



ADDENDUM
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
PUBLIC SESSION

Maria Rizzo, Chair

Michael Del Grande, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 28, 2019

7:00 P.M.

	Pages
11. Presentations	
<i>11.a From the Chair of the Board</i>	<i>1 - 4</i>
15. Matters recommended by Statutory Committees of the Board	
<i>15.a Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting Held February 20, 2019</i>	<i>5 - 25</i>
<i>Recommendations from SEAC to Board:</i>	
<i>1) Verbal Update regarding Feedback on the Special Education Fair held February 2, 2019 that the Special Services Resource Fair be held in November 2019 and that SEAC members be available to assist;</i>	
<i>2) Inquiry from Sandra Mastronardi regarding Budget that staff provide SEAC with a detailed and comprehensive special education “booklet” which includes and provides an overview with details of TCDSB operational revenues, instructional and non-instructional operation expenditures in relation to special education;</i>	
<i>3) Inquiry from George Wedge regarding Physically Disabled Students Identified in the Accountability Framework that the number of students with physical disability either as their primary or</i>	

secondary exceptionality be identified;and

4) Autism Ontario – News Release February 9, 2019 and February 12, 2019 regarding the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services announces plan to clear Ontario Autism Program wait-lists, and Statement from Autism Ontario that a letter be written to the Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services relating to this particular concern, and that the draft letter be reviewed by SEAC prior to submission.

CHAIR'S REPORT

FEBRUARY 19 TO MARCH 27, 2019



Adaeze Mbalaja is first recipient of the Sister Evanne Hunter Award for dedication to Catholic leadership and social justice work. Madonna Catholic School students celebrating International Women's Day at the CEC.



TCDSB public statements on provincial governments changes to autism plan.



TCDSB media interview with OMNI Italian News regarding accessibility.



Media coverage about school hiring freeze and class sizes.

FEBRUARY 19 TO MARCH 27

NORTHERN SPIRIT GAMES:

Several trustees attended the games and events in their local communities. More than 23,000 students participated this year.



Trustee Del Grande and I will communicate and consult with trustees about any local issues within 24 hours of becoming aware of them.

Any invitations to events will be directed from our offices directly to the local trustee.

CHAIR'S REPORT

FEBRUARY 19 TO MARCH 27



Recipients of the Toronto Diocesan Mary Matthews public speaking award



EXCERPT FROM SPEECH TO NEW TEACHERS

“Thank you for beginning your teaching career with the Toronto Catholic District School Board. You have chosen well. There is no school board better suited to advance the highest ideals of what a public Catholic education should be.”

FEBRUARY 19 TO MARCH 27

February 19

Design consultation meeting regarding St Margaret Catholic School

Attended By Law Review Committee

Attended Political Advocacy Committee

February 21

Regular Board Meeting

February 25

Honored to bring greetings to the New Teacher Induction Program Orientation with Director Rory McGuckin

Privileged to bring greetings to the Toronto Catholic Principals and Vice Principals Association Annual Business Luncheon with Director Rory McGuckin

Trustee IDA LiPrete and I met with President of Wilson Avenue Business Improvement Area

Trustee Teresa Lubinski and I attended the governance meeting of the transportation consortium

Attended the Catholic Education and Living our Catholic Values Committee, Labour Relations Committee and Trustee Services Committee

CHAIR'S REPORT

FEBRUARY 19 TO MARCH 27

February 26

Vice Chair Mike Del Grande brought greetings on behalf of board to CSLIT

February 27

Trustee Norm Di Pasquale attended 'Kids, Cops and Computers' event at the Hockey Hall of Fame representing TCDSB

Along with Mayor John Tory, Trustee Norm Di Pasquale attended 'Kill it with Kindness' Pink Shirt Assembly at St Mary Catholic School



Trustees Frank D'Amico and Norm Di Pasquale joined thousands of students, families and staff at the Toronto Marlies Hockey Game in support of the Angel Foundation.



Attended Governance and Policy Committee

February 28

Trustee LiPreti and I attended the Principal's Meet and Greet

March 4

I joined Trustees DiGiorgio, LiPreti, Crawford and Di Pasquale at the Annual TECT Wine and Cheese Meet and Greet

March 5

Attended the 29th Ordinadi Dinner with staff and Trustees Garry Tanuan and Mike Del Grande

March 6

Design consultation meeting regarding St Margaret Catholic School.

