



September 29, 2016

Honourable Kathleen Wynne
Premier of Ontario
11th Floor, 77 Grenville Street
Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1B3

Dear Honourable Wynne,

Re: Ontario's Intensive Therapy Funding/Services for Children with Autism

Please be advised that Council passed the following resolution at their September 7, 2016 meeting:

WHEREAS Autism Spectrum Disorder is now recognized as the most common neurological disorder affecting 1 in every 94 children, as well as their friends, family and community; and

WHEREAS Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is the scientific process based on objective evaluation and empirically based interventions used to achieve meaningful, generalizable and enduring behavioral change. Intensive Behavioral Intervention (IBI) is an application of the principles of ABA in an intensive setting used to affect behaviour change and improvement; and

WHEREAS the current waiting of children for Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI) is over 2,000 and more than 13,000 children await Applied Behaviour Analysis; and

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has announced it intends to discontinue IBI services to children over the age of four and provide a one-time payment to assist with services, thereby abandoning thousands who have been wait-listed for years; and

WHEREAS there are two service models for affected children to be treated, 1) the Direct Service Offering (DSO) where children receive services directly from trained staff at Ontario's nine regional service providers, and 2) the Direct Funding Offering (DFO) where parents receive funding directly in order to purchase services; and

WHEREAS the DFO model to provide services is used in Alberta, British Columbia and imminently in Saskatchewan. Such a model is clinically rigorous and has been identified by the Auditor General of Ontario as being less expensive than Ontario's DSO model;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT a letter be sent to Hon. Tracey MacCharles, Minister of Children and Youth Services; Alexander Bezzina, Deputy Minister; Hon. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health; and Hon, Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, requesting the Province to:

1. Amend its policy to one that will allow all children on the current waiting list to receive the IBI services promised them; and
2. Remove the age limit for IBI therapy and replace it with a program that provides ongoing IBI services based on need and individual development, not age; and
3. Ensure oversight by professionals and parents based in 'development progress' criteria and milestones; and
4. Adopt a Direct Funding Offering (DFO) model in lieu of the current Direct Service Offering(DSO);

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all municipalities within the Province of Ontario.

Your consideration of Council's request is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michelle Mantifel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michelle Mantifel