

Expanding Individualized Funding: The Time is Now!

February 20-22, 2004.

**A WorkFest
to Create Change in Ontario**

Final Program

The Values Guiding the WorkFest

The sponsors of the WorkFest believe that all Canadians have a right to full citizenship and participation in the life of community. Building a life in community requires creativity and individualized supports.

Individualized funding is one mechanism that enhances self-determination and community inclusion. We believe it is time that the values of citizenship were recognized for people with disabilities.

Goals of the WorkFest

- To develop an action plan for implementing Individualized Funding in Ontario.
- To develop strategies for building the capacity of families & communities for citizenship & individualized funding.

Objectives of the WorkFest

1. To enable families and individuals to practice articulating the values, beliefs, and intentions that form the basis of individualized planning, support, and funding.
2. To share what we have learned about citizenship and individualized planning, support, and funding in Ontario.
3. To work together for change, so that people have more networks at the end of the WorkFest.
4. To develop compelling strategies based on participants' issues and directions.
5. To document our conversations and actions at the WorkFest in strategic directions for government and for families/ communities.

Principles to Guide the Workfest Process

- The program will be dialogue centred and well facilitated.
- Small groups will meet throughout the time for problem-solving, decision-making, and reflection.
- Issues, strategies, outcomes, and follow-up activities will come from the participants.
- The WorkFest will be a safe place to explore self, others, and ideas – we shall promote networking, hospitality, intimacy, and storytelling.
- We will use plain language and heart-centred ways of talking and working. The kinds of questions we ask and the way we facilitate will nurture this way of working.
- We see individualized planning, support, and funding as a “work in progress.” We recognize that it is a choice and that it is not easy to implement.

Friday, February 20

3:00 pm to 6:30 Arrival and registration
(Participants on own for dinner)

Gathering Together and Exploring “What Do we Collectively Know about Citizenship and Individualized Funding?”

**7:00 pm – Citizenship and Participation: Oak Room
Why Expand Individualized Funding?**

A **panel** will share their thoughts on citizenship, the usefulness of individualized funding, and why it needs to be expanded.

Judith Snow, philosopher, educator, first person with IF in Ontario

Wolfgang Struss, executive director, Community Living St. Marys

Marilyn Dolmage, parent and leader, Coalition for Inclusive Education

Moderator: **John Lord**, researcher and family member.

**8:15 pm - What Do We Collectively Know LeasideRoom
So Far About Individualized Funding,
Support and Planning?**

Small groups meet to share the knowledge base for IF “This is what I know about...” (good, bad, ugly)

Judith McGill and **Shelley Cleverly** will facilitate the process of identifying what we know now and what we have each learned.

We build a learning wall!!

**9:30 – Networking with Wine and Cheese LeasideRoom
and Music **Alain Baudot, piano****

Listening to music, building learning wall or swimming (pool open)

Saturday, February 21

*Develop an Action Plan for Implementing
Individualized Funding in Ontario*

7:30 am – 8:30 am - Breakfast (provided) Oak Room

**9:00 am – Highlights of What We
Collectively Know Leaside Room**

Key issues and themes will be identified from the previous evening. Facilitators will assist the group to come to consensus on the key issues.

10:15 am – Break

10:30 am – Dialogue Groups Meet on Each of the Issues

Several facilitated groups will meet to deepen their appreciation and understanding of the issue chosen. Groups will build a collective picture of the issue.

12:00 pm – Lunch (provided)

**1:30 pm – Small Groups Address Each Issue in Terms of Vision,
Barriers, Strategies and Action steps**

3:15 pm – Break

3:30 pm – Plenary - Sharing of Issue Group Summaries

6:00 pm - Dinner (provided) Oak Room

**8:00 pm - Building the Possible: Leaside Room
An Evening of Storytelling**

Tim Greenwood, a Toronto storyteller, will be our master of ceremonies for this intimate evening of sharing our stories. Four people who have individualized funding will tell their stories of citizenship and what worked for them. This will be followed by open sharing and storytelling from participants.

Sunday, February 22

***Building the Capacity of Families and Communities for
Citizenship and Individualized Funding***

7:30 am – 8:30 am - Breakfast (provided)

Oak Room

9:00 am - Review of Main Actions from Saturday; Selection of Community Building Issues

Leaside Room

9:30 am - If we Have Individualized Funding, What do Individuals, Families and Communities Need to Do?

Small groups will consider how local communities and networks can develop capacity in such areas as:

- Families can plan, build networks, and write proposals
- Self-advocates can dream and participate
- Agencies are supportive of IF
- Infrastructure responsiveness (e.g. facilitation) in place
- Family to family support, and advocacy

Groups' develop vision, barriers, strategies, and actions.

10:15 am – Break

10:30 am - Vision, Strategies, and Actions (continued).

11:15 am – Issue Groups Report Back

12:00 pm - Lunch (provided)

1:30 pm - Regional Groups Identify What Actions They Will Take in Their Areas

2:00 pm - Commitment and Connections for Follow-up

- Reports from regional groups.
- How will we organize local events?
- Role of the final report.
- Role of partner organizations.

3:00 pm - The End

Sponsors of the WorkFest

**Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario
Community Living Ontario
Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy
People First of Ontario
Family Alliance of Ontario
Special Services at Home Coalition
Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus Association of Ontario**

WorkFest Steering Committee

Yona Frishman, Co-Chair
Judith Snow, Co-Chair
Frances MacNeil, Registration
Shirley Edwards, Registration
Tim Kinney
John Lord, Program
Judith McGill, Program
Joyce Balaz, Web, Hospitality, Program
Stan Woronko, Program
Gord Kyle
Karen Harder, Program

WorkFest Facilitators

Shelley Cleverly, Head Facilitator
Petra Asfaw
Charlotte Dingwall
Helen Dionne
Tim Kinney
Barb Leavitt
Judith McGill
Giselle McCulloch
Frances MacNeil
Peggy Hutchison
Yona Frishman