

There is a crisis ~~looming...~~

What if you are still looking after your children at 70, or 80 years old?
--- yes, and even 90+ years old!!

We have an increasing population of elderly citizens who are looking after their intellectually handicapped children.

There is in excess of 10,000 families in this situation in Ontario.

How did this come about?

- Ontario has been closing their institutions and moving those individuals to overstretched communities.
- More people are being diagnosed with autism and other intellectual developmental disabilities.
- Medical science and healthcare are prolonging the life of these individuals, and their parents.

The result is the ever increasing pool of families with senior parents caring for their adult children.

While there are services available (day programs, transportation etc.), they are not universal, nor uniform across the province - and there are ever-increasing waiting lists. What is needed are more residential care facilities. The modern thinking is using "Group Homes". Usually these homes house three to five individuals within communities (your village, town, or city). There is usually a maze of municipal by-laws to navigate to

establish these homes. These can be very restrictive, if not impossible to deal with.

The Ministry of Community and Social Services (Ontario) is responsible for this. There has been much talk, many meetings, bills passed, even money spent developing agencies, assessment programs etc.; but still only a handful of new residential placements each year.

What has to be done?

All levels of government must find a coordinated way forward to produce more residential living facilities to provide comfortable and meaningful lives for these people; and to relieve the severe stress currently placed upon their senior parents.

What can you do?

Contact your MPP. Explain the situation to them and tell them the current situation is unacceptable. Explain that even with limited funds, this crisis should be a priority.

Go to www.ontariocares.com for an online version of this with additional links and information.