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Aislinn Clancy, MPP
Kitchener Centre

January 18, 2025

The Hon. Michael Parsa
Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services
7th Flr, 438 University Ave
Toronto, Ontario
M5G 2K8

Dear Minister Parsa,

I am writing to express my concern about the continuous funding shortfalls affecting supportive housing and day programs for individuals with developmental disabilities in Ontario. The January 14, 2025 news release from Community Living highlights a stark reality that cannot be ignored: over 52,000 people are currently on waiting lists for essential supports and services.

Since 1993, Ontario has increased core funding to support agencies by less than 7%, while the cost of living has risen by more than 60%. This disparity has created an unsustainable system, leaving many individuals and families without the resources they need to thrive.

More than 250,000 Ontarians live with developmental disabilities, and over 70% of them live in poverty. These individuals face years-long waits for supports that are lifelines, enabling them to live, work, and participate in their communities.

Supportive housing and day programs are not luxuries, they provide critical assistance, from teaching life skills and managing medications to finding housing, employment, and community activities.

While the province's Journey to Belonging: Choice and Inclusion initiative offers a vision of empowerment and inclusion for people with developmental disabilities. However, as Community Living Ontario CEO Chris Beesley aptly pointed out: "You can create a vision and be aspirational, but unless you put the resources behind it, it's meaningless."

As an MPP and former social worker, I urge you to allocate immediate and significant funding to address these challenges. Increased investment in supportive housing and day programs is essential to

reducing waiting lists, alleviating strain on emergency services, and fostering inclusive communities where every Ontarian can belong.

I look forward to seeing your commitment to this. Thank you for your due attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aislinn Clancy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Aislinn Clancy
MPP for Kitchener Centre

Cc: Community Living Ontario
KW AccessAbility
KidsAbility
Parents for Community Living
Independent Living Waterloo Region