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JULY 2018

DAFRS FAMILY focus

SO THAT ALL PEOPLE ENJOY A FULL AND MEANINGFUL LIFE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

Swag, Sundaes, and a Super Showcase of Entrepreneurs Set the Tone for our 2018 AGM

We had a fantastic turnout on Tuesday, June 26th for our Annual General Meeting here in our office. The weather was on our side and those who met were able to mix and mingle the evening away after the business and presentations concluded. A big thank you to our fantastic presenters who shared with us their small business ventures and some of the story behind how they got up and running. We heard from many families afterwards that are now encouraged to move forward with their own ideas and plans around entrepreneurship.



Our official name change highlighted the business meeting agenda

We were also pleased to announce our new membership structure to those in attendance. Membership will now be yearly, and free, for those interested in supporting our work in this way. If you are interested in joining, [you can fill out an application for membership](#) and submit it for consideration to the Board of Directors. Consider becoming a member to be a part of next year's AGM voting.

Thank you to everyone who came out to show their support for Durham Association for Family Resources and Support. Being a family-led organization, it was a nice opportunity for families to see others they have not seen in many years, and to meet new families as well. The opportunity for families to connect is one we always see as an investment - and having tasty food trucks around certainly didn't hurt! We hope to see everyone again next year as we meet once again to discuss our work and mission here in Durham Region.



Families, staff, and board members gathered for good food and even better conversation after the business meeting and presentations.

New Report Urges Reform of Disability Tax Credit and Registered Disability Savings Plan

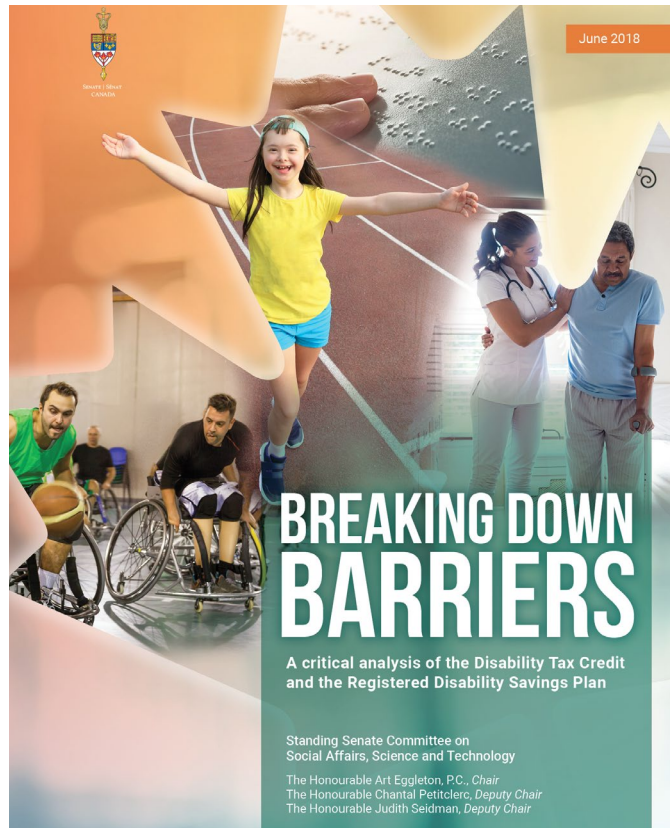
The Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology has recently reviewed the Disability Tax Credit and the Registered Disability Savings Plan, and with input from across Canada, have brought to light many concerns that we have heard echoed from families throughout Durham Region.

The report, “Breaking Down Barriers - A critical analysis of the Disability Tax Credit and the Registered Disability Savings Plan”, looks at the process and procedure, uptake, and current impact of these two federal initiatives aimed at helping families. There are a number of good recommendations put forward by the Committee, ultimately prompting Canada to do more help those with disabilities, and their families, who often incur costs that other Canadians do not face.

The Disability Tax Credit aims to reduce the amount of tax paid by those Canadians who live with a disability, and their families. The Registered Disability Savings Plan

“The committee also heard that the rule requiring plan holders to keep contributions, grants and bonds invested or 10 years before funds can be accessed without penalty is overly burdensome....The committee heard clearly that the RDSP was never intended to be a retirement program and that other savings vehicles exist for this purpose. Witnesses stated that the government needs to trust and empower people with disabilities and their families to spend their savings when and where it is needed”.

- Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology, 2018



supports people with a disability and their families to save for the future via a fund which grows tax-free until withdrawal. Sixteen recommendations are put forward to help reform and improve these tools -including short-term objectives to make the programs simpler and more clear, as well as a long-term philosophical shift in the mindset of how the government supports those in financial distress who cannot advocate for themselves.

