



Mental Health & Autism Services  
for Children & Youth  
Services de santé mentale et  
d'autisme pour enfants et jeunes

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To all of our families in the Ontario Autism Program:

On behalf of the staff and Board of Maltby Centre, we want to acknowledge that the weeks since the February 6<sup>th</sup> announcement have been extremely difficult. Many of you have reached out to our staff to express your frustrations and your worries. We have heard the families who have said, “We do not want funding, we want service.” We wish we were in a position to answer all of your questions but this change is so significant that we too, are still working very hard to understand the impact.

We do share your concerns about the changes.

We are concerned that the new Ontario Autism Program funding will be based on age and family income, not based on assessed clinical need. Further, we worry that the announced funding levels will not provide the amount of support and therapy required, especially for children needing intensive individualized therapy.

We also worry about the impact of these changes on the field of autism professionals.

It has been our privilege to serve the families in our region for the last 20 years. We are proud of the high quality, evidence-based services our staff have provided to children and youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and their families. While the coming months will be challenging, we are committed to our clients with autism and we are working very hard to prepare ourselves for changes in the OAP so we are ready to serve your family as best we can.

We will keep you informed as more information becomes available and we are clear in our path forward.

Thank you for your ongoing feedback and your patience in this time of uncertainty. We are humbled by your stories and it has been a gift to be part of your lives in some small way.

Nicki Collins  
Executive Director  
Maltby Centre

*Serving our Community with sites in  
Kingston, Sydenham, Amherstview, Napanee, Northbrook, Sharbot Lake*