

# Community Living

*we make it possible*

**HELP US BUILD CARING COMMUNITIES, HELP US DEFEND OUR SERVICES**

**Please write to your MPP and urge them to work with us to address the crisis of underfunding from the province.** Consistent, quality supports are directly tied to better provincial funding levels. Without increased funding from the province, waitlists for services and supports will continue to grow and retaining skilled staff will pose an even bigger challenge, affecting the quality of care in communities.

## **Sample Letter to MPP**

I am writing to urge you to address the crisis of underfunding of services to people with developmental disabilities and their families. I know that in our community, there are many people who rely on the services and supports that developmental services workers provide and that many of these agencies are struggling to meet needs. These are important services. People with development disabilities must continue to receive quality supports. Key to valuing those supports is adequate funding of staff who deliver the services, to ensure that agencies are able to continue to recruit and retain skilled workers, who themselves have the supports necessary to deliver quality services to our communities.

Staff at Sarnia and District Association for Community Living, members of CUPE 4370, know that hundreds of families in our communities depend on the services and supports that the members of CUPE 4370 provide. On May 19, CUPE 4370 and Sarnia and District Association for Community Living will be in a legal lockout/strike position. That's why I am advocating for better provincial funding to ensure that the staff are able to continue to provide quality supports to the people who need them.

The staff deserve to be able to commit full time to delivering the services and to one day retire with dignity after having served our communities during their working lives. While it would be simple to dismiss negotiations as unrelated to service quality, I believe the two are very connected. Ensuring that skilled workers are there to deliver the best supports is directly tied to fair compensation for these important workers in our communities. I hope you feel the same way and that you will support improved funding for Sarnia and District Association for Community Living and developmental agencies across the province in order for agencies to continue to deliver the kind of quality services that our communities rely upon.

Sincerely,

[Insert your name and contact information here.]

## **Please send a copy of your letter to:**

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