

# Images

SPRING EDITION  
**2014**



Ontario

## Ontario's Apology to Former Residents of Regional Centres for People with Developmental Disabilities

Mr. Speaker,

One of a government's foremost responsibilities is to care for its people, to make sure they are protected and safe. And therein lies a basic trust between the state and the people. It is on that foundation of trust that everything else is built: our sense of self, our sense of community, our sense of purpose. And when that trust is broken with any one of us, we all lose something - we are all diminished.

I stand to address a matter of trust before this house and my assembled colleagues, but I am truly speaking to a group of people who have joined us this afternoon and to the many others who could not make it here today.

I am humbled to welcome to the legislature today former residents of the Huronia Regional Centre and Rideau Regional Centre in Smiths Falls and to also address former residents of the Southwestern Regional Centre near Chatham, along with all their families and supporters. I want to honour them for their determination and their courage and to thank them for being here to bear witness to this occasion.

Continued

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# ONTARIO'S APOLOGY CONTINUED

Today, Mr. Speaker, we take responsibility for the suffering of these people and their families. I offer an apology to the men, women and children of Ontario who were failed by a model of institutional care for people with developmental disabilities. We must look in the eyes of those who have been affected, and those they leave behind, and say: "We are sorry." As Premier, and on behalf of all the people of Ontario, I am sorry for your pain, for your losses, and for the impact that these experiences must have had on your faith in this province, and in your government. I am sorry for what you and your loved ones experienced, and for the pain you carry to this day.

In the case of Huronia, some residents suffered neglect and abuse within the very system that was meant to provide them care. We broke faith with them – with you – and by doing so, we diminished ourselves. Over a period of generations, and under various governments, too many of these men, women, children and their families were deeply harmed and continue to bear the scars and the consequences of this time. Their humanity was undermined; they were separated from their families and robbed of their potential, their comfort, safety and their dignity.

At Huronia, some of these residents were forcibly restrained, left in unbearable seclusion, exploited for their labour and crowded into unsanitary dormitories. While the model of care carried out by this institution is now acknowledged to have been deeply flawed, there were also cases of unchecked physical and emotional abuse by some staff and residents.

Huronia was closed in 2009 when Ontario closed the doors to its last remaining provincial institutions for people with developmental disabilities.

Today, Mr. Speaker, we no longer see people with developmental disabilities as something "other." They are boys and girls, men and women, with hopes and dreams like all of us. In Ontario, all individuals deserve our support, our respect and our care. We must look out for one another, take care of one another, challenge ourselves to be led by our sense of moral purpose before all else. Today, we strive to support people with developmental disabilities so they can live as independently as possible and be more fully included in all aspects of their community.

As a society, we seek to learn from the mistakes of the past. And that process continues. I know, Mr. Speaker, that we have more work to do. And so we will protect the memory of all those who have suffered, help tell their stories and ensure that the lessons of this time are not lost.

**Delivered by Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne**



On Monday, December 9, 2013, Valerie Douglass attended Queen's Park for the formal apology to former residents of the Huronia institution. We were ushered around quite a bit and by the time we found the right spot, the seats were full. It worked out great though, because there was an extra viewing room where Valerie got to see the plaque that's going to be displayed at Huronia. She also met one of the directors from the Ministry of Community and Social Services who thanked her for coming.

# SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT UPDATE



**William Samwell** entered the ODSP Employment Supports Program in July 2013. William worked really hard with SEP staff to expand on his employability skills so he was ready for the job market! In October, William was hired on part-time at Papa John's Pizza in Brantford. William was very happy and appreciative for this exciting opportunity and eager to start employment! He is learning new job tasks each week and is expanding on his knowledge and skills, at a rapid rate. William is now making pizzas and other side dishes, restocking ingredients in the store and putting together boxes. William transitioned so well into his position and is officially part of the team at Papa John's. He is excited to continue building upon his current pizza making skills and continue with their Pizza education courses, hoping to one day become a master in their educational program!



