



*Re: Unkind Cuts for the Disabled, May 6, 2010*

The Ontario Association of Residences Treating Youth (OARTY) knows first-hand the debilitating effects that funding cuts can have on children, youth and adults with developmental disabilities in Ontario, and on the organizations that treat and care for them.

OARTY understands that in the face of a \$20 billion deficit some modifications are necessary for the province to move forward on the initiatives they have undertaken in good faith. There can be no doubt that the work to transform systems for the most vulnerable in this province has truly begun. The creation of the Commission to Promote Sustainable Child Welfare, the Poverty Reduction Strategy and Bill 77 clearly demonstrate this direction.

The government needs to continue listening to the experiences of our sector, and to the fact that our agencies can reduce waiting lists by servicing these vulnerable individuals for less taxpayer dollars. We are convinced that our collective energy may best be harnessed through collaboration, constructive feedback and information sharing.

While there is much to be said about the challenges OARTY members face including a 20+ year absence of cost of living increases; a lack of funding mechanism to flow money directly to OARTY homes; and that transitioning adults from children's homes is seen as "systems pressures", these are issues for another day.

OARTY is a not-for-profit provincial association representing approximately 80 member agencies providing residential care and treatment for Ontario's most vulnerable and damaged children, youth and adults.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Solomon', written in a cursive style.

Richard Solomon, CAE  
Executive Director  
Ontario Association of Residences Treating Youth  
PH 905-475- KIDS (5437) [rsolomon@oarty.net](mailto:rsolomon@oarty.net)

*For commentary contact Terry Stevenson, OARTY President 613-968-8569 ext 204*