

THE ADVOCATE



Government Affairs Advisory

A Publication of March of Dimes Canada

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NEW ONTARIO PHOTO ID CARD LAUNCHED

A key document for many people with disabilities

On June 9th, March of Dimes representatives from Government Relations (Janet Macmaster and Steven Christianson) as well as Corporate Resources (Julie Wood) attended the launch of Ontario’s new Photo ID card with Transportation Minister, Kathleen Wynne, at CNIB. Plenty of media and many organizations and sectors were present. This new piece of government-issued ID fills the gap for those Ontarians who do not have a drivers licence – which is the most commonly accepted piece of ID. The new card will be available, at first, in 21 ServiceOntario Centres throughout the Province and will be administered by the Ministry of Transportation. Many in our sector have been working on this initiative for the past 3 years, and we are delighted to see that we’ll start seeing the new card this summer.



Transportation Minister Kathleen Wynne poses for a photo inside the new Photo ID card, available at 21 selected ServiceOntario sites on July 25.

This landmark occasion means that 1.5 million people in the province, aged 16 and over, will have access to travel, be able to open bank accounts and take part in daily life activities that require official ID. Many people with disabilities who don't drive have been hoping for this advancement for quite a while. It will make lives easier.

The cost of the card will be \$35 and by the end of this July, applications can be made at 21 selected ServiceOntario Centres. In 2012, applications can be made at all 300 locations across Ontario. Eight Canadian provinces have already provided a government-issued photo ID card. The photo card, while not a driver's licence, will carry the same security features to help in preventing fraud and identity theft. Ontarians with disabilities, seniors and other advocacy groups provided input on the design and availability of the card.

"It's always rewarding to see initiatives like this come



March of Dimes Vice President of Corporate Resources, Julie Wood, (left) speaks with Minister Wynne at the June 9th launch.

to life, especially when our organization has been a contributor to the process," remarked Julie Wood, Vice President of Corporate Resources at March of Dimes.

AODA INTEGRATED STANDARDS - It's Now Law

Integrated Accessibility Regulation (IAR)



During the fall of 2010, the Ministry of Community and Social Services issued the first draft of the proposed Integrated

Accessibility Regulation for public review. Comments were considered and revisions to the Regulation were made. In February of 2011, a second proposed version was released for feedback. The final version with integrated public commentary and feedback was passed into law June 3rd. Specific requirements in the new Ontario Regulation will be phased in between 2012 and 2017.

Specifics

The proposed Integrated Accessibility Regulation (IAR) combines the information and communications, employment and transportation standards into a single, integrated regulation.

The proposed regulation will prescribe requirements in three key areas:

1. Accessibility requirements (in four main categories):

- General requirements that will apply to the entire IAR
- Accessibility requirements specific to information and communications
- Accessibility requirements specific to employment
- Accessibility requirements specific to transportation

2. Compliance enforcement initiatives, which outline the following:

- Administrative monetary penalties
- Designation of a tribunal to hear appeals under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005

3. Timelines for compliance (which run between 2011 and 2017).

Who Must Comply?

The class structure for compliance is unchanged from the February 2011 version:

- Government of Ontario and Legislative Assembly



- Large designated public sector organizations (50+ employees)
- Small designated public sector organizations (1–49 employees)
- Large organizations (50+ employees – non-government, non-public sector)
- Small organizations (1–49 employees, non-government, non-public sector)
- Small organizations (1–49 employees, non-government, non-public sector) will be exempt from certain requirements such as compliance reporting.
- How Does My Organization Comply?
- Requirements common to all three standards include policies and procedures, training and enforcement:
 - Policies and Procedures
 - Every obligated organization will be required to establish, maintain and implement policies governing the implementation of the accessibility standards (Information and Communications, Employment and Transportation). The policies will be required to include:
 - A description of how the organization will meet the requirements of the accessibility standards; and
 - A statement of commitment for meeting the needs of persons with disabilities in a timely manner.