**Eric Wright** entered the ODSP Employment Supports Program in July 2013. He has been working with the SEP program to identify his employment goals, in hopes of entering the job market! Eric is passionate about working in the food industry and is taking steps to achieve this goal. One of these steps is obtaining his food handlers certification. Eric recently participated in the Food Safety Course offered by the Brant County Health Unit. He completed the three week course and received a mark on the test well above the passing level! He is now fully certified in food safety training. In addition to achieving this goal, Eric has also received his WHMIS certification, and is currently involved in Supported Employment's Employment Workshop.



**Jennifer Cunningham** knows how hard it is to find a job. After leaving her job at the Best Western as a dishwasher several years ago, Jennifer has always wanted to return to the work force to earn some extra money and put her extensive experience to good use. She has tirelessly handed out dozens of resumes all over Brantford in her search for a new job. After working for a short time at a couple of local restaurants and doing a short stint with a local temporary job agency, Jennifer was hired as a dishwasher at the newly opened Wacky Wings in Brantford. Jennifer has worked at Wacky Wings now for a few months and is enjoying the work and is making new friends. She is working lots of hours, receiving tips and is delighted to now have some extra money. She is planning on going on a short vacation in June with her common-law husband, Jerry, with part of her earnings. Congratulations Jennifer!!

# PERSONAL OUTCOMES SUCCESS STORIES



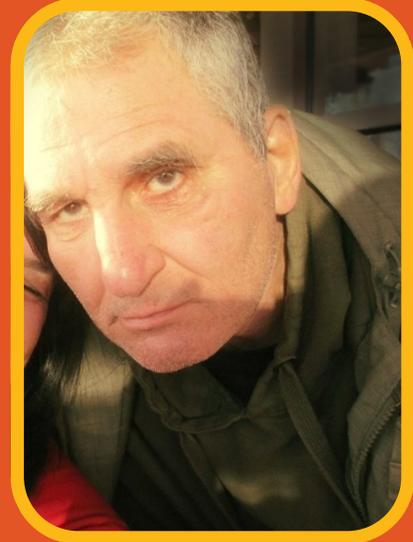
## Daryl's Trip To Florida

Many years to happen...but well worth the wait!!!

February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014, was a day of many firsts for me! My first limo ride, my first airplane flight and my first time to Florida. I travelled to Bristol Springs and enjoyed a VERY, VERY busy stay with my Dad and his new wife, Carmen. We watched the sunset at a Birthday Beach Party for Carmen's friend on our first day there. I was pretty happy to climb into bed and snuggle under my comforter that night after getting up at 5:00 a.m. for our trip to the airport. On the following days, we went to the Corkscrew Swamp, the Naples Zoo, the Manatee Park, the local Flea Market, Church (and I loved it - they had a band!), as well as shopping at the Outlet Mall, making good use of the complex pool and the brand new hot tub that Dad and Carmen had delivered just days before we arrived!

We dined out on Mexican and on Greek, but my favorite was Carmen's chocolate cake. I gained over 6 pounds but isn't that what vacation is all about! Our final day was spent at Myer's Beach and we watched the sunset to finish our week off the same way it started.

Our time went incredibly fast and my friendship with Carmen is deeply rooted already! MANY, MANY pictures were taken and I returned home with an album to share with everyone. My Dad has asked that I come back every year now!!! ~Daryl Fletcher



## Mickel's Family Reunion

Mickel wanted to find his family for a long time. Staff helped him with his search over the years. He hired a professional investigator to help him as he was having a difficult time finding anything out. She found some leads for him to follow and gave him some ideas about how to search.

Last summer, Mickel found out his parents were deceased. He found their graves and went to visit them. He also found out he had 2 step-sisters. He sent them both letters and got a reply from one of them! She was happy to hear from him. Mickel shares some common interests with his step-sister. They have met several times now and enjoy going to Hockey games together. Mickel looks forward to their future time together and the possibility of meeting more family members.