Chair and Vice Chair attended the Labour Relations and the Political Advocacy Committee

March 7

Attended Sweatshop Free Committee

Attended Student Achievement and Well Being Committee

March 8

Attended DOWNSVIEW Rally re: Autism

March 9

Youth and New Immigration Conference at Columbus Centre

March 15

Vice Chair Mike Del Grande and I met with Stan Cho, MPP for Willowdale to discuss Education Development Charges

CHAIR'S REPORT

FEBRUARY 19 TO MARCH 27

March 18

EQAO Web Conference

Special Board Meeting on Special Education

March 19

Van Attack Commemoration Meeting

Governance and Policy Committee

March 20

Parent Council Meeting

March 21

Brought greetings from Board of Trustees to board wide event celebrating International Women's Day

Attended Corporate Services Committee Meeting

March 22

Attended and brought greetings from the Board of Trustees to 'Power of a Girl' at the CEC

March 23

The Toronto Diocesan Executive Council of the Catholic Women's League invited me to be a judge for the public speaking youth competitions throughout the Archdiocese

March 25

Parent Council Meeting

March 26

Chair and Vice Chair attended the Catholic Education Committee

Attended Audit Committee

March 27

Attended Parent Council Meeting with Trustee Ida LiPreti at James Cardinal McGuigan Catholic Secondary School



EXCERPT FROM SPEECH AT CONFERENCE: POWER OF GIRLS

*"When given a chance, women can move mountains.
If women are given a voice, they use it.
When they are handed the purse strings, communities thrive.
When they are given a job, they flourish.
They organize better.
They galvanize more passionately and they are more likely to encourage peace."*



EXCERPT FROM SPEECH AT PRINCIPAL'S LUNCHEON

"My trustee colleagues and I want you to know that we appreciate all that you do to ensure our schools are welcoming, safe and inclusive places for our students to grow and learn."

OUR MISSION

*The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community uniting home, parish and school and rooted in the love of Christ.
We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.*

OUR VISION

*At Toronto Catholic we transform the world
through witness, faith, innovation and action.*



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE PUBLIC SESSION

HELD WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2019

PRESENT:

External

Members: Ashleigh Molloy, Chair
Sandra Mastronardi, Vice-Chair
Melanie Battaglia
Tyler Munro
Glenn Webster
George Wedge

Trustees: N. Crawford
D. Di Giorgio
A. Kennedy – via Teleconference

Staff: D. Koenig
L. Maselli-Jackman
V. Cocco
R. Macchia
J. Mirabella
D. Reid

S. Harris, Recording Secretary
S. Tomaz, Assistant Recording Secretary

External A. Robertson, Parliamentarian
Guest:

The meeting commenced with Sandra Mastronardi as Chair.

1. Roll Call & Apologies

Apologies were extended on behalf of Lori Mastrogiuseppe, Gizelle Paine and Mary Pugh.

Sandra Mastronardi relinquished the Chair to Trustee Crawford.

2. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED by Tyler Munro, seconded by George Wedge, that the Agenda, as amended to reorder Item 9j) Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) Freedom of Information Request (FOIR) Exclusions prior to Item 9a) SEAC Monthly Calendar Review; include Items 13c) Inquiry from Sandra Mastronardi regarding Budget; 13d) Inquiry from Tyler Munro regarding the March 18, 2019 Special Board Meeting; and 13e) Inquiry from George Wedge regarding Physically Disabled Students Identified in the Accountability Framework, be approved.

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

Sandra Mastronardi reassumed the Chair.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

4. Approval & Signing of the Minutes of the Meeting

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Trustee Di Giorgio, that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held January 23, 2019 for PUBLIC Session be approved.

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

6. Presentations

MOVED by Glenn Webster, seconded by Tyler Munro, that Item 6a) be adopted as follows:

- 6a) Presentation from Alasdair Robertson, Parliamentarian, regarding January 23, 2019 Post-Meeting Review received.**

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Glenn Webster, that Item 6b) be adopted as follows:

- 6b) Presentation from George Wedge regarding Recognition of March as Easter Seals Month received.**

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

(NB: Items 6a) and 6b) were verbally added to the Agenda during the meeting)

7. Unfinished Business

From the SEAC Meeting Held on January 23, 2019

MOVED by Tyler Munro, seconded by Melanie Battaglia, that Item 7a) be adopted as follows:

- 7a) A Policy Primer – Ontario Human Rights Commission – Guide to Developing Human Rights Policies and Procedures** that this Item be deferred to the March 27, 2019 SEAC Meeting.

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Di Giorgio, seconded by Tyler Munro, that Item 7b) be adopted as follows:

- 7b) Inquiry from Tyler Munro regarding Change of Placement Decisions:**
How long does the Board expect a Principal and Teaching Staff to make efforts to accommodate a child in a regular class before starting the Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) to move the Student to the appropriate program? received.