Schedule:

Government of Ontario: Jan 1, 2012
Large Designated Public Sector: Jan 1, 2013
Small Designated Public Sector: Jan 1, 2014
Large Organizations: Jan 1, 2014 – March of Dimes!
Small Organizations: Jan 1, 2015

The Government of Ontario and every public organization will be required to establish and maintain policies on how the organization will consider the needs of persons with disabilities when procuring or acquiring goods, services and facilities. The government, all public organizations, and private and not-for profit organizations with 50+ employees will be required to prepare multi-year Accessibility

Plans, post the Plans on their websites, make available in accessible formats upon request, and review/update the Plans every five years. This requirement is a new addition to this version of the Regulation.

Government: Jan 1, 2012

Large Public: Jan 1, 2013

Small Public: Jan 1, 2014

Large: Jan 1, 2014 – March of Dimes!

Note: organizations are not required to have every format in stock, but rather have the means to provide “alternate” information as soon as possible.

Self-service Kiosks

Kiosk means an interactive electronic terminal for public use that offers services, products, or both.

All organizations will be required to incorporate accessibility features when designing, procuring or acquiring kiosks. Compliance will commence on a go-forward basis starting January 1, 2014 for Government and large organizations, and January 1, 2015 for small organizations.

Training

All employees, volunteers, persons who provide services on behalf of an organization and persons who participate in developing the policies, practices and procedures of an organization, will be required to be trained on the requirements of the accessibility standards and on the Human Rights Code as it pertains to persons with disabilities. Training must be provided on an ongoing basis and be appropriate to the duties of the employees, volunteers and other persons. All obligated organizations will be required to provide accessibility training on achieving an accessible workplace to employees.

Government: Jan 1, 2013

Large Public: Jan 1, 2014

Small Public: Jan 1, 2015

Large: Jan 1, 2015 – March of Dimes!

Small: Jan 1, 2016

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Enforcement

Two elements of the inspection and enforcement system will be regulated within the Compliance Assurance Framework under the Integrated Accessibility Regulation:

An Administrative Monetary Penalties scheme is being established under the AODA. The scheme will allow a director or a designate to issue an order against a person, organization or corporation to pay a penalty amount as a result of non-compliance with the AODA or the accessibility standards.

The largest penalty amount that can be issued to an individual or an organization that is not a corporation is \$50,000, and the maximum for a corporation is \$100,000. These penalties are substantially higher in this version of the Regulation.

Under Section 26 of the AODA, the ministry must designate a tribunal within a reasonable time after the first accessibility standard is in place. It was determined that the Licence Appeal Tribunal (LAT) will be designated as the tribunal to hear appeals of directors' orders under the AODA. The LAT is the most suitable existing tribunal for designation as it handles



Official Announcement Ceremony of new AODA Standards. Warren Rupnarain, (centre) Town of Markham Accessibility Coordinator, pictured with Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty (right) and Ministry of Community and Social Services, Madeleine Meilleur, at AODA announcement at Royal Ontario Museum. June 2011.

appeals related to businesses meeting prescribed standards or requirements under regulations and statutes.

FORD WANTS TO GET TOUGH ON HANDICAPPED PARKING VIOLATORS

Cynthia Vukets, Staff Reporter, Toronto Star

Reprinted from The Toronto Star, thestar.com, June 23, 2011 edition. See quote from March of Dimes Manager of Government Relations & Advocacy, Steven Christianson.

Mayor Rob Ford has blasted a city staff suggestion to reduce fines for drivers who park in handicapped spots, saying that fines should instead go up and violators towed.

"The fine should go up. If you park in a handicapped spot, the fine should be up as high as possible," said Ford. "If people park in handicapped spots, I'd even go farther and tow them away. Because it's so frustrating when you see people that are handicapped and there's some healthy person running into a doughnut shop or running in getting a coffee, and these people are waiting. It's not right. And I see it almost every day."

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Staff recommended dropping the fine for parking in a handicapped space to \$300 from \$450 to bring Toronto's fines in line with the rest of Ontario, said city spokesperson Justine Kintanar.

Steven Christianson of the March of Dimes expressed surprise at the recommendation, which is contained in a report that will go to the government management committee June 28.

"We've always advocated for an increase (in fines)," Christianson said. "If the city is looking for cash, these are the people you want to go after."

City staff said the reduction would "bring Toronto's fine structure more in line with other Ontario municipalities while continuing to act as a deterrent to parking illegally in disabled spaces."

