Seattle University. [www.seattleu.edu/ccts/docs/Transition%20Guide.pdf](http://www.seattleu.edu/ccts/docs/Transition%20Guide.pdf)

### North Dakota

*Bridging the Gap: Charting a Successful Transition from School to Living and Working Independently within the Community.* (1997). North Dakota Transition Guidebook. Minot, ND. [www.dpi.state.nd.us/transitn/publicatns.shtm](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/transitn/publicatns.shtm)

## • Other Transition Planning Resources

### Canadian Council for Exceptional Children (CCEC)

Since its founding, CCEC has advocated for exceptional students - those with disabilities and special challenges, and those with gifts and talents. CCEC is committed to those who work with special students - educators, support personnel and parents - recognizing that these dedicated people need the resources, tools and professional opportunities to perform their jobs well. <http://canadian.cec.sped.org/>

## **EnableLink**

Linking people with disabilities to a world of resources. Based in Toronto, the Canadian Abilities Foundation and EnableLink provides information for people with disabilities on a range of topics from around the world – links to the Abilities Magazine, community information, chat and message boards, information for families, youth, women, seniors, on a variety of issues including housing, health, employment, education etc.

[www.enablelink.org/index.html](http://www.enablelink.org/index.html)

## **Disability Ontario Online Resource (DOOR) for transition 2 adulthood**

This site opens the DOOR 2 Adulthood which helps adolescents with disabilities think about leading their own life. Get information and learn from other people through “Tips and Tricks”, “Blogs” and “Stories”. Check it out at: [www.ablelink.org/public/transition/default.htm](http://www.ablelink.org/public/transition/default.htm)

## **Mazemaster – Youth@bilities**

The Mazemaster® has been developed as a community-minded project that operates within a partnership between the Toronto Catholic District School Board and Human Resources Development Canada. Mazemaster / Youth@bilities is dedicated to providing valuable online information for young persons with disabilities between the ages of 14 to 35. In addition to a wide range of information on Employment, Education and Training, Youth@bilities also has resources that include a quarterly e-newsletter, a “What’s New” page, information on Independent Living, Advocacy, Arts and Culture and Recreation.

Go to [www.mazemaster.on.ca/newcov.cgi](http://www.mazemaster.on.ca/newcov.cgi) and select Youth@abilities under the Mazemaster Modules pull down menu.

## **Bloorview Kids Rehab**

Bloorview Kids Rehab is Canada’s largest children’s rehabilitation hospital. They are known the world over for care, research and education that give children with disabilities the tools to get where they want to go.

Tips on transition planning can be found in the PDF documents available on line. Check it out at [www.bloorview.ca/webpdfs/index.htm](http://www.bloorview.ca/webpdfs/index.htm)

## **National Dissemination Centre for Children with Disabilities (NICHCY)**

NICHCY is based in Washington D.C. and serves as a central source of information in the United States on:

- disabilities in infants, toddlers, children, and youth;
- IDEA, which is the law authorizing special education;
- No Child Left Behind (as it relates to children with disabilities); and
- research-based information on effective educational practices.  
[www.nichcy.org/index.html](http://www.nichcy.org/index.html)

## **NICHCY Transition Planning Resources**

NICHCY's Transition Summary series focuses on preparing youth with disabilities to move from high school to the adult world.

[www.nichcy.org/transitn.asp](http://www.nichcy.org/transitn.asp)

This article provides an overview on transition planning.

*Transition Planning: A Team Effort*

[www.nichcy.org/pubs/transum/ts10.pdf](http://www.nichcy.org/pubs/transum/ts10.pdf)

## **National Center on Secondary Education and Transition (NCSET)**

NCSET coordinates national resources in United States, offers technical assistance, and disseminates information related to secondary education and transition for youth with disabilities in order to create opportunities for youth to achieve successful futures.

[www.ncset.org](http://www.ncset.org)

## **NCSET Parent Briefs**

This series of articles promotes effective parent involvement in secondary education and transition.

[www.ncset.org/publications/default.asp#parent](http://www.ncset.org/publications/default.asp#parent)

## **Dr. Paula Kohler**

Dr. Kohler is an Associate Professor in the Department of Educational Studies at Western Michigan University and is recognized for her research regarding effective transition practices for youth with disabilities.  
<http://homepages.wmich.edu/~kohlerp>

### **• Education Planning Documents**

#### **Ontario Ministry of Education**

Special Education Information

[www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/speced.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/speced.html)

The Individual Education Plan (IEP). A Resource Guide 2004

[www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/guide/resource/index.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/guide/resource/index.html)

Transition Planning. A Resource Guide 2002

[www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/transiti/transition.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/transiti/transition.html)

#### **York Region District School Board**

Special Education Information

[www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/page.cfm?id=LSE000001](http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/page.cfm?id=LSE000001)

Special Education Documents

[www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/page.cfm?id=LSE000002](http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/page.cfm?id=LSE000002)

IEP Guide for Parents

[www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/pdfs/w/schools/speced/SpecEdPlan-E-IEPGuide.pdf](http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/pdfs/w/schools/speced/SpecEdPlan-E-IEPGuide.pdf)

IEP Template

[www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/pdfs/w/schools/speced/SpecEdPlan-E-IEPTemplate.pdf](http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/pdfs/w/schools/speced/SpecEdPlan-E-IEPTemplate.pdf)

#### **York Catholic District School Board**

[www.ycdsb.ca/](http://www.ycdsb.ca/)

## **Toronto District School Board**

Special Education Information

[www.tcdsb.org/curriculum/special%20education/default.htm](http://www.tcdsb.org/curriculum/special%20education/default.htm)

