



Now is the Time

Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario
March 23, 2023

What can you expect this evening?

We are at the starting gate! Tonight is a learn and begin to take action meeting!

We will be sharing . . .

- ▶ What brought us here
- ▶ Powerful messages from Angela
- ▶ Key Messages from the *Now is the Time repot*
 - ▶ Highlights
 - ▶ Features of an effective individualized funding framework
 - ▶ What is most important to each of us
- ▶ Some doable actions to consider
- ▶ A look at other connections, partnering, interest areas and possibilities!

We hope to create some momentum and generate conversations . . . starting now!

What is 'your' reason for coming tonight?

- ❑ Not enough funding for the support workers I need
- ❑ Only have \$5,500 in Passport Funding
- ❑ No funding at all
- ❑ Face barriers to living life as a full citizen
- ❑ Want someone, like an independent facilitator, to assist with thinking about the future and support with taking actions
- ❑ Want to support people with individualized funding
- ❑ Want to support people with their decisions
- ❑ Want to partner with the Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario

How did we get here?

- ▶ People, families and loved ones have said: things have been eroding, changing and going back in time.
- ▶ What many of us have known about individualized funding approaches, what works and what doesn't work, is being lost.
- ▶ It is has been hard for others who haven't experienced similar opportunities with 'funding' at an earlier age to 'see' what people and families used to dream about and hope for.
- ▶ In the past, we had a picture of what a good life of inclusion, participation and contribution would be with the assistance of individualized funding, and we worked toward that.

Why have we come together?

The report, *Now is the Time*, is the result of decades of work.

- ▶ Many of you have been a part of events and meetings where you shared your stories, challenges and solutions.
- ▶ If you participated in IFCO round tables, focus groups, learning events, planning sessions, Straight Talk days, Coffee & Conversations, and Have Your Say gatherings then you are in some way a ‘co-author’ of this paper.
- ▶ The paper represents what IFCO heard from ‘you’ about what works and what doesn’t. It represents the best practices, experiences and research we have shared and collected. It gives us a big picture.
- ▶ Tonight’s meeting is about IFCO highlighting the key messages in the report and then inspiring action from tonight’s meeting.

KEY MESSAGES

HIGHLIGHTS from the *Now is the Time paper!*



Think about which highlights are the most important to you.

- ▶ Having an everyday ordinary life full of purpose.
- ▶ Having support for building and working on relationships from an EARLY AGE and THROUGH ADULT LIFE.
- ▶ Having as many TYPICAL opportunities as possible with home, work, leisure, and volunteering in the places and spaces where ALL citizens go.
- ▶ Having solid ways for people to be supported with their decisions (with supported decision-making).

FEATURES of an Effective Individualized Funding Framework

Think about which features are most important to you.

- ▶ Having enough funding
- ▶ Guidelines for using funding that make sense for a typical life
- ▶ Receiving some funds in advance to be able to pay workers
- ▶ Simple ways to invoice and get the money back quickly
- ▶ Someone (like an independent facilitator) that walks alongside over time, assists with planning and taking actions
- ▶ Support with finding, contracting and keeping workers
- ▶ Portability: being able to move your funding



CALL FOR ACTIONS

*The way to right wrongs is to turn
the light of truth upon them*

Ida B. Wells



What can we do Today? Tomorrow? Now?

Go to the **ACTIONS** page on the Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario (IFCO) website AND choose one thing that feels doable to get us started. . . . We can:

- ▶ **BECOME A MEMBER OF IFCO:** This would assist the ‘coalition’ to continue it’s current efforts and lead to more partnerships with people, families, loved ones, allies and partners.
- ▶ **THINK ABOUT SHARING OUR STORIES:** Real personal stories done well can help shed the ‘light of truth’ on existing ‘wrongs’.
- ▶ **SUBMIT STORIES TO THE COLLECTION BEING COMPILED BY IFCO** for sharing: There is strength in numbers.
- ▶ **OFFER TO HELP SOMEONE ELSE SHARE THEIR STORY:** Supportive leaders and professionals have lots to offer in the way of listening and getting things down on paper.
- ▶ **LEARN HOW TO CONNECT WITH OUR MPP’S** to be ready for more action: Find their email, learn their office hours.