The City of Toronto Act requires a minimum fine of \$300 for those parked in a handicapped spot. Councillor Pam McConnell said while a \$450 fine is a deterrent, \$300 may encourage drivers to "throw the dice" and chance taking a handicapped spot.

"It's really a matter of access," she said. "For people with disabilities this is their front door entrance to restaurants, to homes, to daycares, to all kinds of places where they would be unable to get to without this particular reserved parking."

Another of the report's recommendations would create a \$12.75 surcharge for drivers that go to court to fight parking tickets and are convicted. Councillor Paul Ainslie, the government management committee chair, said the move is an effort to discourage people who contest their tickets in the hopes that they will get a break or the officer won't show up.

"We have an issue with people clogging up our courts that we have to deal with," he said.

Last year, 11 per cent of the nearly 2.8 million parking tickets issued by the city went to trial.

But of some 300,000 people who contested their tickets, less than half actually showed up for their court date and only about 11,000 had their ticket dismissed (or 4 per cent of those that went to trial).

The prospect of a surcharge has caught the attention of car owners on Drayton Ave. The unlucky Danforth East residents were dinged with \$40 parking tickets last week because the city apparently changed the overnight parking rules without telling anyone.

Mike Doyle said he woke up on June 17 after moving his car to the other side of the street to find the trademark bright yellow ticket on his windshield. Drayton residents have been accustomed to parking two weeks of every month on one side of the street and two weeks on the other, but that is no longer how it works on their street. New parking signs went up Friday morning, after about 100 cars had been ticketed, he said.

"They could have knocked on the door or something," said Doyle. "There was no new sign on Thursday (June 16)."

He paid his fine because he doesn't like to have tickets hanging around that could affect his license, as he drives for a living. He wrote a letter to the city and hopes he'll get his \$40 back. But neighbour Glynis Ratcliffe said she plans to contest her ticket.

When asked if she'd mind paying the extra \$12.75 to have her day in court, Ratcliffe replied: "I'd be livid."

Reprinted from The Toronto Star, thestar.com, June 23, 2011 edition.

(N.B. The Treasurer and City Solicitor have been instructed by the Government Management Committee to recommend a more detailed range of options. This issue was deferred until September 15.)

LEGISLATING ACCESSIBILITY FICCDAT, Toronto, June 6, 2011



Living Longer Living Better

FICCDAT Delegates gathered to participate in Legislating Accessibility, an expert panel session on accessibility laws and

regulations chaired by Steven Christianson, March of Dimes' Manager of Government Relations and Advocacy. The panel traced the role of advocacy in the development of the AODA, outlined the facts and details of Ontario's accessibility regulations, described the AODA's impact on municipal governance, and discussed the consulting and partnership opportunities spawned by accessibility legislation and its regulations.

Expert panelists included Brenda Lewis, the Director of Standards, Policy and Coordination at the Accessibility

Directorate of Ontario, Warren Rupnarain, who is the Accessibility Coordinator for the Town of Markham, and Frances Jewett, Business Development Manager of Accessibility Advantage.

Legislating Accessibility was among several successful sessions featured in the Growing Older with a Disability Conference at FICCDAT.

A key recommendation from several participants at Legislating Accessibility focused on the need for universal design to be integrated into the development of built environment regulations, as well as the need for a certification system for accessibility consultants – particularly as AODA-type legislation spreads across Canada.

THE FEDERAL ELECTION IN MAY

What's happened so far

March of Dimes Canada had a strong interest in the federal election campaigns, especially in the area of Support for the Family Caregiver. Following are the election platforms of the three main parties as they applied to caregiving in Canada. As you can see



all three parties had something significant to say, indicating that caregiving is definitely on the radar in terms of future public policy.

The four points listed under the Conservative platform were passed in the 2011 Budget presented to the House of Commons on June 6th, a Budget with very few changes from the original March 22nd version. We will be watching closely to see how these improvements will progress in Parliament. The NDP and Liberals offered sweeping changes to caregiving if and when legislation is introduced, will the Official Opposition demand more needs to be done. March of Dimes believes that much more needs to be done. As the mission statement of the Canadian Caregiver Coalition calls for, we stand behind "A Canada that recognizes and respects the integral role of family caregivers in society."