Parents Guide to Special Education

[www.tdsb.on.ca/wwwdocuments/programs/special\\_education/docs/Parent%20Guide%20PT%201%20April%202005.doc](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/wwwdocuments/programs/special_education/docs/Parent%20Guide%20PT%201%20April%202005.doc)

Special Education Plan

[www.tdsb.on.ca/\\_site/ViewItem.asp?siteid=94&menuid=325&pageid=252](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/_site/ViewItem.asp?siteid=94&menuid=325&pageid=252)

IEP Template

[www.tdsb.on.ca/wwwdocuments/programs/special\\_education/docs/IEP%20Writer%202005.pdf](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/wwwdocuments/programs/special_education/docs/IEP%20Writer%202005.pdf)

## **Toronto Catholic District School Board**

Special Education Information

[www.tcdsb.org/curriculum/special%20education/default.htm](http://www.tcdsb.org/curriculum/special%20education/default.htm)

Parent's Guide to Special Education

[www.tcdsb.org/curriculum/guidetospecialeducation.htm](http://www.tcdsb.org/curriculum/guidetospecialeducation.htm)

Special Education Plan

[www.tcdsb.org/curriculum/special%20education/FINAL%20Sp.%20Ed.%20Plan%20NOV%202005.pdf](http://www.tcdsb.org/curriculum/special%20education/FINAL%20Sp.%20Ed.%20Plan%20NOV%202005.pdf)

Special Education Advisory Committee

[www.tcdsb.org/curriculum/special%20education/Introduction.htm](http://www.tcdsb.org/curriculum/special%20education/Introduction.htm)

Career Access (for students with special needs)

[www.tcdsb.org/curriculum/special%20education/Career%20Access.htm](http://www.tcdsb.org/curriculum/special%20education/Career%20Access.htm)

## **B. FINANCIAL RESOURCES**

### **• Ontario Disability Support Program**

Once your child reaches the age of 18, he or she may be eligible for the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP). This program provides income support and employment supports for people with disabilities and is funded through the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

To assist with the transition to independence, a person can apply to the ODSP up to six months prior to their 18th birthday. Applicants should go to the local Ontario Works or ODSP office, and request an application to determine financial eligibility. Applicants who are financially eligible are given a Disability Determination Package. The package must be completed by an approved health professional and submitted to the Disability Adjudication Unit (DAU) at the Ministry of Community and Social Services. Further information on the ODSP can be accessed at:

[www.children.gov.on.ca/CS/en/programs/SpecialNeeds/ontarioDisabilitySupportProgram.htm](http://www.children.gov.on.ca/CS/en/programs/SpecialNeeds/ontarioDisabilitySupportProgram.htm)

### **• Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities**

The Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities (ACSD) program, formerly known as the Handicapped Children's Benefit (HCB), provides help to parents to assist with some of the extra costs of caring for a child who has a disability. The purpose of the benefit is to help children who have disabilities live as normal a life as possible at home and in the community.

To be eligible the child must be under 18 years of age and live at home with a parent or a legal guardian. Also the income of a family will be evaluated to determine qualification, the child must have a severe disability that results in a functional loss and extraordinary costs must be present which are incurred directly as a result of the disability. Financial assistance ranges from \$25 to \$400 per month depending on the family's gross annual income and the number of other children in the family;

Application forms are available from Ministry Regional Offices and any questions can be directed to the Regional Office or the Ontario Disability Support Program Office.

## • **Special Services at Home**

The Special Services at Home (SSAH) program helps children with developmental or physical disabilities and adults with a developmental disability to live at home with their families by providing funding on a time-limited basis to address individual needs. With this funding, families can purchase supports and services which they could not normally provide themselves and are not available elsewhere in the community.

Recently the Ministry expanded eligibility for SSAH funding to include individuals who are not living at home with their families and are not residing in ministry-funded residential accommodation.

This policy change has been made to support children with a physical disability and/or a developmental disability or adults with a developmental disability when they:

- move from their families' homes and receive no residential staff support from a community agency or an outside paid resource;
- currently live in accommodation outside the family home with no residential staff support from a community agency or outside paid resource;
- need to live away from home temporarily, due to family illness or other emergency; or
- are making the transition from their families' home to a group home, Familyhome program, or some other supported accommodation that is provided by a community agency. Individuals may be eligible to receive supports on a time-limited basis to help assist them to move to a new home.

The SSAH program does not fund supports for activities that are already provided by (or available from) a community agency.

Another recent change to the program means that primary caregivers can use their SSAH funding to compensate some family members to provide respite and/or personal development and growth. This change will help families with cultural and language differences and/or those living in rural or remote communities who are not able to use their full allocation of SSAH funding because it is difficult to find and retain support workers. With this change primary caregivers can now use their SSAH funding to compensate other eligible family members over the age of 18 who provide

services for respite or personal development growth, with the exception of a child under the age of 18 and a spouse of the individual who has a developmental disability, regardless of residence. Families may still apply for SSAH funding on behalf of their family members, regardless of where that person resides. Applicants to the SSAH program may also apply on their own, or with the help from their case manager/coordinator or adult protective services worker.

To apply for this program, you will need to complete an application form, which can be obtained through your local Ministry of Children and Youth Services Regional Office. You will also need a medical statement or psychological assessment clearly confirming the diagnosis of your family member's disability. It is important that this document indicates the nature of the disability and supports your request for service.

