



Housing Task Force set to go

It's nice to be able to draw on a wealth of talent.

More than 70 highly qualified people were nominated to serve on the new Housing Task Force for developmental services, making the selection process for filling the 18 positions available a difficult one.

The task force, chaired by Ron Pruessen, will:

- review proposals and make recommendations on innovative housing solutions for the adult developmental services system
- develop online resources to help people access information, collaborate and support each other in exploring and creating successful housing solutions, and
- develop a framework for capacity-building projects and recommend housing projects for potential government investment and evaluation.

Funding to help put these ideas into action will come from the provincial government's \$810 million investment strategy, approved in the 2014 Ontario Budget.



The task force will hold its first meeting in September.

Many thanks to everyone who submitted a nomination. We hope you will all share your innovative ideas with the task force.

If you have any questions about the task force please contact Allan Devlin at allan.devlin@ontario.ca or 416-325-1950.

Housing Task Force membership

Ron Pruessen (Chair) – Board Member, Opportunities Mississauga for 21+

Michael Barton – Policy Director, Hamilton-Halton Home Builders' Association

Greg Bechard – CEO, Elmira District Community Living

Karen Belyea – Executive Director, Total Communication Environment (Ottawa)

Hélène Crevier – Director of Adult Support Services, Association pour l'intégration sociale d'Ottawa

Domenic D'Amore – Director/Facilitator, Windsor-Essex Brokerage for Personal Supports

Sandra Datars Bere – Managing Director, Housing, Social Services and Dearness Home, City of London

Jo-Anne Demick – Executive Director, Community Living Parry Sound

Jim Dunn – Associate Professor, McMaster University (Hamilton)

Bonnie Heath – President, Scarborough Residential Alternatives

Lee Holling – Retired chief building official and former president of Community Living Ontario (Wallaceburg)

Ann Hysert – Consultant, ARH & Associates Inc. (Merrickville)

Lynda Kahn – Director of Development, Inclusion Press (Toronto)

Marge McCabe – Parent; registered nurse (London)

Allan Mills – Vice President of Operations, Christian Horizons (Kitchener)

Leslie O'Reilly – Social Housing Consultant, City of Toronto

John Policicchio – Executive Director, Community Living Algoma (Sault Ste. Marie)

David Reid – Mayor, Town of Arnprior

Elizabeth Sahl – President, People First Brockville

Update on Huronia Regional Centre site access

New dates scheduled for site access

Former residents of the Huronia Regional Centre (HRC) along with their family members, friends and support workers, have accessed the former HRC grounds as part of the recent settlement agreement on eight separate days over the course of the spring and summer. Recently, an additional two days (August 24 and 25, 2014) allowed some 400 individuals, former residents and the general public, to access the site.

Another site access day is scheduled for **September 22, 2014** for professionals who work in the developmental services sector in Ontario. For more information, including preregistration information, visit ontario.ca/bqkh.



New fund invites innovative ideas in developmental services

Addressing the significant issues facing families and the developmental services sector is not merely about more funding. We must also improve the system through better collaboration and partnerships.

The Ontario government will soon be launching a new three-year program, the Developmental Services **Employment and Modernization Fund**.

The Employment and Modernization Fund has twin goals:

- promoting meaningful employment in the community as the preferred outcome for adults with developmental disabilities, and
- supporting service innovation and collaboration to build responsive, sustainable person-centred services.

For individuals, this will help develop more responsive employment and other supports. For agencies, the challenge is to look at the services they now offer and how their organizations are structured with a view to helping more people find employment in the community while building more innovative and efficient ways of delivering services for people with developmental disabilities.

Guidelines and the application form for the first phase of the fund will soon be available, so we encourage interested developmental services agencies to start mapping out project proposals now. Applicants may submit proposals for

one-time projects, single-year funding or multi-year funding. While the lead applicant for each project must be a ministry-funded developmental services agency, a range of partners can be involved such as family groups, self-advocate groups, non-profit organizations, school boards, business associations and employers.

Once the application package is released, proposals will be accepted at your [MCSS regional office](#) until **October 24, 2014**. We will provide more details in September's Spotlight, and via our social media channels: twitter.com/ONSocialService and facebook.com/OntarioSocialServices.

Watch our latest videos

Ontario's Host Family program brings adults with developmental disabilities together with some wonderful Ontarians in their community. We were recently lucky to work with **Community Living Burlington** to bring you the stories of three individuals and their host families.

Opening doors to community

Ashley Higgins was looking for someone to support her and care for her the way she wanted. She found the right family through Community Living Burlington's Host Family program.

Linda Stewart, Ashley's Host Family provider, says Ashley used to be shy and quiet, and became a lot more outgoing since she started living with Linda's family.

When Linda Matthews opened her home to Steven Fye-Mitchell and Tyler Schieren, she saw them develop a common bond right away.

"We do a lot of stuff together," says Steven. "We like to laugh a lot."

Linda has seen both young men grow more independent. "They have far-reaching friends now. Their world is getting bigger and they're doing that now on their own," she says.

Steven and Tyler are not the only ones benefiting from being in a host family.

"It's probably been, besides having my son, the very best thing that's ever happened in my life," says Linda.

Watch [Ashley's Story](#) and [Steven and Tyler's Story](#) and see how the host family program helps them and promotes community inclusion.



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Community Supports Policy Branch

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