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Conservatives

Supporting Families

The government proposes providing support to families and their families by:

- Introducing a new Family Caregiver Tax Credit, a 15% non-refundable credit on an amount of \$2,000 that will provide tax relief to caregiver of all types.
- Removing the limit on the amount of eligible expenses that caregivers can claim under Medical Expense Tax Credit for dependent relatives.
- Increasing flexibility to access RDSP for beneficiaries with shortened life expectancies.
- The government will support various programs and initiatives related to palliative and end-of-life care. The budget will provide one-time funding of \$3 million to help support the development of new community-integrated palliative care models.

NDP

- We will provide a more flexible and generous Employment Insurance Compassionate Care Benefit to permit family members to take up to six months leave from work to tend to relatives near the end of their lives, up from the current six weeks. We will introduce a new Caregiver Benefit, modeled after the Child Tax Benefit, to assist low and middle-income families in tackling the costs of everyday needs while caring for elderly or dependant family members. Eligible family members will include children, spouses, parents and other family members, and will be able to receive up to \$1,500 per year;
- We will provide an inter-generational Home Retrofit Program to help families retrofit their homes to accommodate senior family members. Establish a new designated federal home care transfer to guarantee a basic level of home care services to all Canadians wherever they live.
- Initiate a new designated federal long-term care transfer to begin addressing the shortage of quality care spaces across the country. We will introduce an Inter-generational Home Forgivable Loan Program, modeled on a Manitoba Government

initiative, to help up to 200,000 families a year retrofit their homes to create self-contained secondary residences for senior family members. Families will be eligible for a forgivable loan to cover 50 per cent of the costs of a renovation up to a maximum of \$35,000.

Liberals

- New Six-Month Family Care Employment Insurance Benefit. A Liberal government will replace the six-week compassionate care provision with a new six-month Family Care Employment Insurance Benefit. The new program will have more humane eligibility requirements for family caregivers, changing the nature of the required doctor's certificate. We will build more flexibility into the program by allowing the six months to be claimed in smaller blocks of time over a year-long period and allowing family members to share the six months to provide care. The new Family Care EI Benefit will cost \$250 million per year and will help an estimated 30,000 family caregivers. A Liberal government will not increase EI premiums to fund this measure.
- New Family Care Tax Benefit. Many family caregivers do not currently pay into EI and do not qualify for the existing EI compassionate care benefit. A Liberal government will introduce a new Family Care Tax Benefit to help lower and middle-income family caregivers, regardless of employment circumstances. The new benefit will provide individuals with a tax-free monthly payment worth up to \$1,350 per year. This new benefit will work just like the Canada Child Tax Benefit, and will be available to all family caregivers with family incomes under \$106,000 who produce a medical certificate affirming that their ill family member requires a significant amount of personal care and assistance with daily tasks. Families with sick children who meet the criteria will also qualify. The new Family Care Tax Benefit will help an estimated 600,000 family caregivers each year at an annual cost of \$750 million.



March of Dimes Board Member reports from the Elections Ontario Accessibility Advisory Committee

March of Dimes board member and Chair of Polio Canada, Elizabeth Lounsbury, who was recently appointed to the Elections Ontario Accessibility Advisory Committee, connected with our Government Relations & Advocacy Department recently to give an update of her experiences on the committee.

She says, “We have come so far in making elections accessible for the provincial election in October. One of the questions that was raised is how do we get the information out to people that need to know just how accessible it will be for people of all abilities. ... I am

truly enjoying working with the people from Elections Ontario. I believe the team is really committed to inclusively for all. I have learned so much.”

Government Relations & Advocacy is in the process of connecting with Elections Ontario to ensure that all information about election accessibility will be posted to the March of Dimes web site as soon as it is available. Look for links and connections in the near future. It appears the provincial government is really listening to people with disabilities.



Standing – left to right: Sheela Subramanian, Canadian Mental Health Association, Ontario; Greg Essensa, Chief Electoral Officer for Ontario; Miguel Aguayo, Toronto; Paul Howe, Tiny Township; Wayne Lord, Ottawa; Keith Moyer, Elliott Lake; John Rae, Alliance for Equality of Blind Canadians; Dorothy Macnaughton, Sault Ste. Marie; Loren Wells, Deputy Chief Electoral Officer for Ontario; Allan Angus, Ajax; Cathy McKibbin, Bob Rumball Centre for the Deaf; Norma Cochrane, Returning Officer, Algoma-Manitoulin.