Further information on the SSAH program can be accessed at:

[www.children.gov.on.ca/CS/en/programs/SpecialNeeds/specialServicesatHome.htm](http://www.children.gov.on.ca/CS/en/programs/SpecialNeeds/specialServicesatHome.htm)

### • **Passport Initiative**

The Passport Initiative is funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services. It provides community participation supports for young people who have a developmental disability. Passport is for individuals who are no longer eligible for school supports and would benefit from community participation supports or for those who have been waiting for day support services and are not eligible for Ontario Disability Support Program Employment Supports.

Applicants may be living at home with their families or in other living arrangements including group homes, supported independent living or with a Family Home provider. The supports that are eligible for Passport funding include work or volunteer activities, activities that develop skills in utilizing community infrastructure such as transportation services, shopping and libraries, activities of daily living that enhance social skills, independent living and personal management, and employment preparation activities where the individual does not meet the criteria for funding through the Ontario Disability Support Program Employment Supports.

The Passport Initiative provides individuals and families the option of receiving their Passport Support directly and/or making their own arrangements to purchase supports and services or choosing to access services through ministry-funded agencies.

Application forms are available from any of the ministry funded agencies that provide support services to individuals with a developmental disability, from your local school board Special Education divisions. Also general Information about the Passport Initiative is posted on the Ministry of Community and Social Services website at:

<http://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/> Click on Developmental Services and then click on Programs for Young Adults Who Have Left School, or from the Ministry of Community and Social Services web site at [mcsc@gov.on.ca](mailto:mcsc@gov.on.ca). An individual who is still in school may apply for Passport however the application will not be processed until the individual leaves school and has reached the age of at least 18 years.

For more information about the Passport Initiative in your community contact:

In Toronto

Family Service Association (FSA). Visit the FSA website for more information at

<http://www.fsatoronto.com/programs/passport.html>

In York Region,

York Support Services Network. Applications should be mailed to the attention of the Passport Coordinator at:

York Support Services Network

102 Main Street South , Unit #3

Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 3Y7

### • **Tax Benefits, Credits, Deductions, & Rebate Information**

The provincial and federal governments recognize that individuals with disabilities and their families often incur extraordinary expenses. Thus, provision is made in some cases for allowing certain designated expenses to be claimed on one's income tax. The information below describes some of the tax benefits, credits, deductions, and rebates people with disabilities may be able to receive or claim. Information changes over time so consult the websites listed below for further detail.

For information on Federal benefits review the Guide to government of Canada Services for People with Disabilities available online at:

[www.pwd-online.ca/pwdcontent.jsp?&lang=en&fontsize=0&contentid=14](http://www.pwd-online.ca/pwdcontent.jsp?&lang=en&fontsize=0&contentid=14)

**Disability Supports Deduction:**

If your child is working and has an impairment in physical or mental functions, they may be able to deduct disability supports expenses incurred in the year to enable them to work, go to school, or do research. Amounts claimed as a medical expense and amounts that are reimbursed by a non-taxable payment, such as insurance, cannot be claimed.

**Disability Tax Credit:**

The Disability Tax Credit reduces the income tax that a person with a disability has to pay. If you don't need to use some or all of the tax credit because you have little or no income, you may be able to transfer all or part of it to your spouse, common-law partner or other supporting person.

To get the credit, you must complete a Disability Tax Credit Certificate (Form T2201), have it signed by a qualified medical doctor, optometrist, audiologist, occupational therapist, psychologist or speech language pathologist, and return it to the Canada Revenue Agency.

If your children are under 18 and qualify for the Disability Tax Credit, they may be eligible for the Child Disability Benefit which is a supplement to the Canada Child Tax Benefit and Children's Special Allowances payments. It helps low and modest-income families who care for a child with a severe and prolonged mental or physical impairment. To apply, families must obtain a signed Disability Tax Credit Certificate and the Canada Child Tax Benefit application form (RC66) for the child.

**Medical Expense Tax Credit:**

The Medical Expense Tax Credit allows the following:

- Disability-related expenses are often claimable, at least in part, as medical expenses on the income tax return.
- Expenses for part-time attendant care are claimable when unrelated to employment.
- Air conditioning for those with muscular dystrophy or multiple sclerosis may also be tax deductible.

Other eligible expenses include:

- Specially trained service animals that assist individuals who have a severe and prolonged impairment which markedly restricts the use of their arms or legs;

- Modifications to the home in order to enable a person with a severe and permanent mobility restriction to gain access to the home or rooms within – this extends only to persons who use a wheelchair for mobility; and,
- Incontinence products such as catheters, catheter trays and tubing required by reason of a physical disability.

All receipts for these expenses must be submitted in support of medical expense claims on a tax return.

**Gasoline Rebate:**

1.5 cents (Federal Excise Tax) per litre is available (up to \$200) every six months for fuel costs associated with transporting a person to and from medical appointments. Call 613-598-2290 for more information.

**Provincial Sales Tax (7%) on Motor Vehicle:**

This can be reimbursed on the cost of a motor vehicle purchased to transport a permanently disabled person. (Applicant should be a person with a permanent physical disability who purchases a motor vehicle for his or her own use or a qualifying family member of the disabled person who purchases the vehicle to transport the disabled person.) It is allowable to go back seven years for this rebate. Application forms may be obtained from the Ministry of Revenue by phoning 905-433-5844.

**Sales Tax Rebate:**

Clients 16 years and older are encouraged to get a Social Insurance Number in order to file an Income Tax Return, to be entitled to a \$100 rebate for sales tax.

**GST Rebate:**

At age 19, one is eligible for the GST rebate. One must file an income tax return. Those who have never done this can simply attach a note to the Income Tax return, explaining that they have never filed before and Revenue Canada will calculate how much GST rebate they are entitled to.