# PERSONAL OUTCOMES SUCCESS STORIES



My name is Diane Richardson. I have profound hearing loss that is going to continue to get worse as I age. I've always been scared about losing my hearing and not being able to be independent anymore. My Supported Living Worker, Michelle Job, suggested we look into getting a Hearing Aid dog to assist me in my daily life. We completed the paperwork and in November 2013 I was matched with Turbo, a miniature poodle. I went to the Lions Foundation of Canada in Oakville to complete a two week training session. I was very homesick but knew it was worth it to get my dog Turbo. It was a very intense training session as I had a lot to learn and Turbo and I needed to bond and learn to work together as a team. We have been together ever since. He comes everywhere with me. His job is to alert me to various sounds, like a fire alarm, telephone ringing, alarm clock, door knock and if someone is calling my name. He also alerts me if someone is walking behind me. He has given me back my independence. I couldn't imagine not having him in my life now. So when you see us out in the community just remember Turbo is working and you can talk to us but you can't pet him no matter what Turbo tells you! ~Diane Richardson

"I have been attending Literacy for almost a year to increase my reading and writing skills.

I started out using a computer and reading short stories from a website and eventually I built up the confidence to move on to book work.

I was first introduced to the "Hutton House Adult Literacy Series" in June of 2014 and completed the 12 Lesson Course in March of 2014.

I am very proud of myself for this accomplishment and I received a certificate of completion." ~Jason Clements

*\*Hutton House creates literacy programs for adults with disabilities and have developed age appropriate reading materials. All the books and worksheets are based on true stories of people who attend the Hutton House Centre in London, Ontario.*



Karen has been working hard with her Avon business. She hosted an Avon Mother's Day Sale Open House on Sunday April 27<sup>th</sup> at her home. She has sales on her current stock and had some great Mother's Day gift ideas.

If you would like to receive a free Avon book or would like to order, please contact Karen at 519-756-0494 or via email at [karen.avon@gmail.com](mailto:karen.avon@gmail.com)

# PERSONAL OUTCOMES SUCCESS STORIES

## A Birthday to Remember!



Can you imagine waiting 60 years to be able to celebrate your first birthday with family members? On Sunday March 23, 2014, Wayne Harris did just that. The Lynnwood staff team planned a Surprise 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party for him. Among his guests were his new found family members who travelled from Wasaga Beach, Mississauga and Georgetown, to be able to surprise him with the celebration. Wayne was not only thrilled at the surprise but was ecstatic to see his brother, Jack and his wife, Helen, with their children and their spouses David, Caroline, Debbie and

great nieces Jennifer and Lyndsey. Also present was his newly found sister, Marilyn and Wayne's nephew, Richard. Wayne, with a permanent smile on his face, could be heard repeatedly saying, "This is my first birthday with family!" Wayne is looking forward to spending more time with his family as well as many more birthdays.

