

2014 Provincial Election Campaign – #EndTheWait

The Question for Candidates:

If your party is elected, would you commit to ending the wait for funding and supports for people who have an intellectual disability and their families and stabilizing services by committing to the \$810 million over three years promised in the proposed 2014 provincial budget?

Why:

- Individuals who have an intellectual disability and their families are in crisis. The developmental services system requires imminent investment and planning. Community support agencies are struggling to respond to this crisis. Investment will:
 - End the wait for daily living supports for children and adults which is almost 20,000 people long
 - Begin to address the wait list of over 7,000 people who are waiting for support to live in a home of their own
 - Deliver stability to agencies who provide frontline supports
 - Develop new community-based services that support community inclusion.

The Background:

- The developmental services sector, which supports over 60,000 children and adults who have an intellectual disability has been in crisis for some time now; this has been validated by the government's all party Select Committee on Developmental Services. Their final report and recommendations were due in June.
- An Ombudsman's investigation into waiting lists for people who have an intellectual disability brought in over 1,000 complaints; the results of this in-depth investigation are expected this summer.
- Delivery of supports and services have been eroding for years.
- Over 100 agencies are currently engaged in labour negotiations with no commitment of future funding with which to bargain.

The Facts:

- Approximately 25,000 children and adults who have an intellectual disability are on waitlists for support
- Agencies have not had budget increases in over 4 years and cannot be expected to continue to provide quality supports without resources
- The proposed 2014 provincial budget promised the developmental services sector \$810 in funding to eliminate waitlists for the Passport and Special Services at home programs, reduce wait list for residential supports, stabilize agencies and provide opportunity to develop supports for people who have an intellectual disability
- Social inclusion and transformation is not realistic under these circumstances.

The Solution:

- The \$810 million over three years promised in the recent 2014 provincial budget be implemented by whichever party forms the next government
- The next government commit to a long-term plan for investment in the developmental services sector aimed at ensuring that adequate supports and services exist to eliminate waitlists in the sector and stabilize agencies by providing the operating infrastructure needed to sustain the system and help create innovative solutions.
- That funding be available in the next 12 months to address the needs of all who are waiting for services and supports and are deemed to be in crisis or facing crisis in the near future.