**Canada Pension Plan:**

A lump sum payment of the Canada Pension Plan can be awarded to some qualifying individuals. Those on Social Assistance should be aware that, in their cases, these payments may first go to pay back Ontario Works or the Ontario Disability Support Program for funds already received. Also, available through the CPP are Orphan's and

Widows Benefits paid to surviving children or spouse, whose deceased parent or spouse contributed to CPP.

For more information about federal tax benefits, credits and rebates visit the following website: [www.cra.gc.ca/disability](http://www.cra.gc.ca/disability)

- **Federal Budget Initiatives - 2007**

- Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP)**

The Federal Budget 2007 announced the introduction of a new registered disability savings plan (RDSP). The plan will be available commencing in 2008 and will be based generally on the existing registered education savings plan (RESP) design. An individual eligible for the disability tax credit (DTC), their parent or other legal representative, may establish an RDSP. The DTC-eligible individual will be the plan beneficiary. The plan will consist of three elements:

1. Parents, beneficiaries and others wishing to save will be able to contribute to an RDSP. Contributions to an RDSP for a beneficiary will be limited to a lifetime maximum of \$200,000. Contributions will be permitted up until the end of the year in which a beneficiary attains 59 years of age.
2. Annual RDSP contributions will attract Canada Disability Savings Grants (CDSGs) at matching rates of 100, 200 or 300 per cent, depending on family income and the amount contributed, up to a maximum lifetime CDSG limit of \$70,000. An RDSP will be eligible to receive CDSGs up until the end of the year in which the plan beneficiary attains 49 years of age.
3. Canada Disability Savings Bonds (CDSBs) of up to \$1,000 per year will be provided to RDSPs established by low and modest-income families, up to a maximum lifetime CDSB limit of \$20,000, and will not be contingent on contributions. The maximum annual \$1,000 CDSB will be paid to an RDSP where family net income does not exceed \$20,883. The CDSB will be phased out gradually for those with family net income between \$20,883 and \$37,178. These income thresholds are for the 2007 taxation year and will be indexed to inflation for 2008, when RDSPs become operational, and for subsequent taxation years. An RDSP will be eligible to receive CDSBs up until the end of the year in which the plan beneficiary attains 49 years of age.

For more information on RDSPs, visit the federal website at:  
[www.cra-arc.gc.ca/agency/budget/2007/rdsp-e.html](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/agency/budget/2007/rdsp-e.html)

### **Working Income Tax Benefit – Disability Supplement.**

The Federal Budget 2007 announced the introduction of a Working Income Tax Benefit (WITB) with a Disability Supplement. A WITB of up to \$500 will be provided to single individuals with earnings greater than \$3,000 and net income less than \$12,833. Single individuals with earnings of \$5,500 or more and net income less than \$9,500 will receive the full \$500 amount.

The WITB will be provided as a refundable tax credit, effective for the 2007 tax year, with payments beginning in 2008. The WITB will be generally available to individuals 19 and older, not attending school full-time.

An additional supplement will be provided for low-income working Canadians with disabilities, as these individuals generally face even greater barriers to workforce participation. Employed individuals who are eligible for the disability tax credit (DTC) will qualify for the disability supplement of the WITB. Benefits from the WITB will start when the earnings of the DTC-eligible individual reach \$1,750. The disability supplement will increase with individual earnings up to a maximum annual amount of \$250.

The WITB and the additional disability supplement will be available for the 2007 tax year. For further details on the WITB and the disability supplement, visit the federal website at:  
[www.cra-arc.gc.ca/agency/budget/2007/witb-e.html](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/agency/budget/2007/witb-e.html)

### **• Registered Education Plans**

A Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) is a special savings plan that can help you, your family, or your friends save for education after high school. RESPs are registered by the Government of Canada to allow savings for education to grow tax-free until the person named in the RESP enrolls in education after high school.

The Government of Canada has special grant programs to help you save by increasing the amount you put aside for a child's education with:

- a Canada Education Savings Grant that is 20% - 30% - or 40% added to the money you put into an RESP – depending on your family net income; and

- a Canada Learning Bond, an additional grant worth up to \$2,000 to help modest-income families start saving for the education after high school of children born after December 31, 2003.

For more information about taxes and RESPs call 1-800-959-8281 or visit the following website:

[www.sdc.gc.ca/asp/gateway.asp?hr=en/hip/lld/cesg/publicsection/CESP/RESPs\\_General.shtml&hs=cgs](http://www.sdc.gc.ca/asp/gateway.asp?hr=en/hip/lld/cesg/publicsection/CESP/RESPs_General.shtml&hs=cgs)

## C. RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

The following chart identifies consumer groups and family groups that may be helpful contacts as you go through the transition planning process.

### • Toronto Region

Agency	Group Name	Telephone
Community Living Toronto	Self Advocate Council (C)	416-968-0650 ext 2339
	NY Parent Group (F)	416-225-7166 ext 249
Geneva Centre	The Autism Group (F)	416-322-7877 ext 242
	Advisory Committee (C)	416-322-7877 ext 242
	Peer Support Group (C)	416-322-7877 ext 242
	Asperger's Group (C)	416-322-7877 ext 242
Extend-A-Family	Safe & Secure Futures Network (F)	416-484-1317
Family Service Association	Independence Seekers (C)	416-971-6326 ext 224 or 323
	Support Group for Spanish Speaking Mothers(F)	416-971-6326 ext 239
Surrey Place Centre	Consumer Advisory Group (C)	416-925-5141

(F) = Family Group (C) = Consumer Group

- **York Region**

Some families may feel that the services and programs currently available do not meet the specific needs of their son or daughter. There are Parent Groups in various communities that have set up their own programs for this reason. For an overview of Parent Groups available throughout Ontario and the supports provided to families, call Family Networks at 905-478-4098. The York Region Family Network is an example of one agency providing supports to parents.

