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# A Message from the Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario

February 2022

## ***Updates and items to keep in the forefront***

**Remembering Barb Folke:** We were sad to receive the news that Barb Fowke had passed away. Barb supported the work of the Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario (IFCO) over many years in her various roles as a leader, including as a People First member and President, and as a citizen wanting to give back. Click on the title here to read the article called [Remembering Barb Fowke, Speaker, writer, poet, and painter – friend and colleague to many](#). The article is a reflection about Barb's contributions to IFCO, including her assistance in the creation of some legacy documents with IFCO and others. This reflective piece ends with two of Barb's poems. Barb will always be remembered fondly for her poetry, and her kindness to others. Our condolences go out to her friends and family at this time.

**IFCO Website Updates:** There have been a few things added to the website. This includes a new tab called [Events/Gatherings \(2021-2022\)](#) with links to related documents. And we have started to move our 2021 information from the home page to a new tab called [Messages, News \(2021-2022\)](#). We are also getting ready to archive some of the older resources but want to do this in a way that ensures they will be easily found. We have been observing that the site continues to be used as a prime location for information and resources. Many of IFCO's own resources, and others, are downloaded on a regular basis – both old and new. IFCO's goal with the site has always been to be a relevant repository of information for people, families, agency allies, researchers, students and government – for learning, for affirming, for taking a next step, for activism, for policy development, and for research. Below are links to some good resources:

- Click on this first link, and scroll to the bottom for international and Canadian resources: <https://individualizedfunding.ca/say-yes/>
- Use this link for resources by IFCO & partners: <https://individualizedfunding.ca/resources/>

### ***Coming Together at Virtual Events and Gatherings:***

- We had a successful **Have Your Say** event January 19, 2022 with great discussions, ideas shared, and good questions asked. We hope to continue having these virtual gatherings for citizens living with a disability and their communication supports.

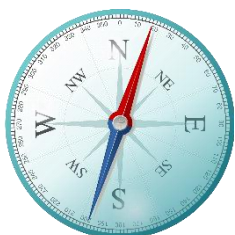


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This is a conscious effort on IFCO's part to be listening to people with lived experience, those for whom the systems are meant to support. Many thanks to co-chair Kory Earle for his leadership and facilitation, and to those coming out to share their experiences and ideas.

- Our **Coffee & Conversations** gathering held February 16, 2022 also brought forth some good discussion. Participants heard a presentation on developmental services reform by representatives from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS). This was followed by a time for questions and answers, conversations and discussions. Many thanks to the MCCSS folks for sharing their time with us, to the participants who put forward good questions, and to the volunteers who have been supporting these gatherings.

**Other Work:** The IFCO Ad Hoc group is developing a simple model design and graphic based on past work, and common principles and values. We hope to share this with partners, members, friends, and allies soon. We will be reaching out in the near future, hoping to explore some ongoing and newer collaborations.



**IFCO Accord, Our Compass:** The IFCO Accord can be found at the top of the side bar on each page of our website. The 'Accord' continues to provide a solid foundation from which the Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario draws its direction. It has been and will continue to be our compass.

*Images from Pixabay*