**Subject:** Your support for developmental services in Ontario

Dear MPP [last name],

I am following up with you to stress the need for an immediate 5% base increase to the developmental service sector in the upcoming provincial budget.

I have been heartened by the support our [#5toSurvive](https://communitylivingontario.ca/what-we-do/advocacy-education-awareness/five-to-survive-campaign/) campaign has garnered, with nearly 7,000 people across the province expressing their support directly to Premier Ford. I need your support to get us to the finish line.

Over the past 30 years, developmental service agencies have received base funding increases of less than 4%, while the cost of living has increased by 60% over the same period. The sector has had to cut expenses year after year, but there is nothing left to cut, and the lives of people with developmental disabilities are at risk.

I understand that developmental service funding has increased since 2018, however this funding has gone mainly to the Passport program and to adding additional people to the system. While these are valuable additions, crucial elements of our system – things like food, essential training for staff, capital repair and maintenance, transportation, heating and cooling – have been badly neglected by successive governments, and this underfunding is now affecting our ability to safely support people.

I am asking you, today, to express your support for #5toSurvive directly to Minister Parsa and Minister Bethlenfalvy. This is a long-overdue step to safeguard the well-being of people with developmental disabilities across the province.

For more information, I am also forwarding you this link to the pre-budget submission of Community Living Ontario: <https://communitylivingontario.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/CLO-2024Pre-BudgetSubmission-Final.pdf>.