York Support Services Network provides case management and service navigation for the developmental services system. Call 1-888-695-0070 to make a referral or make service inquiries or visit the website at: [www.yssn.ca/ContentAbout.htm](http://www.yssn.ca/ContentAbout.htm)

- **Parent Self-Financed Cooperatives**

Community Living York South assists families in creating “Parent Self-Financed Cooperatives”. These are small groups of parents who pool their resources, hire a support staff and work together to develop a daytime schedule based on the unique needs and goals of their adult children.

For assistance with the creation of Parent Self-Financed Cooperatives, contact Cheryl Rennick:

Markham: 905-889-5239, ext. 254

Richmond Hill: 905-884-9110, ext. 254

Vaughan: 905-771-0011, ext. 254

Email: [crennick@ysacl.on.ca](mailto:crennick@ysacl.on.ca)

Website: [www.ysacl.on.ca/individuals.html#coops](http://www.ysacl.on.ca/individuals.html#coops)

- **Families for a Secure Future**

Families for a Secure Future is committed to reaching out to and supporting individuals with developmental disabilities and their families by establishing a network of local family groups across Ontario. These mutual support groups come together to learn and to support one another to take the next step toward imagining and creating a better future for their sons/daughters. Families for a Secure Future is based on the fundamental principle that individuals and their families can define and prioritize their own needs.

It is believed that individuals can make choices and direct their lives with support. To this end, Families for a Secure Future is governed by families

and individuals themselves. Further information on Families for a Secure Future is available at 905-770-2819 or through the website at: [www.familiesforasecurefuture.com/index1.html](http://www.familiesforasecurefuture.com/index1.html)

- **Extend-A-Family**

The mission of Extend-A-Family is to ensure that people with disabilities develop meaningful relationships and participate fully in the community. Having a disability often creates barriers that lead to isolation. Extend-A-Family works to break down the barriers by helping to create friendships and promote inclusion in the community. The staff play the role of "asker" – someone who will ask other ordinary families, individuals, children, groups and organizations in the community to get to know and welcome a child or person with a disability. Further information on Extend-A-Family is available at (416) 484-1317 or through the website at: [www.extendafamily.ca](http://www.extendafamily.ca)

- **Safe and Secure Futures Networks**

Safe and Secure Futures Networks, sponsored by Extend-A-Family, aim to empower families to develop and nurture a support circle with their family member who has a disability. A support circle is a group of people, primarily family and friends, who are invited to come together regularly, listen to hopes and dreams, consider possibilities, and plan with the individual. Circle members are intent on supporting the person to have choice and control in his/her life and to experience a variety of meaningful relationships, participating in and contributing to community life. Further information on Safe and Secure Futures Networks is available at Extend-A-Family.

- **Networks and Circles of Support**

Networking is the art of connecting to other people. It's about getting yourself out there and meeting different types of people. It's about building relationships with others based on common interests, hobbies or skills.

Sometimes networking is not easy, and for some people it can be difficult. Very often, people labeled intellectually disabled live isolated lives and because of this, need some help getting connected to other people in their community. Oftentimes, people with intellectual disabilities have a limited number of relationships which are often artificial and hinder

their ability to connect to the rest of their community. There are lots of reasons for this but sometimes people need a little help getting to know other people. That help might be going with someone to a new place, or it might be finding out what is going on in the neighbourhood.

In the end, networking allows a person to share their gifts and participate with others while getting to know different types of people who also have something to share.

A circle of support is a group of people who agree to meet on a regular basis to assist the focus person to accomplish personal visions or goals. The members of a circle of support are usually friends, family members, co-workers, neighbours, congregation members and sometimes service providers. The majority of people in a circle of support are not paid to participate. They are involved because they care about the person and have made a commitment to work together to make the person's life better.

No one builds their lives or finds friends on their own. Most depend on the natural support networks of family, friends and work colleagues to help make connections and open doors. Sometimes, support networks are also used as mentors, skill developers or advocates.

For further information on circles of support and relationships, visit the Family Service Association of Toronto website at [www.fsatoronto.com](http://www.fsatoronto.com) or call Louise Bailey at 416-971-6326, ext. 323.

In York Region, information on Circles of Support is available by contacting Ron Gumbs of York South Association for Community Living at 905-294-4971 ext. 59.

As mentioned above, Extend-A-Family also offers these same supports as well.

As an additional resource, the New Brunswick Association for Community Living has developed a manual called, *CIRCLES OF FRIENDS: An Instruction Manual for Facilitating Circles of Friends*. To order a copy, visit their website at: [www.nbacl.nb.ca/english/resources/books\\_videos.asp](http://www.nbacl.nb.ca/english/resources/books_videos.asp)

## D. POST-SECONDARY

For more information on Ontario Colleges visit the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities website at:

[www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/postsec/college.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/postsec/college.html)