Seated – left to right: William Upper, Returning Officer, Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry; Joanne Markey, Rygiel Supports for Community Living; Elizabeth Lounsbury, March of Dimes; Gail Campbell, Orangeville; Sheila Allard, Kingston Mike Johnson, Canadian Paraplegic Association; Margaret Murphy, Windsor



THE VALUE AND IMPORTANCE OF CAREGIVING TO ME

A personal perspective

By David Owen Ward

Caregiving by parents is the number one choice for children with a disability. However as they grow older their parents may have a harder time, due to a number of factors such as arthritis, osteoporosis etc. Similarly, adults with disabilities need just as much care-giving, if not more. The elderly population is growing in number, and they take up the highest percentage of these services.

As an adult I know firsthand how essential these services are in Canada. I still live with my parents. My mother still gets me up in the morning. She used to get me into bed at night as well, but it became hard to do both, so in 2003 my parents made inquiries and booked a homecare worker for night- time. In the future I will know exactly how beneficial these community services are because as soon as I earn enough money from the book I'm writing, (called "Scarab in the Fountain") about discrimination toward the physically disabled or 'differently-abled', I'll be moving out on my own hopefully with a soul-mate.

Homecare is a vitally important aspect of care-giving. Homecare allows a person with a physical disability to live at home rather than in an institution, which isn't conducive to either comfort or good mental health. The mental aspect is one of the most important dimensions in a disabled or 'Differently-abled' person's life because when you're in your own home it is a lot more familiar and comfortable.

I know for myself, as someone living with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and being wheelchair bound, care-giving in the home makes my life much more enjoyable and definitely heightens the quality of my life.

Needless to say, care-giving in the home is crucial and benefits not only the person with the disability, but parents and spouses as well.

The bottom line is: caregiving as a whole is both important and essential, not only for comfort, but for good mental health.



David Ward is a guest contributor to The Advocate newsletter.

*His blog and article may be found at:
www.davidowenward.com*

CANADIAN DISABILITY POLICY ALLIANCE CURA

By Robert Meynell, June 1-2, 2011

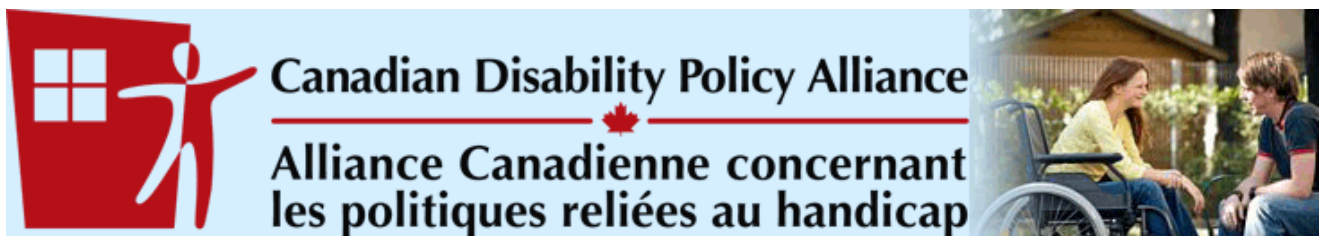
The Canadian Disability Policy Alliance CURA (Community University Research Alliance) held its semi-annual meeting this month in Toronto. The goal of this interdisciplinary team of academics, community-based organizations and policy makers is to undertake a series of collaborative research projects aimed at new directions for disability policy in Canada in four key areas: Citizenship, Education, Employment and Health Services.

As one of the founding members of the CDPA, March of Dimes was present and is proud of the progress that has been made as we approach the halfway marker of this five-year initiative. The meeting provided a great opportunity for the members to report on achievements, share their plans, consult with one another, and find new ways to coordinate our efforts. There has already been some invaluable research done by each of the teams and it is evident that the benefits of this work will have a significant and lasting impact on disability policy in Canada.

