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

1270 Walker Rd, Unit 2  
Windsor, ON  
N8Y 4T4  
pfpfontario@gmail.com

Nicole Norton, Acting Director, Developmental and Supportive Services Branch:  
[Nicole.Norton@ontario.ca](mailto:Nicole.Norton@ontario.ca)

Erin Sheard, Manager, Policy Development Unit: [erin.sheard@ontario.ca](mailto:erin.sheard@ontario.ca)

Ahad Syed, Acting Manager, Policy and Program Unit: [Ahad.Syed@ontario.ca](mailto:Ahad.Syed@ontario.ca)

Felicetta Battison, Acting Senior Program Advisor: [felicetta.battiston@ontario.ca](mailto:felicetta.battiston@ontario.ca)

Michael Cornelius, Project Coordinator, Implementation Unit: [Michael.Cornelius@ontario.ca](mailto:Michael.Cornelius@ontario.ca)

Diana Li, Senior Lead, Implementation: [Diana.Li@ontario.ca](mailto:Diana.Li@ontario.ca)

Nivedita Ravi: [nivedita.ravi@ontario.ca](mailto:nivedita.ravi@ontario.ca)

*December 17, 2025*

Dear Nicole et al:

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

By "personalized funding" we mean government funding that is both individualized and direct, distinct from the Ministry plans for "individualized budgets" and a "levels-based approach", as outlined in the Ministry's June 2025 Journey to Belonging update. Personalized Funding can immediately enhance the lives of thousands of otherwise underserved people even before broader system reorganization.

Passport funding is most effective when it is used to hire support workers who promote community participation and connections, while simultaneously supporting families and building skills. As you noted, demand for Passport is rising, because it makes a positive difference for

individuals, their families, their workers and their communities. However, limited resources erode purchasing power, make it harder to find and retain workers and constrains relationship-building and inclusion, undermining the outcomes we all want.

We heard your questions and recognize that you may hear mostly about people in crisis. To become eligible for more than minimal Passport funding, families must often request respite dollars, requiring them to focus on vulnerabilities and describe their sons and daughters as burdens. We believe Ontarians, including Ministry policy and implementation staff, would benefit from hearing and sharing more examples of families making proactive and effective use of adequate Passport funding. People with developmental disabilities are safer when they are not segregated in residential and other services and when their families are supported to avoid crises and find workers, roles that DSO and Passport Agencies are well positioned to support. Oversight is also stronger when people use Passport funds to participate actively and regularly in their communities. Because this works best when it starts in childhood, we'd welcome further discussion about policy and practices concerning both Special Services at Home and Passport.

So that we may better assist families, please provide the following information:

- The amount of funding allocated to the Passport Program from the Developmental Services Budget in 2024-2025 and 2025-2026.
- The total number of individuals who received Passport funding in 2024-2025.
- Of those people served in 2024-2025, the percentage of individuals who received Passport allocations of \$5500.
- Total Passport expenditures in 2024-2025.
- The total number of youth transitioning from children to adult services, who were deemed eligible for Passport funding in 2024-2025.
- The total number of new applications for Passport in 2024-2025.
- The total number of Passport recipients currently on the Service Registry.

Thank you again for your time and partnership. We look forward to continuing this conversation and working together to strengthen implementation and policy that advances belonging, inclusion and good lives for Ontarians with developmental disabilities.

Sincerely,

Susann Palmiere and Marilyn Dolmage,

People for Personalized Funding