Institution	Website	Telephone
Humber College	<a href="http://www.humber.ca">www.humber.ca</a>	416-675-6622 ext 4288
Seneca College	<a href="http://www.senecac.on.ca/cms">www.senecac.on.ca/cms</a>	416-491-5050 ext 2906
George Brown College	<a href="http://www.gbrownc.on.ca">www.gbrownc.on.ca</a>	416-415-2503
Centennial College - Early Childhood Education Assistant	<a href="http://www.centennialcollege.ca">www.centennialcollege.ca</a>	416-289-5000
Participation House for Adult Literacy Program and on line support for post secondary education.	<a href="http://www.participationhouse.net">www.participationhouse.net</a>	905-294-0944
Uplands Literacy Program		905-731-9557
York South Association for Community Living: • Richmond Hill • Markham • Vaughn	<a href="http://www.ysacl.on.ca">www.ysacl.on.ca</a>	905-884-9110 905-294-4971 905-771-0011
The Learning Centre for Georgina	<a href="http://www.lcgeorgina.org">www.lcgeorgina.org</a>	905-476-9900
Literacy Councils • Thornhill • Newmarket • Seneca College • Humber College	<a href="http://www.lcys.ca">www.lcys.ca</a>	905-771-7323 905-853-6279 416-491-5050 416-675-6622
Other Literacy Programs in your community can be found in York Link.	<a href="http://www.region.york.on.ca">www.region.york.on.ca</a> or <a href="http://www.region.york.on.ca/NR/yorklink/search.asp">www.region.york.on.ca/NR/yorklink/search.asp</a>	

## **E. ESTATE PLANNING**

### **Special Needs Planning Group**

An estate planning guide for families of people with a disability, titled “Removing the Mystery”, was developed by the founder of the Special Needs Planning Group. Since 1997, the Special Needs Planning Group's sole purpose has been to assist families in establishing plans which will provide their family members with a disability with a decent quality of life for their entire lifetime while at the same time, preserving their entitlement to government support programs. The Special Needs Planning Group provides information on wills, trusts, tax programs, and investment vehicles, to name a few, that is specific to families caring for a child with a disability.

This guide provides an in depth look at planning issues which commonly affect families who have family members with disabilities. This guide can be used by families, lawyers, accountants and/or planners. “Removing the Mystery” explores such topics as:

- Selecting an Estate Planning Professional;
- ODSP Benefits and Entitlements;
- Wills and Trusts;
- Henson Trusts;
- Trustee Selection and Duties;
- Planning Giving; and
- Probate Fees.

It is designed to benefit all families regardless of the disability of their family member. It can be previewed on the Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy's website at: [www.ofcp.on.ca/ltp\\_resources.html](http://www.ofcp.on.ca/ltp_resources.html). In addition, it can be purchased in CD- ROM format from the OFCP for \$9.95 or in paper format for \$29.95.

For more information on the Special Needs Planning Group visit the website at: [www.specialneedsplanning.ca/index.html](http://www.specialneedsplanning.ca/index.html)

### **Bloorview Kids Rehab**

Bloorview Kids Rehab provides general information on estate planning in a tip sheet called “Tips on Estate Planning for Special Needs Families.” It can be accessed at:

[www.bloorview.ca/webpdfs/tipestate.pdf](http://www.bloorview.ca/webpdfs/tipestate.pdf)

### **Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee**

In addition, The Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee can provide assistance and information regarding guardianship, wills, estate planning, power of attorney, and substitute decision making by calling 1-800-366-0335.

## **F. SERVICE RESOURCES**

The following section provides contact information for access agencies in both Toronto Region and York Region. Refer to Part 1 section 5 for a description of how to access adult services in each region.

In addition, links to three other organizations are provided that are an excellent source for transition related information and services. These organizations offer lots of information on many other topics as well and are a good overall resource to families with children with developmental disabilities.

• **Toronto Access Agencies**

Agency	Website	Telephone
Addus	<a href="http://www.addus.org">www.addus.org</a>	416-544-8847
Bob Rumball Centre for the Deaf	<a href="http://www.bobrumball.org">www.bobrumball.org</a>	416-449-9651 voice 416-449-2728 TTY
Christian Horizons	<a href="http://www.christian-horizons.org">www.christian-horizons.org</a>	416-630-3646
Common Ground Co-op	<a href="http://www.commongroundco-op.ca/">www.commongroundco-op.ca/</a>	416-421-7117
Community Living Toronto	<a href="http://www.communitylivingtoronto.ca">www.communitylivingtoronto.ca</a>	416-968-0650
C.O.R.E.		416-340-7929
COTA Health	<a href="http://www.cotahealth.ca/index.cfm">www.cotahealth.ca/index.cfm</a> toll free	416-785-9230 or 1-888-785-2779
Family Services Association	<a href="http://www.fsatoronto.com">www.fsatoronto.com</a>	416-971-6326
Geneva Centre for Autism	<a href="http://www.autism.net">www.autism.net</a> toll free	416-322-7877 or 1-866-Geneva-9
Griffin Centre	<a href="http://www.griffin-centre.org">www.griffin-centre.org</a>	416-222-1153
Harmony Place Support Services	<a href="http://www.harmonyplace.on.ca/">www.harmonyplace.on.ca/</a>	
JVS Toronto	<a href="http://www.jvstoronto.org">www.jvstoronto.org</a>	416-787-1151
Kerry's Place Autism Services	<a href="http://www.kerrysplace.org/">www.kerrysplace.org/</a>	905-841-6611
L'Arche Toronto	<a href="http://www.larche.ca/en/communities/on/daybreak_toronto">www.larche.ca/en/communities/on/daybreak_toronto</a>	416-406-2869
Mary Centre	<a href="http://www.marycentre.com">www.marycentre.com</a>	416-630-5533
Meta Centre	<a href="http://www.metacentre.ca">www.metacentre.ca</a>	416-736-0199
Montage Support Services	<a href="http://www.montagesupport.ca">www.montagesupport.ca</a>	416-780-9630
Muki Baum Association	<a href="http://www.mukibaum.com">www.mukibaum.com</a>	416-630-2222
New Leaf: Living and Learning Together	<a href="http://www.newleaf.ca">www.newleaf.ca</a>	905-478-1418 1-888-742-3391
New Visions Toronto	<a href="http://www.newvisionstoronto.com/index.cfm">www.newvisionstoronto.com/index.cfm</a>	416-868-1493
Operation Springboard	<a href="http://www.operationspringboard.on.ca">www.operationspringboard.on.ca</a>	416-913-1301
Participation House Toronto		416-439-3226