The most notable achievements to date have been in research and training. There has been some excellent work done on the accessibility of primary care, with recommendations submitted to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. Also, through scholarships and research projects, we have contributed to the training of several scholars in disability studies, tackling issues such as new veterans, immigration, and inclusive education.

This research will be the foundation for the policy recommendations that will be developed over the next two years, and it is expected that the young scholars being trained will lead the change in decades to come.

Robert Meynell, PhD. Robert is a Government Relations consultant and the author of *Canadian Idealism and the Philosophy of Freedom* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2011). <http://mqup.mcgill.ca/book.php?bookid=2530>





On the International scene

WHO WORLD REPORT ON DISABILITY



More than one billion worldwide face some form of disability

One billion is a staggering number when you think of world figures. Wikipedia estimates the global population to be 6.93 billion. That means that people with disabilities represent one-seventh, or about 15% of people worldwide. The power in those numbers calls for new awareness and significant change. However, as the World Health Organization (WHO) says in its new, first-ever report released June 9th, [what is needed is] “the elimination of barriers that often force the people with disabilities to ‘the margins of society.’”

WHO Director-General, Dr. Margaret Chan, states in the Preface to the report, “In the years ahead, disability will be an even greater concern because its prevalence is on the rise. This is due to aging populations and the higher risk of disability in older people as well as the global increase in chronic health conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer and mental health disorders.”

WHO disability specialist, Etienne Krug, stressed that the barriers to disability themselves are a cause of disability. “Disability results a lot from the barriers that society erects for people with disabilities,” he said, “barriers such as stigma and discrimination; such as lack of access to health services and rehabilitation services or problems of access to transportation and buildings and information services.”

“As a result, people with disabilities experience poorer health, lower educational achievements, fewer economic opportunities and higher rates of poverty than people without disabilities,” WHO said.

After describing the state of global disability, the report outlines nine recommendations:

1. Enable access to all mainstream systems and services.
2. Invest in specific programs and services for people with disabilities.

3. Adopt a national disability strategy and plan of action. (March of Dimes has been working on this for several years in Canada. See <http://www.marchofdimes.ca/EN/advocacy/current/Pages/AbilityPlanforCanada.aspx> for further details.)
4. Involve people with disabilities.
5. Improve human resource capacity.
6. Provide adequate funding and improve affordability
7. Increase public awareness and understanding.
8. Improve disability data collection
9. Strengthen and support research on disability.

Professor Stephen Hawking, world renowned theoretical physicist, expresses his feelings in the Foreword of the this ground-breaking report. “It is my hope that, beginning with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and now with the publication of the World Report on Disability, this century will mark a turning point for inclusion of people with disabilities in the lives of their societies.”

Now it is up to all societies to raise awareness and make the changes required to “create societies inclusive of people with disabilities.”

For full report and summary: http://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/2011/report/en/index.html

GLOBAL DISADVANTAGE

- 1 billion** disabled people worldwide
- 15%** of the global population (up from 10 per cent in 1970s).
- 44%** of disabled people in developed countries are employed (compared to 75% of people without disabilities).
- Disabled people are **three times** more likely than rest of population to be denied healthcare in developed countries.

Photo: Reuters



COORDINATION IS ESSENTIAL FOR A SUCCESSFUL AFFORDABLE HOUSING OUTCOME

March 24, 2011

This message was delivered by March of Dimes' Vice-President, Jerry Lucas, and Government Relations Manager, Steven Christianson, before the Standing Committee on Justice Policy at Queen's Park.



The 2015 PanAm-ParPan Games provides a prime example of the problem facing people with disabilities when it comes to affordable housing.

"The games have required all levels of government to work together and contribute to the development of new and upgraded facilities, including transit and housing. We were encouraged by the fact that the 2015 Games will leave a legacy of affordable housing on the site of the Athlete's Village. Unlike the Vancouver Olympics, where the use of the land post-games was not part of the initial planning, the committee overseeing the village construction has shown the foresight to plan for the needs of the community post-games and will shortly seek to qualify non-profit housing providers to take over 400 units of affordable housing, including 221 units which will be specially designed to house the disabled athletes of the ParaPan games.

