



Council Quarterly Report September 2019

As a group of 12 elected self-advocates from across the province, we come together to make a difference in the lives of people who have an intellectual disability by making sure their voices are heard.

During this quarter, Council has been active with its advocacy efforts, striving to improve the lives of people who have an intellectual disability in many ways. In partnership with the Board of Directors and the Freedom From Harm Committee, we have been concerned with the issue of preventing institutionalized practices in Ontario. The watchdog policy that involves the monitoring of the emergence of institution-type living environments is something we are reviewing and taking seriously. We are committed to ensuring a future that is free from congregate living and practices that prevent people from living their best life.

Another of Council's main focuses is people who have an intellectual disability living in poverty and how ODSP is not enough to live the life everyone deserves. Last month, Council was disappointed at the news that Minister Todd Smith cancelled his meeting with Community Living Ontario. We were looking forward to sharing our concerns regarding the government's latest budget announcement. We feel it said too little about people who have an intellectual disability who live on ODSP. The budget was titled "Protecting What Matters Most"; people like me, my friends and my family want to be hopeful about our future and we want to feel like our concerns are included in what matters most. We are hoping to hear of another meeting with Mr. Smith soon.

Moving into the next quarter, Council is looking forward to a new year with new Council members. At the election that will be held at the conference on Friday, there are 5 spots up for election. There will also be a new Council President elected in October 2019, as James Taylor has successfully completed his 4 year term.