## Friends and Neighbours!

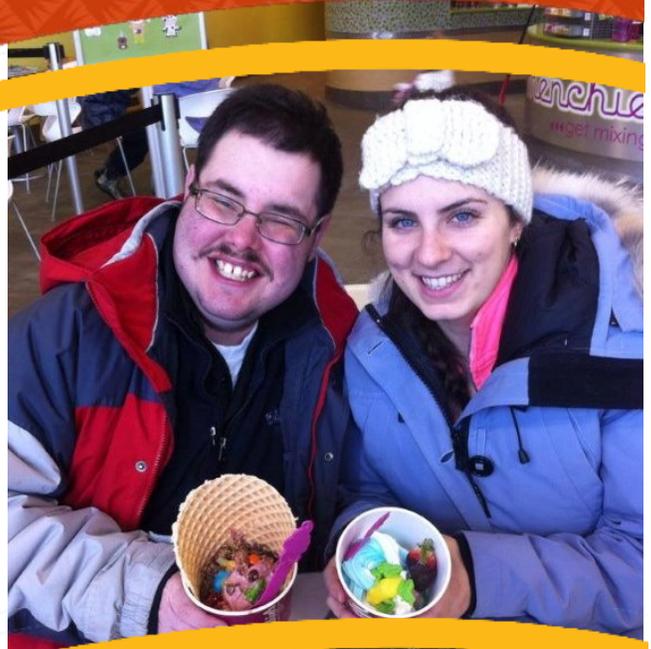
Thys has always wanted to feel a part of his community and neighbourhood. Thys grew up in a farming community where family and neighbours were an important part of his daily life, where daily interaction occurred with the neighbours, and Thys was seeking this out for himself. In the past, he would approach others who lived close to him, and yell out, in an attempt to initiate conversation and make friends. Since living in his current home, he has been friendly with the neighbours, and Thys' friendship with one neighbour has developed over the past two years into a friendship. Staff worked with Thys to find something in common with his neighbour. They helped him to understand what was meant by reciprocity - the give back concept. They found they shared love of gardening, and this has grown into summer projects together for the past two summers. Thys has regular contact with his neighbour, Tom. He remembered Tom on holidays and gave him a gift basket and a get well card when he was ill. Thys gave him vegetables out of his garden this past summer when Tom was ill and could not plant his own garden. Tom purchased plants for Thys to plant in his garden this past summer and assisted him to put them into Thys' garden. Tom will bring him over gifts from time to time. Tom was not able to come to Thys' Christmas open house this year, so Thys brought him some treats. Tom was so happy that Thys thought about him. They truly have developed a friendship.



# PERSONAL OUTCOMES SUCCESS STORIES

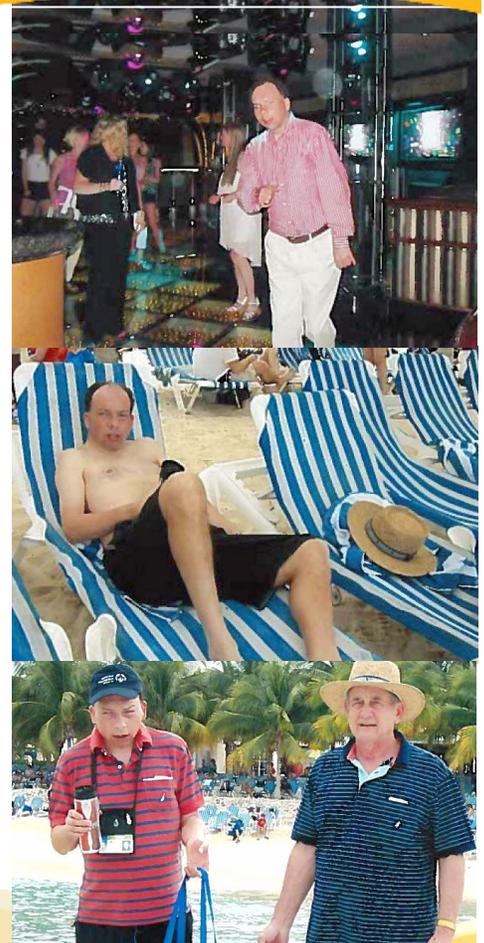
"Over the past 2 years my buddy and I have become really great friends! We've participated in numerous events with Best Buddies and on our own. Best Buddies has welcomed me into a group of people with such an amazing sense of community and friendship. Being a part of this group of people is a great experience and definitely worthwhile!" ~ Deandra

"The Best Buddies program is great! People should check it out. I enjoy going out and doing things with my Buddy Deandra . I especially like hanging out at her student residence. It is fun and everyone knows me." ~Mark