On the vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

Sandra Mastronardi relinquished the Chair to Ashleigh Molloy.

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by George Wedge, that Item 7c) be adopted as follows:

- 7c) Inquiry from Sandra Mastronardi regarding Equity Plan** received.

On the vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

Sandra Mastronardi requested that Item 7d) be withdrawn.

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by Glenn Webster, that Item 7d) be adopted as follows:

- 7d) Inquiry from Sandra Mastronardi regarding Annual Accessibility Report 2018** that this Item be withdrawn.

On the vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by Glenn Webster, that Item 7e) be adopted as follows:

- 7e) Inquiry from Tyler Munro regarding Professional Development Focus on Behavior Programs** received.

On the vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by George Wedge, that Item 7f) be adopted as follows:

- 7f) Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes and Agendas to Trustees received.**

On the vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by George Wedge, that Item 7g) be adopted as follows:

- 7g) Catholic Teachers Association – Pilot Project: Faith & Wellness received.**

On the vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by Glenn Webster, that Item 7h) be adopted as follows:

- 7h) Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee received.**

On the vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by George Wedge, that Item 7i) be adopted as follows:

- 7i) Easter Seals Web announcement: Statement on the 2017 Canadian Survey on Disability (CSD) – Easter Seals Canada – December 3, 2018** received.

On the vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Melanie Battaglia, seconded by Glenn Webster, that Item 7j) be adopted as follows:

- 7j) Autism Ontario 2019 Pre-Budget Consultation Submission** received.

MOVED in AMENDMENT by George Wedge, seconded by Glenn Webster, that the materials be added to the Minutes to the Board.

On the vote taken, the Amendment was declared

CARRIED

On the vote taken, the Motion, as amended, was declared

CARRIED

9. Communications

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Tyler Munro, that Item 9j) be adopted as follows:

9j) **Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) Freedom of Information (FOIR) Exclusions** received.

MOVED by Melanie Battaglia, seconded by Trustee Di Giorgio, that the Item be deferred to the March 27, 2019 SEAC meeting at which time the proposed attached motions should be discussed.

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by George Wedge, seconded by Sandra Mastronardi, that Item 9a) be adopted as follows:

9a) **SEAC Monthly Calendar Review** received.

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by Glenn Webster, that Item 9b) be adopted as follows:

9b) **Special Services Superintendent Update** received.

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by George Wedge, that Item 9c) be adopted as follows:

- 9c) Verbal Update regarding Special Equipment Amount (SEA) Claims** received.

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by George Wedge, that Item 9d) be adopted as follows:

- 9d) Verbal Update regarding Feedback on the Special Education Fair held February 2, 2019** that SEAC recommend to Board that the Special Services Resource Fair be held in November 2019 and that SEAC members be available to assist.

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by Tyler Munro, that Item 9e) be adopted as follows:

- 9e) Post-21 Transition Fair at Bishop Marrocco / Thomas Merton Catholic Secondary School and Regional Arts Centre received.**

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by George Wedge, seconded by Sandra Mastronardi, that Item 9f) be adopted as follows:

- 9f) Service Animal Protocol – Consultation Draft received**

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by George Wedge, seconded by Trustee Crawford, that Item 9g) be adopted as follows:

- 9g) Verbal Update regarding Cancellation of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) Presentation at the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) on March 1, 2019 received.**

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by George Wedge, seconded by Trustee Crawford, that Item 9h) be adopted as follows:

- 9h) Verbal update regarding Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) Reporting Denominator Teleconference received.**

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Glenn Webster, seconded by George Wedge, that Item 9i) be adopted as follows:

- 9i) Provincial Parent Associations Advisory Committee (PAAC) Handbook on Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) received.**

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

10. Matters Referred/Deferred to the Committee by the Board and Other Committees

MOVED by Melanie Battaglia, seconded by Sandra Mastronardi, that Item 10a) be adopted as follows:

- 10a) SEAC Motions Received by Board and referred to Staff for a Report received.**

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by George Wedge, that Item 10b) be adopted as follows:

- 10b) Annual Report on the Accessibility Standards Policy (A.35)** that this Item be deferred to the March 27, 2019 SEAC meeting.

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

13. Inquiries and Miscellaneous

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by Trustee Crawford, that Item 13a) be adopted as follows:

13a) Inquiry from Sandra Mastronardi regarding SEAC Motions:

The process where SEAC motions and requests are captured, listed and monitored on the SEAC agenda until their disposition; The process used to list SEAC motions and recommendations on the Board meeting Public Agenda received.

