

## A Message from Minister Ted McMeekin

On April 11 in Hamilton, I was proud to [announce a proposed new \\$810 million investment](#) in services and supports for people with developmental disabilities. This would be another major step forward in the transformation of the system.

This investment would allow us to:

- significantly expand direct funding to serve 21,000 more individuals and families, eliminating the waitlists for [SSAH](#) in two years and [Passport](#) in four years
- provide more [residential supports](#) and expand our response to adults who have urgent needs
- help people better during important life transitions, such as when they leave school or enter the job market
- promote innovation and greater community living partnerships
- provide more funding for agencies and front-line workers in the community services sector.

We remain committed to working with individuals, their families and our partners in the community to strengthen and modernize Ontario's developmental services system so that people with developmental disabilities may live as independently as possible in their communities.



Minister McMeekin with artist Emily Tessier and Deanna Finch-Smith, Executive Director of The Salvation Army Lawson Ministries, Hamilton.

This largest ever funding increase to support people with developmental disabilities will help fuel efforts by all partners to fund new, innovative and effective ways to serve people. It demonstrates our firm commitment to the vision of supporting people with developmental disabilities living as independently as possible in our community and having greater employment opportunities.

## FAQs on new funding for developmental services

**Q. How soon will this new money for developmental services be available?**

**A.** New funding would start to flow this fall if the Ontario legislature approves the investment strategy. This is a three-year investment strategy so the full \$810 million increase would be implemented by 2016-17.

**Q. If I am on the waiting list already, am I guaranteed to get the Passport and Special Services at Home money and how soon?**

**A.** The proposed plan would provide enough funding to help everyone on the Passport list over the next four years. Passport agencies will use existing prioritization processes that are

consistent across Ontario to make sure that funds go to people who need them most. In the case of SSAH, 50 per cent of the applicants would get funding this year and the other half the following year.

**Q. If we have previously applied for other services such as day programs or job training, do we have to reapply now that more funding may be coming?**

**A.** You would not have to reapply. Your current application would be evaluated and prioritized individuals will be connected to available services by Developmental Services Ontario if the investment plan is approved.

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