

For Immediate Release
May 2, 2006

MCGUINTY GOVERNMENT MAKES HISTORIC COMMITMENT TO STRONGER SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY

*Budget Funding And Transformation Plan Mean Better Supports,
Greater Independence For Thousands Of Ontarians*

TORONTO – The McGuinty government is making record investments to help families, strengthen community agencies and increase community-based supports for adults with a developmental disability, Minister of Community and Social Services Madeleine Meilleur announced today.

“This commitment is part of our ongoing plan to make Ontario a more inclusive society, where people with a developmental disability can live as independently as possible in their own communities, close to family and friends,” said Meilleur.

In 2006, the government has earmarked almost \$84 million to expand residential and community services, help agencies with operating costs, increase supports to families caring for family members at home and expand community supports for young people with a developmental disability who are leaving school. This new funding is the single largest one-year investment in developmental services in Ontario, and brings the government’s 4-year commitment to a record \$276 million.

“The government continues to show that it is serious about improving supports for people with a developmental disability,” said George Braithwaite, President of Ontario Agencies Supporting Individuals with Special Needs. “Individuals will be able to live more independently and will have more opportunities to participate in their communities.”

Meilleur also released a consultation paper that gives the public an opportunity to provide input on a plan for the future of supports for individuals with a developmental disability. *Opportunities and Action: Transforming Supports in Ontario for People Who Have a Developmental Disability* proposes changes that will make it easier for families to get services, bring increased fairness and consistency to the way supports are delivered, and give clients greater choice and flexibility in choosing the supports they receive.

“We are at a turning point in the way we support people with a developmental disability. While we continue to invest in community services today, we need to make sure we are building fair, accessible and sustainable supports for the future,” said Meilleur. “Working together, we will build a stronger, more inclusive Ontario for us all.”

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