Agency	Website	Telephone
Pegasus Community Project for Adults with Special Needs		416-691-5651
Reena	<a href="http://www.reena.org">www.reena.org</a>	905-889-6484
Safehaven Project for Community Living	<a href="http://www.safehavenproj.org">www.safehavenproj.org</a>	416-535-8525
St. Vincent de Paul	<a href="http://www.svdptoronto.org">www.svdptoronto.org</a>	416-364-5577
Salvation Army	<a href="http://www.salvationarmy.ca/">www.salvationarmy.ca/</a>	416-321-2654
Surex Community Services		416-469-4109
Surrey Place Centre	<a href="http://www.surreyplace.on.ca">www.surreyplace.on.ca</a>	416-925-5141
Vita Community Living	<a href="http://www.villacharities.com">www.villacharities.com</a>	416-749-6234
Woodgreen Community Centre	<a href="http://www.woodgreen.org">www.woodgreen.org</a>	416-572-0000 ext 4001
York Community Services	<a href="http://www.ycservices.com">www.ycservices.com</a>	416-651-5400

• **York Access Agencies**

Agency	Website	Telephone
Behaviour Management Services of York & Simcoe	<a href="http://www.yorkcentral.on.ca">www.yorkcentral.on.ca</a>	
Christian Horizons	<a href="http://www.christian-horizons.org">www.christian-horizons.org</a>	416-630-3646 905-775-4406
Community Living Newmarket and Aurora District	<a href="http://www.clnad.com">www.clnad.com</a>	905-898-3000
Community Living Georgina	<a href="http://www.communitylivinggeorgina.com">www.communitylivinggeorgina.com</a>	905-722-8947
Independent Living Residences for the DeafBlind	<a href="http://www.ilrdb.ca">www.ilrdb.ca</a>	905-853-2862
Kerry's Place Autism Services	<a href="http://www.kerrysplace.com/main.htm">www.kerrysplace.com/main.htm</a>	905-713-6808

Agency	Website	Telephone
L'Arche Daybreak	<a href="http://www.larche.ca/en/communities/on/daybreak_richmond_hill">www.larche.ca/en/communities/on/daybreak_richmond_hill</a>	905-884-3454
Mary Centre	<a href="http://www.marycentre.com">www.marycentre.com</a>	416-630-5533
Meta Centre	<a href="http://www.metacentre.ca">www.metacentre.ca</a>	416-736-0199
MukiBaum Association	<a href="http://www.mukibaum.com">www.mukibaum.com</a>	416-630-2222
New Leaf: Living and Learning Together	<a href="http://www.newleaf.ca">www.newleaf.ca</a>	1-888-742-3391 or 905-478-1418
Participation House	<a href="http://www.participationhouse.net">www.participationhouse.net</a>	905-294-7834
Reena	<a href="http://www.reena.org">www.reena.org</a>	905-889-6484
Safehaven Project for Community Living	<a href="http://www.safehavenproj.org/index.html">www.safehavenproj.org/index.html</a>	905-775-4406
Vita Community Living Services	<a href="http://www.villacharities.com/main.asp?View=Vita">www.villacharities.com/main.asp?View=Vita</a>	416-749-6234
Community Living York South Richmond Hill Markham Vaughn	<a href="http://www.ysacl.on.ca">www.ysacl.on.ca</a>	905-884-9110 905-294-4971 905-771-0011
York Support Services Network • Intake • Community Crisis Line	<a href="http://www.yssn.ca/ContentAbout.htm">www.yssn.ca/ContentAbout.htm</a>	1-800-887-3679  1-888-695-0070 310-COPE

• **Other York Region Organizations**

Organization	Website	Telephone
Transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• York Region Transit - Mobility Plus</li> <li>• Burt's Transportation</li> <li>• Adapt Transportation</li> <li>• Transit Georgina</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.yorkregiontransit.com/specialized.asp">www.yorkregiontransit.com/specialized.asp</a>  <a href="http://www.transitgeorgina.com">www.transitgeorgina.com</a>	1-866-744-1119  416-282-4869 905-868-9523 905-722-4616
Family Support Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family Alliance – York Region Family Network</li> </ul>		905-478-4098
Community Information Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helpmate – Richmond Hill</li> <li>• Aurora Info</li> <li>• Newmarket Community Services Info</li> <li>• Markham Info</li> <li>• Vaughn Info</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.helpmate.volnetmmp.net/index.htm">www.helpmate.volnetmmp.net/index.htm</a>  <a href="http://www.york.cioc.ca">www.york.cioc.ca</a>	905-884-3000  905-727-8214 905-953-5110 ext 470  905-415-7500 905-832-2281 ext 8075
Recreation/Leisure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special Olympics Ontario</li> <li>• Ontario Camping Association</li> <li>• Community Association for Riding for the Disabled (CARD) – Horseback Riding</li> <li>• Disabled Sailing Association of Ontario</li> <li>• Hydrotherapy Pool - Fee for service</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.osoinc.com">www.osoinc.com</a>  <a href="http://www.ontariocamps.ca">www.ontariocamps.ca</a>  <a href="http://www.card.ca">www.card.ca</a>  <a href="http://www.disabledsailing.on.ca">www.disabledsailing.on.ca</a>	1-888-333-5515  416-485-0425  416-667-8600  416-214-0358 Contact Participation House 905-294-0944
Respite <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Helpers for Active Participation (CHAP) Program in York Region</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.respiteservices.com">www.respiteservices.com</a>	1-866-257-9776 ext 247

## • **Other Organizations/Resources**

The following organizations are a good source of information for families with children with developmental disabilities related to transition planning as well as providing general information on issues encountered in everyday life.

