

# INDIVIDUALIZED FUNDING COALITION FOR ONTARIO

## *An Important Spring Message . . . . .*

### *Hello Members, Supporters and Friends . . .*

We would like to thank many of you at this time of the year for your contributions made over the last year. You did this in many different ways as follows:

- Input and feedback through email as IFCO members
- Attending regular IFCO membership meetings
- Participation at IFCO Ad Hoc gatherings
- Participation in advocacy efforts for adequate individualized direct funding
- Sharing your opinions for feedback to government
- Getting involved in your local communities with local change and innovation
- Attending the Ontario Independent Facilitation Network forum in November
- And more



An outline of the events and activities of the Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario was provided in the last communication sent the middle of March 2013 by email. Note: Almost all of our communication has been through email this past year as we have not had the capacity to provide snail mail.

We would also like to thank the agencies and organizations who gave sponsorship dollars and in-kind support so that we could hold some events like the day with John O'Brien, Ad Hoc meetings and other activities. Many thanks to Community Living Windsor for providing the colour copying that made this mailing possible!

### *Membership Drive*

Enclosed with this message you will find your membership flyer. Our membership term follows the calendar year, which begins on January 1, 2013 and ends December 31, 2013. If you have already sent your membership in please share the membership form with a friend and encourage them to join! If you are planning to become a member for 2013 remember to sign the **ACCORD** before mailing in your form. Please mail your membership form to:

**Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario,  
c/o #611 - 695 Coxwell Avenue,  
Toronto, ON  
M4C 5R6**

*Many thanks to all of our members! Your support of IFCO, with your volunteer time, membership fees and sponsorships, has been amazing!*

**BURSARIES:** *Individuals who need help with their membership fee at this time can use the bursary. Just fill out your form, write bursary on the form, sign the accord, and mail or fax it in.*

## Upcoming Aroha event . . . register soon!

What is Aroha? How can it sustain a good life, now and into the future?

Thursday, April 25, 2013 - 10 am – 3 pm

Cambridge Hotel and Conference Centre, 700 Hespeler Road, Cambridge

RSVP by emailing Selena Blake at: [sb@extendafamily.ca](mailto:sb@extendafamily.ca)

Registration fee payable at the door is: \$15.00

## Next meeting for the Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario

Thursday, April 25, 2013 - 4 pm – 7 pm

Cambridge Hotel and Conference Centre,  
700 Hespeler Road, Cambridge

RSVP by emailing Michelle Friesen at: [mbfriesen@sympatico.ca](mailto:mbfriesen@sympatico.ca)



## Reminders about taking action for adequate direct funding . . . .

- Like the *Everyday, Ordinary Life* Facebook page and ask all your Facebook friends to like the page as well. This is easy to do!
- Make a comment on the *Everyday Ordinary Life* Blog page or the Facebook page. It is important to support the concept. It is similar to what we have on our membership form: “*What we hope for all: Just an Ordinary Life*”
- Make an appointment to visit your MPP or call the office to speak with one of their staff. Talk about the importance of having adequate direct funding at every stage of life for people who are being supported in their own homes - children and adults. This means adequate: Special Services at Home funding, Passport funding and also Individualized Residential Funding. Let your MPP know that direct funding needs to be seamless into adulthood – that teenagers should not be cut-off their SSAH. Share your experience and what you know most about. Bring the *Everyday Ordinary Life* message page with you.

## Ombudsman Investigation:

If you have not yet called the Ombudsman’s office to share information regarding supports to adults with developmental disabilities consider doing so now. The investigation continues through spring. **The Ombudsman is asking anyone who has information relevant to the investigation to contact his office at 1-800-263-1830, file an online complaint or email [info@ombudsman.on.ca](mailto:info@ombudsman.on.ca).** Many IFCO members have expressed the importance for investigators to hear real stories and experiences about: the lack of direct funding for adults with developmental disabilities, the cut-off of SSAH at 18, the need for independent facilitation and also the difficulties with transformation. (For example: both People First and family leaders have expressed concerns about the new DSO system for applying for support and funding as part of transformation.)

