



Citizens With Disabilities – Ontario

www.cwdo.org

“Together We Are Stronger”

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February 17, 2014

Ms. Deb Matthews,
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
M-1B114, Macdonald Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1N3

Dear Minister Matthews:

Citizens With Disabilities – Ontario (CWDO) is dedicated to the full participation of all persons in the social, economic and political life of their communities. We actively support and promote the rights, freedoms and responsibilities of individuals to determine their own destinies. Our key areas of activities are community development, social action, social development, referral, and member services.

CWDO’s primary activity is to advocate on behalf of persons with disabilities and promote their personal participation in changing social and physical barriers that allow for full participation in the mainstream of society. Our 2000 members reside in almost every electoral district across Ontario.

We would like to congratulate you and the government on your recent decision to expand Direct Funding for attendant support services in Ontario. We applaud the government under your leadership to make such a commitment to persons with disabilities. We further believe this decision will allow more persons with disabilities to live independently and contribute to their local communities within Ontario.

We do however have concerns regarding the lack of consultation with respect to the merger of attendant support service providers that provide attendant support services to people with disabilities in Ontario.

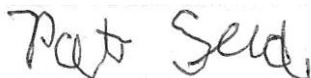
Citizens with Disabilities – Ontario strongly believes that people with disabilities must have an active voice in how attendant support services are provided to them. We hope to see more consultation regarding these important issues in the future. People with disabilities want and deserve to have the ability to participate in these discussions because it impacts all individuals who use attendant support services directly.

Citizens with Disabilities – Ontario has developed draft legislation entitled the Consumer Attendant Support Services Protection Act. Together with other disability organizations we have tried repeatedly over the last six years to have discussions with Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care officials about the need for this legislation and its importance to ensure that individuals who use attendant support services in Ontario have a voice in how these critical services are provided to them as citizens.

We would very much appreciate the opportunity to speak with yourself or another representative within the ministry who could seriously consider our legislative proposal. We have attached our proposed draft legislation along with other documents for your review and consideration.

We look forward to hearing from you,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat Seed". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Pat Seed
Chair, Citizens with Disabilities Ontario

Attachments