On March 19<sup>th</sup> my parents and I embarked on a 3 day road trip to Florida on our way to our 5 day cruise. We sailed the seas on the beautiful Ruby Princess, leaving from Port Everglades and sailing to Grand Turk, Turks and Caicos - Princess Cays, Bahamas, and then returning to Port Everglades, Florida. Since I celebrated my 44<sup>th</sup> birthday during our trip I was spoiled with cards from the cruise line, balloons and a special birthday cake! While I was on the ship I went on a Galley Tour where I learned all about how a kitchen on a cruise line works. They told me that 1,600 pounds of salad and 470 gallons of coffee are served every day! During the day I spent lots of time relaxing by the water, swimming, shopping and of course eating lots of good food. In the evenings I watched bands play and went to dance parties.

The last night we were on the ship there was a big party. They dropped hundreds of balloons like they do on New Year's Eve. It was very neat to see! I can't wait for my next trip! ~Adam Princz



# VOLUNTEER WORK



This year I volunteered with Friendship House where I helped teach students to cook. We taught them how to cook meals like spaghetti, garlic bread and apple crisp. We have also cooked soup, Kraft dinner, salads and chocolate dipped pretzels. After we are done cooking we share our meals as one big group. I have my own name tag when I go so

people know who I am. We are done for the summer now but I hope to continue volunteering in September when school starts up again. ~Angel Tokarz



Sherisse, Bethany and Wendy attended the Bowl For Kids Sake. They raised money for Big Brothers and Sisters of Brant on

April 11<sup>th</sup>. Their team was The CLB Dragon Slayers for the "Once Upon a Time" theme this year.



Sherisse wanted to work with children and make a difference in showing them another means of communication other than traditional words. She wanted to make a difference in people's lives. Her hope was to raise awareness about people with disabilities and show everyone that she really wasn't that different from them.

To do this, Sherisse connected with some local schools, first targeting the grade 2/3 students who would be eager to learn about sign language. Sherisse prepared a slideshow so she didn't have to have staff speak on her behalf to tell her story. Through a connection at a local elementary school, she began teaching a weekly sign language class that included bingo cards and lesson plans. The next year, she taught to older students who she had a lot of fun teaching!

For the past three years, Sherisse has had a fulfilling volunteer role teaching children sign language. She is very sought after and the teachers are constantly asking for more of her time. She is thrilled with her accomplishments to date and doing what she loves while making a difference in her community. She is a local celebrity and is greeted by the students she has taught when she meets them in the community.

# VOLUNTEER WORK



On Thursday April 3, 2014, at the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards ceremony, Chloe Zaluski received a pin for volunteering at the Brantford General Hospital for 25 years. Dave Levac, MPP for Brant, presented Chloe with her pin. Award recipients were treated to

hors d'oeuvres, cake and many warm wishes of congratulations. Congratulations Chloe – great job!!



Brian enjoyed volunteering for the Canadian Cancer Society's daffodil campaign. He greeted many members of the community with a smile, and offered them daffodil pins for their

generous donations.

With the support of Bonnie, Brian raised over \$300 for the Cancer Society.



My name is Alexander but everyone calls me Bud. I volunteer at the Friendship House once a week. I make lunches for school children while I'm there and I really enjoy it. I sometimes get finished early and will make cookies, muffins and lunches for other people in need. I like to help others out.

I was invited to a volunteer appreciation breakfast in thanks to all the volunteers who work at the Friendship House. I'm looking forward to going. ~Bud



"I deliver books through The County of Brant's Visiting Book Program twice a month. I really enjoy giving back to my community!"  
~Josh Wolfe

# CHRISTMAS UPDATES

## We did it AGAIN!

This was our third year of brightening Christmas for so many others.

Our neighbourhood was again very supportive in the Food Drive. We collected 338 pounds of food this year, surpassing last year's total and bringing our grand total to 768 pounds of food left on our neighbours' doorsteps for us to collect and take to the Christmas Basket Program.

