



Formerly Special Services at Home Passport Provincial Coalition (SSAHPC)

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January 19, 2023

Dear Minister Fullerton:

Thank you for your January 16, 2023 response to our November 8, 2022 letter. We appreciate that you have shared our concerns and recommendations with senior staff in your Ministry – along with the letters we sent on June, August and October, but that is not enough.

It is urgent that they immediately resolve the inequity created by your Ministry's implementation of the Permanent Wage Enhancement among recipients of MCCSS Direct Funding. Delay in addressing this inequity has created the crisis we predicted.

Your Ministry gave recipients of Enhanced Respite an 18% increase in annual allocations because that direct funding pays only for respite services from support workers. However, your Ministry gave a mere 10% increase to those people who use all or most of their direct Special Services at Home and Passport funding to pay support workers. Because they all must pay their workers the permanent \$3 an hour increase the law requires, families are running out of support hours now, before the end of this fiscal year. That means they lose essential support and trained workers and risk breakdown. Those who lose support soonest – who face greatest crisis - are those whose funding is so thinly stretched they cannot pay more than minimum wage. Some people actually have less money this year than last.

Please ensure that Ministry staff provide additional SSAH and Passport funding so people can pay workers their previous base rate plus \$3 for every hour they work between July 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023 and throughout future fiscal years. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Alison Ouellette and Susann Palmiere, Co-Chairs
People for Personalized Funding

Cc:

Monique Taylor - Critic; Children, Community and Social Services

Bhutila Karpoche - Critic; Early Childhood Development

Lisa Gretzky - Critic; Mental Health and Addiction

Lise Vaugois - Critic; Seniors, Persons living with Disabilities and Accessibility

John Fraser - Critic; Children, Community and Social Services

Mary-Margaret McMahon - Critic, Seniors and Accessibility

Family Alliance Ontario

Ontario Independent Facilitation Network

Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario

Community Living Ontario

The Provincial Network on Developmental Services

Laura Summers, Director Community and Developmental Services Policy Branch

Jody Hendry, Director Developmental and Supportive Services Branch

Patrick Laughton, Manager Developmental Services Reform Unit