Some of the most notable recommendations include:

- eliminating the need for those with life-long disabilities to reapply for the credit;
- reforming legislation with respect to legal capacity and representation to ensure everyone who qualifies can access the RDSP;
- significantly reducing the timespan to make withdrawals without penalty of repayment;
- adopting a participation model whereby people with disabilities and their families are better able to inform and improve federal programs;
- implementing an automatic enrollment system in the RDSP once someone becomes eligible for the Disability Tax Credit;
- and developing a guaranteed annual basic income for Canadians with severe disabilities.

[You can view the report online at sencanada.ca](http://sencanada.ca) for full recommendations and details.

Imagining Home Group Providing Important Insight to the Region and Beyond

We have exciting news! The Housing is a Community Issue project is receiving much attention and interest. We have been contacted by an independent research firm, SHS consulting who was working on the Ministry seconded evaluation of the Housing Task Force Demonstration Projects, to do an in depth study of our project! The group is looking to delve deeper into the insights, successes and challenges we have encountered. Speaking directly to families, the researchers hope to take these findings back to the Ministry of Community and Social Services to enable them to improve options and support throughout the province. They have stated clearly that it is fundamental to hear directly from families. We will have the opportunity to do so at our upcoming meeting on Wednesday July 11th at 6:30pm. We are hopeful to have a robust group for this important work!

We have also received a report from BILD. BILD works with over 1,500 members of the development/building community to promote positive policy changes involving various levels of government. This group has documented specific areas of resolution for consideration of affordable housing in Durham Region. We will take some time to review their four point plan regarding how the Region can make way for affordable housing. Understanding their strategy will be important in terms of how Imagining Home and IBC considers the align messaging to local municipal leaders and developers.

In addition to the report from BILD, we have also been apprised of a report written by the Ontario Non Profit Housing Association. They have written an Affordable Housing Plan for Ontario! Their plan mainly focuses on affordable rental units, income supports and supportive housing. There is a lot of information to disseminate and think about! It is always great to do so within a group of inspired families!

The next housing meeting will take place on Wednesday, July 11, 2018 at 6:30 pm. This meeting will be at The Gathering Place, here at the DAFRS office located at 20-850 King St. W. Contact Selena for more information at 905-436-2500 ext. 2302 or sblake@dafrs.com.



Environmental Sensitivity, Diet, Nutrition, and More the Focus of Monthly BioMedical Study Group

The Bio-medical Approaches Study Group continues to meet throughout the summer. Our interest in alternate approaches to health and well-being for ourselves and our family members does not end in the summer time, and we continue to appreciate this Friday morning meeting for conversation, companionship and good information.

We are a group of family and community members who find it inspiring, helpful, and personally rewarding to talk with each other about our own experiences and share new information all about optimal health, balance and well-being. We think about wellness in terms of food and nutrition, making sure sensory needs are met, figuring out mindful and conscious approaches, or looking at what recent research can tell us about medications, seizures, digestive issues and more.

Our conversation focuses on the whole person and how people may respond with more or less sensitivity to their environment, including diet and nutrition, brain coherence, sensory integration issues, the calmness or agitation of those around them, and more.

The group meets monthly and is open and welcoming to new and past participants! We meet at The Gathering Place (20-850 King St. W, Oshawa), the second Friday of each month at 10am. Please RSVP your attendance to jklees@dafrs.com so that we can plan a successful morning.



**Study Group
Info**
**Friday,
July 13 2018**

Making the Most of Funding Series Broadens its Scope with a Study Group for Graduates

Those who have completed any one of our Making The Most series are invited back to a MTM Study Group! Graduates are welcome to drop in to these monthly gatherings, where participants, mentoring families, and facilitators will delve deeper into the topics and activities which were presented throughout the series' six sessions.

This month we look forward to welcoming our newest graduates from our 2018 Spring Series! If you have been working through some ideas, or want to spend more time on a particular area or exercise presented at the series there will be time, guidance, and support to do so.



MAKING THE MOST STUDY GROUP

If you'd like more information or want to RSVP, contact Selena at sblake@dafrs.com or by phone at (905)436-2500 ext.2302.

MONDAY, JULY 30, 2018 at 10am
The Board Room
20-850 King St. W, Oshawa

respiteservices.com



Respite Worker Orientation

Keep an eye on the website for the next Orientation!
Or call Claudia for more details! (905)436-3404

The CHAP Respite Worker Orientation is a mandatory session for potential support workers joining the CHAP program worker bank. Families and their support workers are welcome to attend the orientation. The day includes an introduction to supporting families and their family member who has a disability, an introduction to understanding the meaning of respite, understanding and developing roles, language, community involvement, the support worker's roles and responsibilities with families and respiteservices.com.

To attend you must be registered with respiteservices.com/durham and you will need to RSVP. Contact Claudia at (905)436-3404 or cschweiger@dafrs.com

Want more
information?

Durham
Association for
Family Resources
and Support

For more
information on our
organization or any
of our events, please
visit our website at

www.dafrs.com

or contact Heather
by phone or email:

(905)436-2500
ext.2314

hminors@dafrs.com

For more information, please visit our website, www.dafrs.com,
and see the "Upcoming Events" tab.

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