



# ANN HOGGARTH, MPP

Barrie

## **New Support For People With Developmental Disabilities** *Simcoe County and Muskoka Projects Supported by Developmental Services Employment and Modernization Fund*

NEWS

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Five agencies in Simcoe County and Muskoka are receiving funding from Ontario to promote inclusive employment and improve services and supports for people with developmental disabilities.

The new Developmental Services Employment and Modernization Fund is investing in the following projects:

- **Acquisition/Sustainability of Employment** (Simcoe Community Services) that will expand its capacity to deliver employment programs, increase employer awareness and identify new employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities. The agency will also identify gaps in underserved areas and potential partnerships, and train existing staff to continue with employment support activities beyond the end of the project.
- **Passport to Employment** (Camphill Communities Ontario) that will provide skills training, job development and job coaching to individuals with developmental disabilities who are interested in pursuing employment. Support staff will also be included in the training process to learn skills to support individuals with employment on an ongoing basis.
- **Cross Sector Training and Staff Development** (Community Living Association of South Simcoe) that will collaborate with an employment agency (Focus) on a training initiative to allow employment staff to better support individuals with developmental disabilities and developmental services staff to learn employment support strategies. This project also includes launching a youth employment program, increasing community-based job opportunities and making programs available to people who receive direct funding to help them participate in the community.
- **Tele-Rehab Mobile Videoconferencing System** (E3 Community Services) that will develop a video-conference application to provide remote occupational therapy.
- **Employment First Training and Resources** (Community Living Parry Sound) that will organize two knowledge sharing events on employment supports for developmental services agencies in the Muskoka, Parry Sound and Nipissing regions. In addition to sharing best practices and developing capacity, this project will help support agencies in developing strategies to address training and organizational needs as they shift towards community based competitive employment and move away from sheltered workshops.

**Constituency Office** 20 Bell Farm Road, Unit 14, Barrie, ON L4M 6E4

Tel 705-726-5538 | Fax 705-726-2880 | Email [ahoggarth.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:ahoggarth.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org)



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The fund is part of Ontario's 2014 Budget commitment to invest \$810 million over three years to build stronger services and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Supporting people with developmental disabilities is part of Ontario's plan to give everyone a chance to participate in the province's economy and communities. It is also part of the government's four-part plan to build Ontario up by investing in people's talents and skills, building new public infrastructure like roads and transit, creating a dynamic, supportive environment where business thrives, and building a secure savings plan so everyone can afford to retire.

## QUOTES

"The Employment and Modernization Fund is an important component of our government's \$810 million investment in developmental services. By investing in these projects, we are helping to make participation in Ontario's economy and communities a priority for everyone in our society, especially for our most vulnerable,"

— Dr. Helena Jaczek, Minister of Community and Social Services.

"Our government is proud to support these innovative partnerships in Simcoe County and Muskoka that will lead to employment opportunities and promote a higher quality of life for people with developmental disabilities in our community."

— Ann Hoggarth, MPP Barrie

"Simcoe Community Services are well known as a provider of services primarily for people with intellectual disabilities of all ages. For over 60 years we have served our community by providing programs that include accommodations, community participation supports, family services, preschool services and employments programs. The funding we will be receiving through the Developmental Services Employment and Modernization fund will be used to expand our pool of prospective employers, develop partnerships where currently there is minimal representation, to promote the benefits of inclusive workplaces, to increase the opportunities for attaining and maintaining competitive employment and strengthen existing partnerships with employment resources.

We are extremely grateful that our proposal has been selected and we will be recipients of this most valuable funding opportunity."

— Marion Graves, Simcoe Community Services



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“Ontario Companies Lead the World in New Technology for Rehab Services: This grant will provide for the rapid delivery of critically needed Occupational Therapy services to remote Northern communities as well as local rural communities at lower cost through the use of secure two way video conferencing technology, from almost any laptop, smart phone, or tablet by anyone, anywhere, without training or technical literacy. E3 in partnership with Simcoe Habilitation Services is excited to usher in a new era in the delivery of rehab services across the Province.

— Vivek Burhanpurkar, Simcoe Habilitation Services Inc.

“People with disabilities are seriously under-represented in the workplace in Muskoka, Parry Sound and Nipissing. This project will bring service providers together and create opportunities for learning and sharing best practices so that agencies can shift to an “Employment First” commitment to service delivery. This shift will create strategies for more community based options supporting people to be recognized for their abilities and valued contributing members of their community.

We have worked collaboratively with the Ontario Disability Employment Network (ODEN) to create a mechanism to bring this expertise to our region. Community Living Parry Sound would like to extend our sincere appreciation for the opportunity to deliver local training which will support the development of increased employment for people with developmental disabilities.

— Jo-Anne Demick, Community Living Parry Sound

## QUICK FACTS

- Ontario is investing more than \$310,000 through these five programs in Simcoe County and Muskoka.
- Ontario funds more than \$1.8 billion worth of developmental services each year.
- More than 62,000 adults in Ontario have a developmental disability.
- The province funds 370 agencies across Ontario that deliver services to people with developmental disabilities and their families.

## LEARN MORE

- Learn about [developmental services in Ontario](#).
- Visit [Developmental Services Ontario](#), the province’s single window to apply for adult developmental services.