

A Message from the Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario

July 2014 (with update on page 3)

Latest News!

There is a great deal happening these days – the list of things to stay on top of and be informed about just keeps growing. This is the result of a great deal of advocacy and education over the years by people and families living with disability in Ontario. To our members who did their part – kudos. We have listed the latest breaking news first and then a summary of involvement and activities of IFCO, and finally information about our membership drive which is getting out of the gate late again this year!!



The Select Committee on Developmental Services released its final report entitled: *Inclusion and Opportunity; A New Path for Developmental Services in Ontario*. The report is attached with this email. A few highlights from the report of particular interest include recommendations that:

- would have the Ministry of Community and Social Services “*support independent planning organizations whose role it is to guide individuals – with the help of their families, friends and support network – through key transition points so that the individual is supported throughout the course of his or her life*” (page 9)
- would “*ensure recipients of SSAH funding not lose that funding before Passport funding is in place and an individualized life plan has been completed with an independent planner*” (page 10)
- “*there be more flexibility in allowable use of Passport funding to meet individual needs*” (page 10)
- “*the implementation of full direct funding options be fast-tracked*” (page 10)

The Budget has passed. This means that the \$810 Million investment in Developmental Services over three years will go forward. Highlights with the budget are that 21,000 families and individuals will receive direct funding in the way of Passport and SSAH over the next three years from this investment.

- 4,000 families with children who have disabilities will receive SSAH this year, with the balance of families on the waiting list receiving funds the following year.
- 3,200 adults with developmental disabilities will receive Passport funding this year. The waiting list for Passport will be eliminated in four years.
- 1,400 people needing with urgent residential needs will be supported during this three year investment.

Partnership Table Information

At the most recent MCSS Partnership Table meeting on July 17th we learned that most of the funding that is invested this fiscal year will go through the existing structures and systems – which may be more traditional in approach. However, MCSS would like to see investments that will result in change into the future and they have intentions of investing differently. MCSS is also putting hope in the Housing Task Force which will be looking at innovative housing responses as part of their work.

Institution Class Actions

There has been an extension of the claims deadline. Claims do not have to be submitted by August 5, 2014. People will have until November 30, 2014. Please see the boxed insert in this news brief as well as the attached document called: *Effective Practices to support institution class action claims.*

Summary of Some IFCO Activities and Involvement

Below is a list of some the highlights and work that IFCO members and leaders have been involved in over the last while starting with January 2013 through 2014

- Consultation with MCSS on the PDP Guidelines
- Partnering with the Everyday Ordinary Life Group around the one-page message and lobbying package for visits to MPPs offices
- IFCO meetings – including our first on-line meeting
- Submission to the Standing Committee on Finance
- IFCO Members and leaders sharing information and contact with government, local MPPs, Ombudsman and Select Committee
- Ontario Independent Facilitation Network partnering: assistance with grant writing, participation at forums, volunteer assistance with their 2014 project work including the Common Threads conference and more
- Video-conference meetings with MCSS about independent facilitation
- Partnership Table participation face-to-face and by teleconference
- Submission to the Select Committee
- Ad Hoc Working Group meetings on priority topics identified at IFCO meetings.

Membership Drive

We are late again this year with our 2014 Membership Drive! The capacity to manage and keep up with feedback, submissions, meetings, consultations, lobbying, networking, educating, teaming with partners, holding IFCO meetings and Ad Hoc meetings has many of our members and leaders running! We are hopeful that our members and past members may be saying – better late than never!!! Attached with this email is the Information and Membership brochure for IFCO.

If you plan on sending your membership in please don't forget to sign your support for the *Accord* before mailing it in. Individuals and families who need a bursary, please fill out the form, sign the accord and mark bursary on the form before you send it in. To Agency members: you will receive an invoice in the next week.

Up and Coming

New email address -

IFCO has a new email and we have not been a been closed and our contact. Please do not e

New website – soon to

A new website will be up and also uploading documents. (FYI: Just ignore the we sort this out!)

An important update since the publishing of our July Message

Thanks to some excellent technical support, IFCO was able to go back to using our old email address: info@individualizedfunding.ca (Note: our new and old email addresses now merge at the back end). Also, our New Website located at www.individualizedfunding.ca was activated August 1, 2014. All contact information on the site is current and working fine.

Thanks everyone for your patience!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Regular IFCO meetings coming up starting in the fall will be held the second Wednesday of the month as follows:

- September 10, 2014
- November 12, 2014
- February 11, 2015
- April 8, 2015

Locations will be announced later.



Ad Hoc Working Group

After our February 2014 IFCO meeting an Ad Hoc Working Group was formed to work on some of the activities identified as priorities. They have met twice since the February meeting. Their work has involved some strategizing around different ways to move forward and influence government with a message from IFCO.

It will also include more work on family engagement and strengthening events and continues to look at ways to have an alternate/parallel system to support people and families. There is talk of planning for an anniversary celebration for IFCO when they get back together and continue their work. The Ad Hoc group includes: Judith McGill, Joyce Balaz, Maureen Emmons, Vici Clark, Paul Popper, Marlyn Shervill and Yona Frishman. Anyone interested in assisting with some of the events please email back and let us know!

Message from Marilyn Dolmage

Institution class actions – news and ideas about how to assist

Please find attached an update containing information and ideas about how to support class members from Huronia, Rideau and Southwestern Regional Centres to make more effective claims.

While there is so much that is alarming about what we are learning, we are encouraged by the people we have met, who are finding better ways to support class members, their families and their allies.

This message contains some important news:

- Many people still don't know that there has been an extension of the claims deadline. **Claims need not be submitted by August 5th. People have until November 30th to submit claims - and we hope the additional time will promote better support.**
- Accessing institution files is important. The government says that **file requests must be made by August 5th to guarantee that people will get files by October 5th.**
- **The next site visits to the former Huronia Regional Centre will be Friday July 25th and Saturday July 26th** - from 10 am to 5 pm. You need not register in advance. Visitors should not need to explain why they are attending - but if asked, explain that you are supporting class members. That role need not be direct, since there are many ways we all work to improve opportunities for these folks. (Future dates and arrangements are yet to be determined).
- We would welcome suggestions about **trauma counselling** and about **wills and estates.**

PLEASE share this notice widely and let us know what is happening in your area.

Thank you.

Marilyn Dolmage

Enjoy the rest of your summer . . .

IFCO Leadership Team - Yona, Michelle, Selena, Judith and Marlyn