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

- 13b) Inquiry from Sandra Mastronardi regarding the new TCDSB Equity Plan being posted on the Board website noted.**

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by George Wedge, that Item 13c) be adopted as follows:

- 13c) Inquiry from Sandra Mastronardi regarding Budget** that SEAC recommend to Board that staff provide SEAC with a detailed and comprehensive special education “booklet” which includes and provides an overview with details of TCDSB operational revenues, instructional and non-instructional operation expenditures in relation to special education.

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

- 13d) Inquiry from Tyler Munro regarding the March 18, 2019 Special Board Meeting noted.**

MOVED by George Wedge, seconded by Sandra Mastronardi, that Item 13e) be adopted as follows:

- 13e) Inquiry from George Wedge regarding Physically Disabled Students Identified in the Accountability Framework** that SEAC recommend to Board that the number of students with physical disability either as their primary or secondary exceptionality be identified.

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

14. Association Reports

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by George Wedge, that Item 14a) be adopted as follows:

- 14a) Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario (LDAO) SEAC February Circular** received.

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by George Wedge, that Item 14b) be adopted as follows:

- 14b) Path 2 Work from JVS Toronto – Employment Program for Adults Eighteen (18) Years of Age or Older with Developmental Disabilities** received.

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Sandra Mastronardi, seconded by Melanie Battaglia, that Item 14c) be adopted as follows:

- 14c) Autism Ontario – News Release February 9, 2019 and February 12, 2019:**

- 1. The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services announces plan to clear Ontario Autism Program wait-lists; and**
- 2. Statement from Autism Ontario** received.

MOVED in AMENDMENT by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Sandra Mastronardi, that SEAC recommend to Board that a letter be written to the Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services relating to this particular concern, and that the draft letter be reviewed by SEAC prior to submission.

On the Vote taken, the Amendment was declared

CARRIED

On the Vote taken, the Motion, as amended, was declared

CARRIED

17. Adjournment

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Tyler Munro, that the meeting be adjourned.

On the Vote taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

SECRETARY

CHAIR

January 15, 2019



**To: Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
regarding Pre-Budget Consultations 2019, Government of Ontario**

Autism Ontario Presenters:

- **Katharine Buchan, Manager of Communications and Development**
 - **Margaret Spoelstra, Executive Director**
-

Dear Committee Members,

Now entering our 46th year, Autism Ontario has envisioned *acceptance and opportunities for people on the autism spectrum*. The families who formed Autism Ontario in 1973 would never have imagined the prevalence rates for autism to grow to 1 in 66 children in Canada. In Ontario that represents 135,000 citizens.

Autism Ontario continues to envision a Province that offers seamless supports across the lifespan that reflect the wide range of expression in autism, the constantly changing needs of this able, yet vulnerable population and which addresses the needs of caregivers and families who bear both the joys and the substantial weight of care and advocacy for their children from infancy to and throughout adulthood.

Thank you for the support that is provided in support of families through our Potential Programme and with March Break and Summer funding. Surveyed families have told us over and over that these funds matter to them. Combined, these programs directly support over 20,000 people in Ontario.

In 2018, Autism Ontario conducted a province-wide survey, resulting in 10 top areas identified by caregivers and autistic adults. Those non-prioritized top 10 are the following:

Service barriers for adults – According to autistic adults, the largest barrier to accessing services is the lack of trained professionals who understand autism.

Education support – According to caregivers, the top area of need for a child with autism in their communities is support within the education system.

School transitions – The majority of caregivers of high school aged children do not feel well supported and ready to transition their child out of school and into adulthood.

Societal attitudes and perceptions – Autistic adults and caregivers both report that societal attitudes and perceptions about ASD have been a large or very large source of stress in the past year.

Financial hardship – A majority of caregivers say that finances have been a large or very large source of stress in the past year.

Waitlists – The majority of caregivers find long waitlists to be a large or very large barrier to accessing services.

Service needs for young children – According to caregivers, the top service needs for children aged 4 and under, are behavioural intervention and speech language pathology.

Crisis status – Most caregivers are between a three and a five out of ten, in terms of crisis level.

Mentorship and support – There is large scale interest in receiving peer support via a parent to parent mentorship program.

Mental Health – Autistic adults identified their top service need as psychological or psychiatric support.

In November 2018 we asked our survey respondents to rate these top ten items in order of priority and these top 5 emerged:

1. Education Support

About ten years ago the Ministry of Education reported that there were about 7,000 students with ASD in Ontario's schools. Today that number has tripled to over 20,000 students. Educational supports that were implemented for students with autism years ago are now insufficient in scope and effectiveness. Part of the current challenges with ABA implementation and parent satisfaction will not be addressed without a focus on improved school supports and transition planning that has meaning and achievable outcomes and opportunities for adult life.



