

Rett Syndrome Conference-September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – Ambassador Hotel, Kingston, Ontario

**Session: Accessing Adult Services – What is there and Where do I go?**

**Summary:**

The government wants to improve services and supports for adults who have developmental disabilities and their families. To make the changes, the government created the *Services and Supports to Promote the Social Inclusion of Persons with Developmental Disabilities Act, 2008*. It will replace the Developmental Services Act, which is 35 years old and out of date. The Act is for people who are 18 years of age and older who have a developmental disability.

Some of the important changes in the Act include:

- **A new definition of “developmental disability”** and new rules for deciding who gets services and supports from the government.
- **Person directed planning** to help people plan for their future.
- **New ways people can get supports** – through community agencies, through direct funding to families, or a mix of some direct funding and some services and supports through community agencies.
- **A new application process** – everyone follows the same steps when they apply for developmental services and supports, regardless of where they live in Ontario. There are two separate parts to the application process:
  - **Application entities**-places that people contact when they want to apply for developmental services and supports
  - **Funding entities**-organizations that determine how much support an individual will get and how quickly he/she will get it. They will also keep waiting lists for services and supports if there is not enough funding for everyone right away.
- **Quality Standards for agencies:** the new Act has rules to make sure that people and agencies how they spend the money they get. Also, the minister can name a person to immediately take over and manage an organization that gets funding when there is a serious problem with the way money is spent or if the health and safety of someone with a developmental disability is in danger.

To implement all of the changes in the new act, they will occur in phases over several years. More information is available at [www.ontario.ca/community](http://www.ontario.ca/community). Click on developmental services to learn more including regular updates in *Spotlight on Transformation*.