<https://individualizedfunding.ca/actions/>

What can we do in the near future?

We can begin by taking care of ourselves on this path to collective action and . . .

- ▶ Find our 'tribe' and share experiences (folks to laugh and cry with)
- ▶ Connect with like minded networks or groups that will strengthen and affirm our beliefs and our experiences
- ▶ Join a Citizen Network: Global or North American

OTHER ACTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- ▶ Attend a story telling afternoon or evening. (Stay tuned for dates and times.)
- ▶ Volunteer at a story telling event to help someone else share a short story
- ▶ Educate others about individualized funding and the *Now is the Time* report. Share what you learn and have a conversation in your community.
- ▶ Share across generations with citizens of different ages - mentor and give back.

Go to More Actions on the IFCO website for other ideas. Check in regularly to see what's new!

<http://individualizedfunding.ca/more-actions/>

A look at interest areas and possibilities!

Are you interested in any of the following? Let us know!

- ▶ Participating in future conversations with IFCO
- ▶ Hosting an event in your community
- ▶ Sharing IFCO messages on social media
- ▶ Joining with others to chronicle and document data, facts and reports available on what people and families are calling ‘the failure of supports and funding’ over the last decade
- ▶ Being kept abreast of social justice issues facing people with disabilities? People, families and loved ones are experiencing stress with the intersection of numerous concerning issues. Information and/or activism about other topics, some examples:
 - ▶ Changes coming to the Registered Disability Savings Plan, the threat of guardianship, not being listened to or supported with decisions, lack of support funding, poverty, affordable housing, shortage of workers, the fear of having to go to a long term care institution, the high percentage of people defaulting to MAiD because of poverty and lack of supports.



**Things to take with you after
this gathering . . .**

**Quotes from *Now is the Time*
and links for the journey**

Building conditions for people to stay strong

From the 2022, report *Power and Connection: The International Development of Local Area Coordination*, authors Eddie Bartnik and Ralph Broad identified that:



“Now more than ever, it is time to look at how, together with local people, communities and services, we can build the conditions for people to stay strong, safe, connected and valued as active, contributing citizens and to rebalance our limited resources towards a greater focus on individual, family and community, capacity building and mutual support.”

(Now is the Time, p. 14)

International research and our Ontario experience

- What a match!

We have known for a long time by listening to people sharing their historical experiences in Ontario, that positive outcomes do come from effective individualized funding approaches! Recent international research (2019) has validated this!

“People experience:

- *greater flexibility in their lives,*
- *improved self-image and self-belief;*
- *more value for money;*
- *community integration;*
- *freedom to choose ‘who supports you’;*
- *‘social opportunities’; and needs-led support”.*

(pg. 12 in the report/Fleming et al., 2019, p. 2)



Support with relationship building, shifting the power dynamics, having a voice

“People are much more likely to maximize their use of individualized funding when given support (facilitation and planning) with relationship and network building, shifting the power dynamics in their life, strengthening their willingness to become known by others and have a voice in their life and in key decisions.”

Now is the Time, Pg.14

Supports for decision-making

One of our most talked about topics

“Ontario needs legislation that honours supported-decision making.”

Ontario needs a way to ensure:

“Support for decision-making and that each person has the capacity to express their will and their preferences in some way. (That they) can be involved in directing their life and taking charge of key decisions with the support of others”.

(OIFN, 2022, What We Believe section, para.3)

Now is the Time, Pg. 13



Thank You for your valuable time!

Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario: <https://individualizedfunding.ca/>

Now is the Time: [Use this link to download the IFCO report, Now is the Time](#)

ACTIONS page: <https://individualizedfunding.ca/actions/>

Membership Links:

- On-line Membership Form:
https://clw.formstack.com/forms/ifco_membership
- Brochure: [IFCO Information & Membership Brochure, 2023](#)

More Actions and Ideas (a work in progress, check regularly for updates):

<http://individualizedfunding.ca/more-actions/>

Legal Capacity and Supported Decision-Making:

<https://individualizedfunding.ca/action-needed-for-ontario-citizens/>

Learn more with this PowerPoint: ['About Individualized Funding-Fall 2021'.pdf](#)