### **Surrey Place**

Surrey Place Centre has developed an extensive list of links related to developmental disabilities. Contact and other useful information on resources available in the Toronto area and beyond is provided under the following headings:

- Community Resource Directory
- Developmental Services
  - Children and Youth Services
  - Adult Services
  - Developmental Resources
  - Respite Services
- Dual Diagnosis and Mental Health
  - Services and Resources
  - Children's Mental Health
- Government Resources
- Health Care and Research

This information can be accessed on the Surrey Place website at:  
[www.surreyplace.on.ca/links\\_overview.php](http://www.surreyplace.on.ca/links_overview.php)

### **Erinoak**

Erinoak is dedicated to helping children with special needs “be the best they can be”. A comprehensive range of clinical services and family supports is provided to children and youth with physical, developmental and communication disabilities who live in the Regions of Halton and Peel and, in some cases, Waterloo, Wellington and Dufferin. The agency's commitment is to build on the strengths of children so that they may achieve their potential and grow up to lead fulfilling lives. In relation to supporting young adults and their families with the transition into the adult service system, the agency has a Transition Coordinator, a social worker, who works within a multidisciplinary team of professionals, including physiotherapists, occupational therapists and paediatricians. He is available to clients and families for individual counseling and support, as well as, offering a wide variety of support and education programs (which are open to the community). The resource section of the Erinoak website also offers helpful information, including a Transition Manual,

and information related to the wide range of resources and how to access them, eg. the process for applying for a disability parking permit.

For more information visit the Erinoak's website.

[www.erinoak.org/templates/home.htm](http://www.erinoak.org/templates/home.htm)

[www.erinoak.org/resources/pubs.htm](http://www.erinoak.org/resources/pubs.htm)

### **respiteservices.com**

respiteservices.com consists of agencies funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services in both Toronto and York Regions.

Efforts are being made to collaborate to develop a more dynamic respite network for both children and adults in Toronto. As well, participants include delegates from the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the Toronto District School Board, Toronto Parks and Recreation, and the Children's Aid Societies. Other organizations providing respite services for families in Toronto are invited to join.

In York Region, a committee comprised of respite providers, representatives from the Special Services at Home Advisory Committee and the Ministry of Community and Social Services are working collaboratively to develop a more comprehensive respite service. Other organizations interested in assisting in planning further respite options for families in York Region are invited to join.

For more information visit the website at: [www.respiteservices.com](http://www.respiteservices.com)

### **Autism Ontario**

Autism Ontario (formerly Autism Society Ontario) is the leading source of information and referral on autism and one of the largest collective voices representing the autism community. Members are connected through a volunteer network of 31 Chapters throughout the Province of Ontario.

They are guided by a Board of Directors, composed primarily of parents of individuals with autism, plus a host of volunteers and respected professionals who provide expertise and guidance to the Society on a volunteer basis.

Autism Ontario is dedicated to increasing public awareness about autism and the day-to-day issues faced by individuals with autism, their families, and the professionals with whom they interact. The association and its chapters share common goals of providing information and education, supporting research, and advocating for programs and services for the autism community. More information on Autism Ontario can be found at their web-site [www.autismsontario.com](http://www.autismsontario.com)

### **The Toronto Partnership**

Partner Agencies are working with individuals, families and the Toronto Region of the Ministry of Community and Social Services to improve the design and delivery of services for adult with developmental disabilities and their families. The shared goal of the partners is to improve the quality of life of individuals with developmental disabilities - today and into the future. They work together to provide simple access to a variety of services including respite services, day programs, residential programs, community support, and crisis response.

[www.dsto.com](http://www.dsto.com) is the website for the more than 30 Toronto agencies that are working together to provide responsive, high quality services and supports to adults with developmental disabilities and their families. There are many organizations and agencies that provide services and supports to adults with a developmental disability and their families. This website focuses upon the over 30 developmental services agencies funded by the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services to provide one or more services or supports to adults and their families.

### **Ministry of Community and Social Services**

The Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) funds a number of services and supports for adults with a developmental disability and their families to allow them to live, work and participate in a wide range of activities within their communities, thereby improving the quality of their lives.

For further information on programs and services provided by MCSS visit the website at: [www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/mcsc/english/pillars/developmental/](http://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/mcsc/english/pillars/developmental/)

### **Ministry of Children and Youth Services**

The Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) funds a variety of services and supports to children and youth under the age of 18 with developmental disabilities and their families, primarily through a network of community-based, board-operated and non-profit transfer payment agencies. The web page is intended to assist parents and caregivers seeking information about services funded and/or provided by the Ontario government for children with physical, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, mental health disorders, medical problems or those who need specialized services to participate in daily living activities.

For information about these services, visit the website at:  
[www.children.gov.on.ca/CS/en/programs/SpecialNeeds/default.htm](http://www.children.gov.on.ca/CS/en/programs/SpecialNeeds/default.htm)