

Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario  
**STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES**

What a direct individualized funding support system would look like for a person when these four dynamic principles are at work.

### SELF DETERMINATION

#### “Nothing About Me Without Me” “Ask Me First”

- People with disabilities need to be heard and included - it's their life;
- Family, friends and others who the person trusts need to assist the person to be heard;
- Adequate support helps people reach their goals and explore new opportunities in the community.
- People with disabilities and the people they trust decide where their supports come from, who provides that assistance and how planning takes place.
- Dreams and risk taking are part of living.



#### “I decide - with help”

I am heard with help from my family, friends, and sometimes a facilitator who I ask to work just for me.

**I choose my life, my dreams and my supports with their help.** They listen deeply. They know my ways of communicating. They get behind me.

With the right supports I can be part of my community. I can give my time. I can have pride in my work. I can meet people. I can dream. I can try new things. I can make mistakes. I can learn from trying.

### CITIZENSHIP

#### “Individuals with Disabilities are Recognized as People First, with the Right to Fully Participate and Contribute”

- People with disabilities are people who are valued and contributing members of our society;
- They can choose direct funding and/or agency services;
- Supports are based on the person growing, developing and participating in their neighbourhoods and communities;
- Business and Community members are willing to offer resources and opportunities;
- Community members recognize the gifts that persons with disabilities have.
- The following Government legislation applies: Accessibility Ontarian's with Disabilities Act, 2005; Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; Federal In Unison Report; UN Montreal Declaration on Development Disability and UN Charter of Human Rights.

#### “I am an adult citizen”

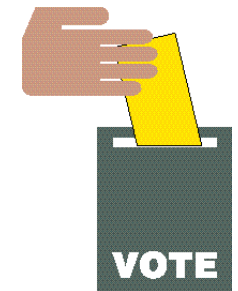
I have gifts and strengths to contribute just like anyone else and I want to use them.

I am most able to contribute when I can get the right supports - those that help me to participate fully.

I am also valued as a citizen when I am able to choose how to direct funding and supports with help from a facilitator who works just for me, my family, friends and others.

#### **I like having choices.**

I am valued when my family, friends and the community recognize my gifts and figure out with me how to make things happen.



## FLEXIBILITY AND EASE OF ACCESS

### “Supports Change and Move with the Individual”

- Direct Funding is available from both the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Community and Social Services when the person with a disability needs that type of support
- Independent Planning and Facilitation is ongoing.
- Supports change as the person and their life changes.
- Funding is dedicated to the person and is fully portable to ease changes.



### “Making it easier to have a life”

I am one person with one life - my supports need to blend together easily. It needs to be easier for us (me and my family) to get help from different programs and branches of government.

I want to be able to change my supports when things in my life change and as I follow new paths.

**Planning never ends. I keep learning. I set new goals and keep dreaming.** Life is always changing. My supports need to change too. I work with my support network as I grow and change.

## ENSURING SAFEGUARDS

### “Independent Planning and Facilitation strengthens people, family members and those that the person trusts”

- People with disabilities along with the people they trust need easy access to independent planning support that is free of conflicts.
- With good information and support, people and families can and will have the strength to access the resources in their community and use them well.
- The more community services are used by people with disabilities, the more opportunities will become available.
- Need availability of reliable support dollars that can change if people require them to.
- People and family member's experiences and insights should guide the review and re-design of any system features.
- People, family and community members need to be included in all levels of discussions and decisions about policies, which will affect their lives.

### “I am safest when people in the community are in my life”

There are ways to help everyone do a better job of including people like me in their community. They are:

- **Having an independent facilitator who works just for me** and helps us (myself, family, and friends) think of ways to meet people in the community and find other supports in the community.
- Letting us and our families have a say about future supports in Ontario.
- Having enough funding for the supports that are needed.

*These four principles are consistent with the Canadian Charter and with the "In Unison" provincial-territorial agreement signed by Ontario. They also reflect recent research on how to best provide support. We believe that individualized funding policy and implementation of same needs to reflect the four dynamic principles that we have outlined above and the direction clearly outlined in the Ontario Round Table Report on Individualized Funding available on our website: [www.individualizedfunding.ca](http://www.individualizedfunding.ca). The Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario is in support of the development of independent 'planning and facilitation' structures/organizations to support individualized funding and that these be independent of both access centres and direct service provision. We also support the directions outlined in 'Common Vision for Real Transformation', Part one and Part two.*