

Kids and Youth Losing Their Potential

The Provincial Picture

- More than 40,000 children and youth with disabilities in Ontario receive necessary therapies and health services from Children's Treatment Centres. Yet another 9,000 children — many around the age of 4 years — are waiting for services.
- The annual cost to serve each child is only \$2,500.
- The Ontario government could eliminate this waiting list of 9,000 kids and youth by providing \$20 million in operating funds to the 22 children's treatment centres across the province. A \$14 million investment would reduce waiting times to three months — or 12 weeks.

The Issue

- The early years, from conception to age 6, have the most influence of any time in the life cycle on brain development and subsequent learning, behaviours and health (McCain & Mustard, 1999).
- Unfair wait times penalize young children with disabilities and place an unfair and undue burden on their families. The Government of Ontario has already recognized the importance of providing services during this "window of opportunity" to help young children get the best start in life. This is the reasoning behind the government's Early Years Centres initiative, as well as the Best Start program, which helps families with preschool-aged children access services that will prepare them for school.
- Early intervention for children before they reach school age minimizes the health, learning and social problems they will experience later in their childhood and adolescence — and reduces the costs to our education and health systems.

Kids and Youth in the Champlain Region

- The Ottawa Children's Treatment Centre provides rehabilitation therapy as well as health, social and education services to more than 2,900 children and youth with multiple disabilities who live in the Champlain Region (City of Ottawa, and the counties of Renfrew, North Leeds/Lanark/Grenville, Stormont/Dundas/Glengarry and Prescott/Russell).
- Another 400 children and youth are on a waiting list to access specialized services for an average of 23 weeks. These are children and youth who may not be able to walk or talk easily; premature babies who need therapy to thrive; preschoolers who need therapy if they are to succeed in community schools; and young people with complex medical/developmental syndromes who need medical and social supports in order to participate fully in their communities.

The Solution

- An investment of \$2.6 million in additional operating funds to the Ottawa Children's Treatment Centre will reduce the wait times for children and youth with multiple disabilities living in the Champlain district — as well as reduce the cost to our regional health care and education sectors.
- This investment represents only 0.22% of government operating grants to our local hospitals.

Ottawa Children's Treatment Centre vision:

**Creating opportunities today; maximizing independence tomorrow
Help us achieve this vision!**



Ottawa Children's Treatment Centre
Centre de traitement pour enfants d'Ottawa
Founded in 1951 Fondé en 1951

**5 sites serving
young people in
the Champlain
Region**



City of Ottawa

- 2211 Thurston Dr.
- 395 Smyth Rd.
- 2 MacNeil Court

Renfrew County

- 499 Raglan St. N.
(behind Renfrew
Victoria Hospital)

Eastern Counties

- 510 Second St. E.
(inside Cornwall
Community
Hospital)

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