Some of our neighbours have stopped by to thank us for doing this and to encourage us to keep up the good work we are doing.

We also ran our Toy Drive and collected items from agency staff and our families. The Spartan Team decided this year to take the money they would have spent on a cookie exchange and each bought a toy instead to support us.

We delivered lots of awesome gifts to Nova Vita for the children there at Christmas time.

We are very proud to give back to those in need in our community. Come the end of the year, we will be at it yet again and we are counting on your support again with our Toy Drive. We'll be in touch! ~Daryl Fletcher & Bud Barkley



The 2013 Community Living Brant Christmas Dinner and Dance was held on Thursday, December 5, 2013. This was the last major event celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the agency. 275 people experienced an awesome evening with Celtic music, a delicious turkey dinner and dancing. Not to mention fun, fun, fun!! Thanks to everyone who helped make this evening a great success!!



Robin and Santa



Stephen riding the Float. He waved to all of the families on the street, and was all smiles for the whole night.

# ONTARIO EARLY YEARS CENTRE: BRANT

## Ontario Early Years Centre: Brant

30 Bell Lane  
PO Box 25040  
Brantford, ON N3T 6K5  
[www.eycbrant.ca/oeyc.htm](http://www.eycbrant.ca/oeyc.htm)  
[oeycbrant@execulink.com](mailto:oeycbrant@execulink.com)



### OEYC: Brant Changes Ministries

The Ontario Early Years Centres, along with family resource programs throughout Ontario, are all funded by the Ministry of Education as of April 1<sup>st</sup>. Community Living Brant continues to be the operating agency for the OEYC: Brant.

### Kids Summer Celebration Day

The OEYC: Brant is happy to co-host the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Kids Summer Celebration Day at Mohawk Park on Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 2 pm.

There are service providers with information on their programs and free entertainment for the children including pony rides! Parents/Caregivers with children ages birth to 12 are encouraged to join us for this exciting event.

### CHANGE Conference

The OEYC: Brant extends a huge thank you to the children's choir of Braemar House in Brantford for opening this year's conference with a beautiful rendition of 'We are the World'. The 175 delegates were in awe of their talent and confidence. The 16<sup>th</sup> annual Child Care and Early Learning Conference was held on April 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> with over 160 delegates per day from throughout south central Ontario.



[www.eycbrant.ca](http://www.eycbrant.ca)

This community website is maintained by the OEYC: Brant and housing information on early years services and supports. From January to March there were over 2300 returning users and over 2200 new users! It is a great resource- check it out!

Website: [www.eycbrant.ca/oeyc](http://www.eycbrant.ca/oeyc)

Email: [oeycbrant@execulink.com](mailto:oeycbrant@execulink.com)

*"Parents and children together in the magic of play."*



Keep up to date on OEYC: Brant drop-in programs, workshops and events.



# OUT AND ABOUT



Victor and Chris enjoyed what felt like an underwater adventure at Ripley's Aquarium in Toronto.



Chelsea with her new German Shepherd puppy, Lexi.



Brad enjoyed feeding the deer at the Waterford Deer Park.



Viola celebrating St. Patrick's day!



There were two reasons for Jim Fries to celebrate: St. Patrick's Day and Jim's 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday.



David Marr won "Bowl With Marty".



Stephen worked really hard to address and sign a bunch of Valentine's Day cards for his friends this year.



Carey submitted a recipe called "Tasty Muffins" to the Grand River Community Health Centre. Her recipe was selected to be in the cookbook. Carey received a free cookbook because her recipe was chosen.



Brian Ward keeping warm while ice fishing at Manatoulin Island.

# MAY IS COMMUNITY LIVING MONTH



## Flag Raising

On Monday, May 12th, Mayor Chris Friel raised a Community Living Flag at City Hall and read a proclamation declaring that the City of Brantford recognizes the month of May as Community Living Month.



vs



## Community Living Day at the Jays

**When:** Saturday, May 31, 2014

**Where:** Toronto Rogers Centre

**Time:** 1:07 p.m.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### Community Living Brant's Annual General Meeting

Thursday, June 19, 2014 @ 7 p.m.

