



OUR VISION:

“families committed to families”

Durham Family Network brings families together, not as recipients of a service but as active participants in moving forward with our sons and daughters to a good life for them, now and in the future. The Network offers an opportunity to bring families together for mutual support, learning and a shared purpose.

Durham Region Families Initiate



A RALLY AT QUEEN'S PARK

What started out as several families in Durham Region expressing *deep concern about the inequity and adequacy of individualized funding grew into a day of action at Queens Park.*

Three local families met with local MPP's who listened to their concerns and offered to question the government about this *funding crisis* by raising family's key issues during the morning session of the Ontario Legislature on May 26th. Durham families sent out an invitation to other families across Ontario to respond and participate in the day of action by collecting petition signatures and going to Queens Park amass.

Family to family the word spread across the province and well over one hundred families mobilized and went to Queens Park on May 26th. This day was an important day for families because it was also the day of 2nd reading of Bill 77 - An Act to provide services to persons with developmental disabilities, to repeal the Developmental Services Act and to amend certain other statutes.

On May 26th families from across Ontario raised serious questions for the Ontario government on why they have not received the individualized funding and direct support that thousands of families had applied for, qualified for and needed to support their disabled adult son's and daughter's full inclusion and participation in their local communities.

It was a glorious day of family solidarity that engaged families and parent leaders and fueled a further response.

Families went home on May 26th and wrote personal letters to Premier Dalton McGuinty and copied the letters to their local MPP's and the Minister of Community and Social Services.

Families for a Secure Future along with Family Alliance Ontario, Coalition for Individualized Funding, family networks and parent leaders from across the province have been meeting with leaders from Community Living Ontario and have worked together to develop an analysis of Bill 77 and have discovered numerous shared concerns about this Bill. A clearer picture of the implications of the legislation and how it will affect the lives of people with disabilities has developed. This legislation will likely serve our families for decades to come as it is replacing the last bill that has been in place for thirty-five years. Families have a wealth of insight and knowledge which could provide critical family input into 'getting it right'.

The government will be holding public hearings in four communities from August 5 – 8, 2008 about this bill and Durham Family Network will be seeking family input towards raising Durham family's key concerns at these public hearings.

Cindy Mitchell

For More Information about Bill 77 and what you could do to help the government Get It Right - please contact Helen Dionne at Durham Family Network (905)436-2500 ext. 2222

