



Trustee Times



Support & Trustee Advisory Services is delighted to announce receipt of funding from the Region of Peel to continue supporting families with a family member who has a disability. The 3 year funding opportunity will support STAS to develop a resource document about Circles of Support, prepare a tutorial to be added to the STAS website and have both the resource document and tutorial translated into several languages.

Thank you, Region of Peel for this honour. We salute your vision and look forward to reaching new heights in the years to come.



Visit the STAS website at www.mystas.ca to see all the STAS resources.

The year in review: an excerpt from the President's message at the 2011 Annual General Meeting for Support & Trustee Advisory Services, September 20, 2011

The mandate of Support & Trustee Advisory Services is to assist families in setting up workable trust funds on behalf of their sons and/or daughters who have a disability by:

- Providing current information on wills, trusts and government benefits, as well as offering public education to families;
- Providing names of appropriate professionals who can provide legal and financial advice on these matters;
- Informing financial and estate-planning professionals about the unique challenges facing individuals who have a disability and their families; and
- Encouraging individuals and families to develop networks of support.

During the past year we have:

- ✓ Hosted 2 parent sessions in Peel Region, free sessions where parents are invited to listen to a lawyer or financial planner speak about future planning and learn more about the services that Support & Trustee Advisory Services offers; professionals volunteered their time 82 families benefited from the information shared in these presentations
- ✓ Met with 65 families individually and answered 105 enquiries from agency staff and parents; Mississauga Staff Liaison met with parents to discuss the importance of future planning, share resources and information with them;
- ✓ Maintained 15 Trust agreements between Royal Trust, STAS and families; in these agreements, STAS acts as the conduit between the beneficiary and Royal Trust who is designated as the Trustee;
- ✓ Distributed 195 copies of the "Parent Planning Guide"; a free resource to assist families with planning for the future. This workbook offers families pertinent information on such topics such as wills and estates, day options and living arrangements. It is easy to read and contains work sheets that parents can photocopy so that they can update the information as they need to. STAS liaisons will assist parents to complete the workbook if they wish.
- ✓ Mississauga hosted 10 "Planning for your Child's Future" sessions; these two hour workshops are offered free of charge to families to provide them with information

about planning for the future and distributing copies of the “Parent Planning Guide”; a total of 90 families took advantage of these small group sessions.

✓Expanded and updated the Support & Trustee Advisory Services website to enable parents to upload the STAS “Parent Planning Guide” and view other helpful resources. In our ongoing effort to reach out to families of various cultures we added video tutorials in FRENCH, POLISH, SPANISH, SIMPLIFIED CHINESE AND PUNJABI so that parents can listen to the tutorials in their own language and then be able to refer to a translated version of the STAS workbook.

✓Received a 3 year grant from the Region of Peel in the amount of \$15,000.00 per year to assist STAS in preparing a resource document and video tutorial about Circles of Support in English and translating the document and video tutorial into FRENCH, POLISH, SPANISH, SIMPLIFIED CHINESE AND PUNJABI so that parents can listen to the tutorials in their own language and then be able to refer to a translated version of the STAS workbook.

TRUE STORY:

*ALL names have been changed

Ms. Smith is in her 40’s but she has been diagnosed with terminal cancer. Ms. Smith is a single mother who does not have any family members who are willing to support her son Sam, who has a developmental disability. Ms. Smith is worried. She is scared. She knows she must make plans for her son and that if she does, then some of her stress and fear for her son’s future will be alleviated. She decides to seek the advice of her lawyer so she can plan for her son’s future. Ms. Smith then decides to speak with her good friends, Mr. and Mrs. Jackson, about becoming guardians for Sam as they have known Sam since he was a baby and have always been involved in his life. The Jacksons tell Ms. Smith that they would be honoured to be appointed guardians for Sam. They sit down with Ms. Smith and talk about what supports Sam needs now and in the future. Ms. Smith also ensures she has her will drafted and that a Henson Trust is in place. She wants Sam to live in the family home and does not want her other children to uproot Sam from the home. Once Ms. Smith has done all these things she feels a tremendous sense of relief knowing she has planned for Sam’s future security.*

Many families worry about what will happen to their son/daughter when they are no longer around to care for him/her. They worry, but don’t make plans. Families need to stop worrying and start making plans for all their children, especially for those who have a developmental disability.

If you have not already drafted your Will, you should do so today. Remember, your child who has a developmental disability is depending on you.

The following excerpt was taken from “Spotlight on Transformation”
bulletin, July 27, 2011

On July 4, 2011 Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) opened its doors in nine locations across the province to provide a new single window to developmental services and supports. Here is some more information about what services the DSO can now offer:

- provides information to individuals and families about community programs and resources
- confirms eligibility for services and supports
- determines service and support needs
- links people to services and supports, and
- will administer direct funding agreements in the future.

Questions and Answers about the new service:

Q. Why did we create Developmental Services Ontario?

A. In the past, people often had to visit different agencies and fill out multiple forms to get support. What’s more, some agencies assessed people differently from others. This meant some people got more support than others, even though they had similar needs. With Developmental Services Ontario, individuals and their families can contact just one place for services and supports. Everyone who is eligible for service will be assessed in a consistent way. It’s easy and it’s fair.

Q. Does this affect me?

A. The new Developmental Services Ontario offices mainly affect new applicants who are entering the adult developmental services system for the first time. Adults who, under the Developmental Services Act, currently receive service or who were found eligible and are waiting for service will not have to reapply or reconfirm their eligibility. They will maintain their current eligibility and be “grandparented” into the new system. Developmental Services Ontario will ensure that everyone receiving or waiting for service will be assessed within five years to confirm their service and support needs.

Q. How does this affect people waiting for and currently receiving service? Will I have to reapply?

A. Adults with a developmental disability who, under the Developmental Services Act, currently receive service or who were found eligible and are waiting for service will not have to reapply or reconfirm their eligibility. They will maintain their current eligibility and be “grandparented” into the new system. Developmental Services Ontario will ensure that everyone receiving or waiting for service will be assessed within five years using the new standard application package to confirm their service and support needs.

Q. What if I don't live in a city where there is a Developmental Services Ontario office? How do I contact Developmental Services Ontario?

A. No matter where you live, you can contact Developmental Services Ontario for assistance. You can call toll-free. And in the coming months, videoconferencing, mobile services and satellite offices will make accessing services and supports even easier.

Q. What happens when people call Developmental Services Ontario?

A. If people are looking for information Developmental Services Ontario staff will answer their questions. If they are looking for services and supports, Developmental Services Ontario will confirm they are eligible. Applicants will be required to provide documentation, including:

- a psychological assessment report that confirms they have a developmental disability
- proof of their age (such as a passport or birth certificate), and
- proof that they live in Ontario (such as a bank account statement, utility bill or rental agreement).

Q. How can I learn more?

A. You can visit Developmental Services Ontario online at www.dsontario.ca.

In Central West Region (which includes Peel and Halton) call 1-888-941-1121 for more information