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**Formerly Special Services at Home Passport Provincial Coalition (SSAHPC)**

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**For Discussion - Dec 2 /2025 meeting**

To:

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November 27, 2025

Dear Nicole et al:

Thank you for arranging a meeting with us on December 2<sup>nd</sup> to discuss ways to strengthen the implementation and policy importance of Ontario's Passport Program.

Passport has the potential to fulfill the values of Ontario's Journey to Belonging whereby:

"People with developmental disabilities are supported by their communities, support networks, and government to belong and live inclusive lives. People are empowered to make choices and live as independently as possible through supports that are person-directed, equitable and sustainable."

However, we are concerned that Passport does not currently align with that vision and is not achieving the better outcomes we all want because:

1. To support their inclusion, people need support workers. However, they cannot hire them for so few hours a week at low pay. Allocations and purchasing power have eroded substantially as minimum wages rose. According to 2023-2024 data 45% of recipients receive \$5,500 per year, roughly equivalent to 5.8 hours of support per week at \$18 per hour. 55% of Passport recipients receive an average of \$11,558 per year or 12 hours per week, although to receive competent support most recipients pay more than \$18 per hour, further reducing the number of support hours.
2. In 2023-2024 half of total eligible claimants or 30,567 people were waitlisted for their total allocation or additional needed funding. Thousands have been waiting for years as the waitlist continues to grow. In fact, the number of people waiting for their full allocation has grown by 105% since 2019.
3. Housing Navigators assist families with planning but there remains insufficient funding to provide support to live in the housing options planned.

With inadequate Passport, aging sons and daughters of aging parents are joining the rapidly growing waitlists for more costly segregated residential services. Ultimately, thousands of Ontario citizens with developmental disabilities remain isolated at risk of abuse and homelessness.

In our September 12, 2025 letter to Minister Parsa, we made the following recommendations:

1. Publish current performance data: caseloads, waitlists, average allocations, and actual realized hours of support, with quarterly updates.
2. Restore purchasing power: adjust per-person allocations to reflect wage and inflation trends and index to appropriate daily costs.
3. Reduce waitlists: target investments to move people from insufficient to adequate funding levels tied to assessed need.
4. Align investments with the stated program goals: ensure funding decisions demonstrably prioritize supports that help people live at home and in their communities.
5. Clarify timelines: provide a time-bound plan with milestones for implementing SIPDDA and the Journey to Belonging vision, including housing supports after caregiver death.
6. Strengthen accountability: produce annual public reporting that links funding inputs (hours of support, continuity of care) to outcomes (participation, stability of living arrangements).
7. Improve data collection and analysis: enhance data collection to determine actual need, noting that people are often on multiple waitlists.

We look forward to a productive discussion on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and to collaborating on practical steps to ensure that Passport delivers equitable, person-directed, and sustainable supports.

Sincerely,

Susann Palmiere and Marilyn Dolmage, People for Personalized Funding