#1 Education Support

According to caregivers, the **#1 area** of need for a child with autism is support within the education system, even though **77.8%** of caregivers of high school aged children feel listened to by their child's school.

Thank you for the additional investment into OAP services in this current year's budget.

However, the over 20,000 children and youth on the waiting lists for OAP services are currently not able to be served in timely and equitable fashion. Additionally, unless increased evidence-based supports and implementation supervision by qualified professionals are available in all Ontario schools, it will be impossible to meet the educational needs of students with ASD. The Ministry of Health is also noticeably absent in providing necessary health supports for people with autism across the lifespan.

We recommend:

- Creating an employment category in schools of Registered Behaviour Technician, supervised by Board employed BCBAs or Behaviour trained Psychologists;
- Increased ABA supervision in schools,
- Collaboration across Ministries with the emphasis on the child's learning and mental health needs over silo-ed systems,
- Mandatory Pre-service training in Evidence-Based Practice and Applied Behaviour Analysis for all educators.

2. Long Wait Lists



Families are waiting for everything. Waiting for:

- A diagnosis/diagnoses that determines eligibility/access to services
- the Ontario Autism Program,
- an educational assistant,
- informed school personnel,
- health and mental health supports,
- adaptive program supports and Passport Funding
- job opportunities, and
- housing.

We are concerned about rumours that this government is considering substantive changes to the Ontario Autism Program. Our survey in 2017 indicated that one third of parents are single caregivers and that one third favoured the option of Direct Service provision while 2/3rds preferred Direct Funding. We urge the government to consider offering choice to families based on assessed needs of both the child and the family's needs. Children should also receive these services where they spend the majority of their day, which is in school during school-aged years.

3. Financial Hardship

We know that **the burden of care on families is both stressful and costly.**

We have attached a 2014 research paper entitled “The Value of Caregiver Time: Costs of Support and Care for Individuals Living with Autism Spectrum Disorder”, by Carolyn Dudley and J.C. Herbert Emery†. In it they describe what costs are attributed to families who raise children with autism in Canada, including Ontario data sources. The numbers are both startling and sobering. But there are solutions. Autism Ontario welcomes the opportunity to be part of the dialogue and shaping new opportunities for people with ASD and their families.



4. School Transitions



Autism's prevalence rates are not only an alarming statistic for children and youth, but we are now seeing these numbers grow along with the children as they become teens and adults. More importantly, **these students are now beginning to exit high school unprepared and unsupported for life as adults in higher numbers than ever.**

The majority of these graduates are sitting at their parents' homes doing little, are under or unemployed and over half are or will be struggling

with additional mental health challenges such as anxiety and depression. With approximately 15,000 people with Developmental Disabilities (including autism) waiting for Passport Funding, we know that those families have few options to assist their now young adult children towards a promising future. Having those young adults at home means that at least one care-giver is also at home and not earning through employment or investing in their own retirement, while their children with ASD, who could also be working, participating in meaningful day-time activities or attending post-secondary education, are not.

Many of these adults could have **meaningful employment** if employers saw that hiring people with autism is good for business rather than a charitable act. Autism Ontario has been involved in several projects (e.g. Specialisterne Canada's employment program and Integrated Autism Consulting's "Transition to Life" program) over the past few years that directly support the successful employment of adults on the autism spectrum. Investing in these types of programs and others would have an impact on the Ontario economy and the lives of adults with autism and their families.

5. Adult Services

Eligibility: At least half of adults on the autism spectrum are deemed ineligible for Passport funding. This must change to eligibility based on assessed needs and not paid for out of the pockets of caregivers.

We encourage the continued implementation of recommendations identified by the Ontario Ombudsman's office in its "No Where to Turn" report.

Housing: Autism Ontario is gratified to have seen a second round of funding for unique housing proposals through the former MCSS' Housing Task Force. This must be the first in many future steps that will assist people with Developmental Disabilities, including ASD, to create or find affordable housing options.

In the absence of increasing supportive housing options, the number of adults with autism who are in crisis will continue to grow. And supporting a model that is primarily crisis driven is a far more costly proposition than focusing on prevention of the circumstances that result in more restrictive responses. We also worry about a new trend of seeing children with disabilities, including autism, in long-term care facilities, effectively replicating an institutional model of care which is neither appropriate nor necessary.

In a recent TVO "Agenda" program, a parent and her autistic adult son remarked that they are not looking for pity, but for respect and opportunities as caregivers and as citizens who have much to offer society. Autism Ontario strongly supports this notion in its vision of "acceptance and opportunities for all people on the autism spectrum".

