

# IFCO Citizenship News



*A Publication of the Individualized  
Funding Coalition for Ontario*

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## Investing in the grassroots

The Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario (IFCO) 'Community Engagement' work is taking place in various areas of the province thanks to the generous financial support of the *Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy*. IFCO Community Engagement Coordinator, Charlotte Dingwall and volunteers have been working with families in Kitchener-Waterloo, London, Ottawa and Huntsville and area.

The Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy is fully committed to change for people in Ontario and is supporting IFCO's work with the grassroots.

Contact Us!

**Individualized Funding  
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[www.individualizedfunding.ca](http://www.individualizedfunding.ca)

## BEYOND 'IN UNISON'

### Stakes are high with Feds considering transfer payments to the Provinces for disability supports

Citizens of this country and grassroots disability groups are hoping the promises of *In Unison*, an agreement signed by the Provinces, Territories and the Federal government in 1998 will soon become a reality. With the federal government considering a transfer of dollars to the Provinces and Territories for disability supports, there has been renewed hope that changes in the design of disability supports will finally occur.

The questions for many: Will the upcoming Federal Election throw a curve ball into things? Or will a national agenda for disability supports remain one of the outcomes?

Will people with disabilities

see: true citizenship, genuine community participation, the portability of funding and supports, direct choice and control over their lives? They have been waiting seven years.

It was once thought that the *In Unison* accord would be the catalyst for that change. Over this last decade there has been a strong belief that people with disabilities must have a say in where they live, who supports them, and who is in their life. Without this reality many are seriously asking: Are people with disabilities being treated as citizens? Or are they being denied basic human rights?

Much hope was placed in the *In Unison* accord in the late 90's. That hope has been recently resurrected. However, the stakes

are higher now with an election drawing near. The Federal Government has the opportunity to play a huge leadership role to ensure change.

The 2005 fall issue of *Abilities Magazine* highlights the movement to '*Advancing Citizenship*.' Numerous national and provincial disability groups are promoting this transfer of funds from the feds to the Provinces and Territories. They are asking for it to be tied to the principles of *In Unison*.

The Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario has published a document entitled: *A Commentary on In Unison*. Written by John Lord, Charlotte Dingwall and Judith Snow this commentary takes the promises of *In Unison* and reflects on further learnings since 1998. Available on the IFCO website it is well worth looking at: [www.individualizedfunding.ca](http://www.individualizedfunding.ca)

## BRIAN SALISBURY IN TORONTO

### BC Experience Shared with Stakeholders

The Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario (IFCO) arranged a morning seminar with Brian Salisbury on October 21, 2005. Invitations went out to the IFCO members, leaders from other grassroots groups, agencies in support of individualized funding, and government representatives. The seminar reached near capacity with 38 participants attending. The 'sophisticated crowd' asked good questions.

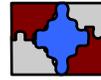
Salisbury's main purpose for visiting Toronto between October 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> was to be the key-note speaker for the Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy (OFCP) Annual Conference. The OFCP was looking at developing a policy within their ranks that would support individualized funding.

Salisbury played a huge part in the move in British Columbia to an individualized funding model – one that puts emphasis on the

importance of independent planning and facilitation. He continues to have a lead role. Ontario has an opportunity to learn from the outcomes in BC, both from the strengths and the challenges they are facing.

Salisbury commented that Ontario is poised for Individualized Funding. He suggested that stakeholders needed to come up with an effective process for making it happen. He pointed out that in British Columbia it was the community that made the proposal to the government.

## Common Vision for Real Transformation Four Provincial Grassroots Groups Collaborate



Last spring, four grassroots groups came together to identify a ‘common vision.’ This action was a priority for the groups because the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services is in the midst of transforming services for people with developmental disabilities for the first time in twenty-five years.

The Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario, People First of Ontario, Family Alliance Ontario, and the Special Services at Home Provincial Coalition worked together throughout the spring and early summer of 2005 to establish agreed upon values, principles and direction for transformation in Ontario. The result of this work is a two part publication entitled: *Common*

### *Vision for Real Transformation.*

The grassroots groups have had concerns that the Province of Ontario might only tweak or tinker with the existing system. There is the fear that the government will attempt new ways of doing things by adding new functions into an old framework. Experience in other jurisdictions has shown that this approach is not successful at transforming services.

It is hoped that *Common Vision* will influence the government of Ontario to provide all the needed tools to empower people and families who want to live life as full citizens. Without the right tools, people with disabilities and their families or significant others will experience added stress as they try to create an ordinary life in community.

The four groups feel that every piece of the puzzle as outlined in the *Common Vision* is needed for transformation to occur. When even one piece is missing or doesn’t fit the finished picture just cannot come together. *Common Vision for Real Transformation* Newsletters: Part One and Part Two are available on the web-sites of each of the four groups.

If you or your organization agrees with and supports the ‘Common Vision message’ please write the following people to let them know: Honourable Sandra Pupatello, Minister of Community and Social Services (MCSS); Kevin Costante, Deputy Minister of MCSS and the Honourable Dwight Duncan, Minister of Finance.

### Common Vision: A Collaboration of Four

**Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario**  
[www.individualizedfunding.ca](http://www.individualizedfunding.ca)

**Special Services at Home Provincial Coalition**  
[www.ssahcoalition.ca](http://www.ssahcoalition.ca)

**Family Alliance Ontario**  
<http://family-alliance.com>

**People First of Ontario**  
<http://peoplefirstontario.com>

**Our Values:** citizenship, self-determination, real inclusion and individual & family empowerment.

**What We Believe In:** individualized funding; value-based independent planning & facilitation; portability of support funds; respectful and accessible allocation processes; simple accountability mechanisms; strong autonomous People First groups and family networks; and genuine innovation.

## Facilitator’s Dialogue Forum in Early Stages

After a year of connecting via phone conference calls, facilitators from around the province decided it was time to begin meeting face to face. Two such meetings have been held to date and have looked at: the value of facilitation, how to support each other in the work, common experiences, and the

value of future meetings. IFCO sponsored the two gatherings. The first one, held in July, was supported financially and with in-kind supports by *Windsor Essex Brokerage for Personal Supports (Brokerage)*. The second was held in Nov. and was supported in a similar way by *Extend-a-Family* from

Toronto. Judith McGill an independent facilitator and coordinator with *Families for a Secure Future* is leading this effort along with Marlyn Shervill, Team Manager of ‘*Brokerage*’. The work is evolving. Good information has come forward to date! Look for more details in the future!

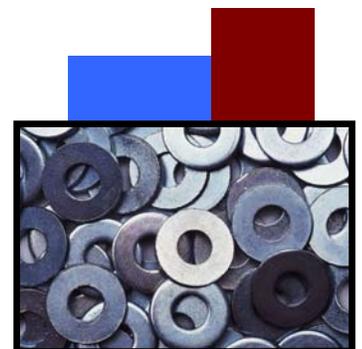
*“Empowerment is a process whereby people gradually gain more control and participation in their lives”*  
*Common Vision*

## Comprehensive Research Underway in Ontario Beyond the Stories: Getting to the Nuts and Bolts of Things

Renowned researcher, Dr. John Lord, has been contracted by the Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario to engage in a comprehensive research project regarding Individualized Funding and Facilitation in Ontario. This type of research has not previously been done in the province of Ontario. The research project was made

possible as a result of funding from the *Electrozad Foundation, Community Living Windsor*. Additional funding from the *Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy* was also granted. This research is being conducted in communities where annualized individualized funding and facilitation supports have been utilized for a number of years. It

is hoped that data from this research will support the benefits of good value-based planning and facilitation, including: the use of community as the first resort, relationships as outcomes, and people and families who are strengthened in the process. Anecdotal stories over the years have captured the success of participation in community with



individualized planning, support and funding. Research from other jurisdictions has borne this out. With transformation looming in Ontario this data is critical!