Bill 140 might make the necessary administrative changes to the non-profit housing system in Ontario, but the changes really needed include a mandated coordination of service dollars with affordable and accessible housing units. Only then will the wait list for supportive housing be addressed."

"What is unique to our type of affordable housing," explains Vice-President Jerry Lucas, "is the need for a coordinated solution that provides affordable and accessible housing with support services. We won't address the wait list for our Non-Profit Housing Corporation until we have guaranteed Rent-Geared-to-Income and the service funding for attendant care."

This appearance before the legislative committee also represents the first time that the issues and concerns of the Ontario March of Dimes Non-Profit Housing Corporation were considered by Members of Provincial Parliament and entered into the Legislative Assembly permanent record of Committee Evidence.

Bill 140, Strong Communities through Affordable Housing Act, 2011, intends to address a long-term affordable housing strategy for Ontario, but falls short when it comes to including any plans or provision for new units in Ontario, new money towards increasing Ontario's affordable housing stock, rent supplements or service dollars.

Once the Games conclude, affordability is being planned at an average of 80% of average market rents (AMR), ranging from \$600 for a bachelor unit to \$1,000+ for a 3-bedroom unit.

This is an historic addition to the accessible and affordable housing stock in Toronto. The intensity of the development will also make the delivery of support services relatively economical, as they can be provided using a community hub model.

Yet, despite the \$1.4 billion dollars of investment in the Games, and the involvement on the Village development committee of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Infrastructure Ontario, the



Toronto Community Housing Corporation, Waterfront Toronto and the City of Toronto, no one can provide assurances that there will be Rent Geared to Income (RGI) and support services available to accommodate people with disabilities in the accessible units.

In fact, at a recent workshop, non-profit housing providers asked the committee if they would provide an allowance to the successful bidders to REMOVE the special accessibility features because no one believes that without RGI or attendant care, these units will serve the people for whom they were designed.

The example of the PanAm ParaPan Games affordable housing legacy epitomizes the coordination issue that is critical to supportive housing and our tenants. We ask the government to announce a guarantee of RGI and attendant care funding for 2015, to protect this legacy and to demonstrate its commitment to coordinated solutions. Bill 140, and the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy, should make the need for such a commitment unnecessary to ensure that all future planning that seeks to provide housing solutions for people with physical disabilities is done so with such a coordinated approach."

MESSAGE FROM FORMER CONSERVATIVE PRIME MINISTER HON. JOHN DIEFENBAKER

If Parliament is to be preserved as a living institution His Majesty's Loyal Opposition must fearlessly perform its functions.

When it properly discharges them the preservation of our freedom is assured. The reading of history proves that freedom always dies when criticism ends. It upholds and maintains the rights of minorities against majorities.

It must be vigilant against oppression and unjust invasions by the Cabinet of the rights of the people. It should supervise all expenditures and prevent over-expenditure by exposing to the light of public opinion wasteful expenditures or worse.

It finds fault; it suggests amendments; it asks questions and elicits information; it arouses, educates and molds public opinion by voice and vote. It must scrutinize every action by the government and in doing so prevents the short-cuts through democratic procedure that governments like to make.

Hon. John G. Diefenbaker,
"The Role of the Opposition in Parliament,"
Address to the Empire Club of Canada, Toronto,
27 October 1949.





Anniversary • Anniversaire
1951 - 2011

One Stop: Opportunities for Independence
Guichet unique : un monde de possibilités d'autonomie

Since 1951, March of Dimes has been on the forefront of the disability movement, dedicated to helping Canadians with disabilities lead more independent and empowered lives.

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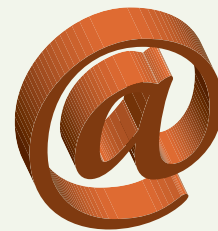
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Ontario Election 2011

**“A strategic investment in
attendant services can save dollars and
improve services and value for taxpayers,”**

*Lee Harding, Director,
Independent Living Services,
March of Dimes Canada*

Coming Soon



[www.marchofdimes.ca/
advocacy](http://www.marchofdimes.ca/advocacy)



JOIN US FOR THE 60TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MARCH OF DIMES SEPTEMBER 23RD, 2011

For details please contact Christine DeAngelis
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