

David Carter Whitney,
Assistant Deputy Minister MCSS
Social Policy Division
6th Floor, Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor St. Toronto, Ontario

March 22, 2010

Dear David,

After the Special Partnership Table on March 8th, the members representing the organizations listed on this letter, discussed the LGIC Regulation, and the implications for people who choose direct funding to develop where they live - whether that might be owning their home, townhouse or condominium, or renting an apartment or home. We have come to some conclusions, which we would like to share with you.

We do not feel confident that the definitions in the Act under clause 4 (1) for 'activities of daily living' and 'community participation' are inclusive enough of the services and supports that might be needed for a person to develop an individualized home living option.

We propose two options for revision to the LGIC Regulation:

Option 1 proposes revisions (additions) (highlighted in red) in the context of the

ONTARIO REGULATION

“ Significant limitations in adaptive functioning

3. For the purposes of subsection 3 (1) of the

Other prescribed services and supports

4. The following are “other prescribed services and supports” for the purpose of clause 4 (1) (7) of the Act: Home living services and supports

Home living services and supports means: individualized services and supports that assist a person with a developmental disability to live in their home. Such services and supports would be those that are in addition to and beyond the scope of what is defined under "activities of daily living services and supports" and "community participation services and supports" in the Act. (Such services and supports would be subject to Policy and Operational Guidelines)

Intensive support

5. For the purposes of the definition of "intensive support residence"

Prescribed class of services and supports

6. The following are the prescribed classes of services and supports for the purpose of clause 11 (1) (b) of the Act:

1. Caregiver respite services and supports
2. Community participation services and supports
3. Activities of daily living services and supports
4. Person-directed planning services and supports”
5. Home living services and supports

Assessments, qualified persons

7. A psychologist or psychological associate”

Option 2 proposes that the Regulation prescribe, “such other services and supports as prescribed” within “activities of daily living” and “community participation” under 4 (2) of the Act, to include examples of home living services and supports that may be needed. These might include those funded through some individualized residential models (IRMI).

The Ministry seems confident that people could be supported to live in their own home living environment, through a direct funding agreement for activities of daily living and community participation services and supports. Speaking for our members, many of whom have communicated their concerns to you about the Regulation, we believe that the examples, within the definitions of the Act in 4(2) for these two classes, focus on direct support, and may not ensure comprehensive support for people in an individualized home living environment.

Eligibility and Equitable Access to Resources

The funding for ‘activities of daily living’ and ‘community participation’ has historically been available in very small amounts. We are asking for some assurance that people prioritized in their communities, who want to develop an individualized home living environment will have access to funds similar to those people who would choose a group living environment through an agency. It appears to us, that as currently drafted, the LGIC Regulation does not assure equity. The Act refers to two different waiting lists (Part V 19. Waiting lists (3) and (4)). When queried on this point after the meeting on March 8th, MCSS staff indicated that there would be one list for prioritization. How will future funding be made available? Will there be fair access to resources for those who are prioritized, regardless of how they choose their services and supports (Part V, Application 13 (3))

Through this communication we are demonstrating our commitment to ongoing constructive dialogue, and our honesty in sharing that there continues to be a lack of confidence and great fear with regard to the Regulation as it stands.

We appreciate the multiple challenges that you contend with in relation to Transformation implementation. We respectfully ask you to consider our concerns and suggestions for revisions to the LGIC Regulation, which we believe would increase the confidence among the people and families, within our respective groups, who continue to raise their concerns with us. We look forward to continuing these discussions with you.

On behalf of

Special Services at Home Provincial Coalition- Beth French, Janice Strickland
Family Alliance Ontario- Christy Barber, Barbara McCormack

cc Carol Latimer, Director, Community and Developmental Services
The Honourable Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Community and Social Services