Best Western Brant Park Inn  
19 Holiday Drive, Brantford



IPC "The Davies Moffat Team"  
*Community Curl*  
In Support of  
Community Living Brant



**Saturday, November 15, 2014**

For more information visit our website  
[www.clbrant.com](http://www.clbrant.com)



**Thursday, August 14, 2014**

Northridge Golf Course, Brantford

*Come and join...*  
**Walter Gretzky**



All-inclusive registration fee is ONLY **\$135** per player. This includes:

- \* 18 Holes of Golf
- \* Light Lunch
- \* Two Mulligans
- \* Chicken and Beef Dinner
- \* Golf Cart
- \* Giveaway
- \* Tax Receipt

Funds raised at this tournament are dedicated to the agency's Young Adults in Transition Program - a program which receives limited funding, but which provides invaluable support to the community.

**For more information, or if you would like to enter a team or sponsor this event, please contact: Kim Walsh, Community Relations at (519) 756-2662 ext. 213 or go to [www.clbrant.com](http://www.clbrant.com)**



*Charlie Dominko*



06/01/1987 - 11/11/2013

*Jason Wile*



10/01/1976 - 10/30/2013

*Julie Kozak*



06/23/1956 - 1/17/2014

*Paul Lavelle*



11/28/1975 - 4/30/2014

*Ron Hutzler*



01/15/1951 - 5/03/2014

### ROAD TO ETERNITY

*Life is but a stopping place, A pause in what's to be,  
A resting place along the road, To sweet eternity.*

*We all have different journey's, Different paths along the way,  
We all were meant to learn some things, But never meant to stay...*

*But when the journey finally ends, We'll claim a great reward,  
And find an everlasting peace, Together with the Lord.*

# SELECT COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

The mandate of the Select Committee on Developmental Services is to consider and report to the House its observations and recommendations with respect to the urgent need for a comprehensive developmental services strategy to address the needs of children, youth and adults in Ontario with an intellectual disability or who are dually diagnosed with an intellectual disability and a mental illness, and to coordinate the delivery of developmental programs and services across many provincial ministries in addition to the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

**Interim report to the Select Committee is now posted on the government website.**

[http://ontla.on.ca/committee-proceedings/committee-reports/files\\_html/INTERIMREPORTENG-Final.htm](http://ontla.on.ca/committee-proceedings/committee-reports/files_html/INTERIMREPORTENG-Final.htm)

## KEY FEATURES OF ACCREDITATION WITH THE COUNCIL ON QUALITY AND LEADERSHIP (CQL)

As Community Living Brant moves forward with its planned accreditation, the information below highlights the key elements in the process:

**Focus on Excellence** - Our exclusive focus/emphasis is facilitating excellence in person-centered services and supports.

**Person-Centered** - We define and measure quality from the person's perspective and we want to know how well the organization understands each person supported and how the services and supports provided meet those individual needs.

**Basic Assurances®** - CQL's Basic Assurances® ensure accountabilities for Health, Safety, and Human Security. We look at your systems and practices and their effectiveness, person by person.

**Personal Outcome Measures®** - CQL's *Personal Outcome Measures®* are used to identify people's quality of life outcomes, plan supports, and gather information and data about individual outcomes. CQL begins the accreditation engagement with *Personal Outcome Measures®* interviews to demonstrate the linkage between personally defined quality of life and excellence in person-centered services.

**Guide to Person-Centered Excellence** - CQL has identified 8 factors and 34 indicators in person-centered supports. During our onsite consultation, CQL and the organization determine the current status in terms of person-centered services. We bookmark the current situation and provide recommendations for continued improvement and development. Future visits began at this bookmark.



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