

## **The Issue**

### Need for Additional Community Supports

## **The Facts**

Waiting lists for supports and services for people who have an intellectual disability need to live in their community are at an all time high and must be addressed despite economic pressures. Failure to do so will continue to result in more and more individuals and families slipping into crisis situations and will ultimately result in far greater cost to society as we work to address the crisis created.

Parents who have kept their son or daughter at home are now facing critical issues in caring for their children as they and their children age. The sudden death of a parent is a reality that often puts a family and the son or daughter who has an intellectual disability into crisis. This is a significant issue in all areas of the province and requires a provincial solution.

## **Did You Know?**

- Waiting lists for residential supports have risen to 12,000 people in a sector that currently provides residential support to 16,000 people.
- Since 2008, the waiting list for the Special Services at Home (SSAH) program grew from zero to more than 7,000 people.
- Waiting lists for the Passport program have risen to 4,000 people in a program that at present supports just 2,700 people.
- In a random sampling of ridings across Ontario, over 1,450 parents over the age of 70 are still providing primary care to their adult son or daughter.
  - 3% of parents are over the age of 90
  - 17% of parents are over 80 and
  - 80% of parents are over 70
- Agencies that provide supports to these individuals and families are under tremendous stress as they attempt to respond to changing policies and regulations, increasing demands for support and continuing constraint of financial resources.

## **The Solution**

- Despite the current economic climate, a significant infusion of new funds is needed to create new supports and services to assist people who have an intellectual disability to live in the community.
- The government must avoid attempting to provide significantly more supports and services without an infusion of new funding – the result would be a serious erosion of the quality of supports provided.
- Significant attention must be paid to stabilizing and appropriately funding existing support agencies in order to avoid a serious degrading in the quality and scope of supports and services available across the province.