

# A History of Ontario's IBI program

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Year	Community Activity (Parents, Providers, Media)	Legal Activity	Government Initiatives	Number of kids on IBI wait list / number of children serviced
1998	<a href="#">New Haven Learning Centre</a> founded as a charitable, non-profit organization committed to being a Centre of Excellence in the treatment and education of children with autism.			N/A
1999	Beecroft Learning Centre, a non-profit Centre founded by parents of children with autism running home-based ABA treatment programs. Families pooled resources and expertise.	Deskin case filed by a single plaintiff. This case will eventually merge with the Wynberg case and <i>involves a constitutional challenge to the practice of cutting children off from IBI at age six.</i>	Introduction of Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI) to children with autism between the ages of 2-5 years by Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services. IBI & public education at this point are mutually exclusive.	N/A
2000		<a href="#">Auton et al. v. the Attorney General of British Columbia</a> case launched, claimed gov't discriminated against the infant petitioners contrary to s. 15(1) of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms "by failing to accommodate their disadvantaged position by providing effective treatment for autism." Landmark decision. Won at Superior and Appellate court, <a href="#">lost at Supreme Court of Canada</a>  Wynberg case filed, eventually including 28 families. Ministries of Health, Education, and Social Services held accountable. Families challenged age cut-off in the IEIP.		N/A



2001	<p><a href="#">Shining Through Centre for Children</a> with Autism established as a not-for-profit charitable organization to provide an intensive, comprehensive educational program based on the scientifically validated principles of ABA.</p>			N/A
2002	<p>Parents of children with autism attend Question Period at Queen's Park, first major group                  June 2002: Autism activist Nancy Morrison develops email group to help disseminate information regarding advocacy efforts</p>	<p>January 2002: <a href="#">first Ontario Human Rights Complaint (Burrows) to the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) for discriminatory age 6-cut off from autism services</a></p>	<p>November 2002: Ontario Government (under Ernie Eves) makes major investment for Children with Autism--an additional \$58.6 million for services for children with autism</p>	900 Children on waiting list for services
2003	<p>Press conference held by NDP Shelley Martel regarding submission to the Ontario Human Rights Commission</p>	<p>The Deskin action and Wynberg action began separately. With the consent of counsel, the trial was consolidated; evidence led in one action applied to the other. The trial, which lasted approximately 130 days began on April 28, 2003.                  January 2003: Over 50 Human Rights Complaints submitted to Ontario Human Rights Commission (Arzem et al), for discrimination of their children with autism based on disability, not age.                  By the end of the year, over 145 complaints submitted to OHRC.</p>	<p>September 2003: <a href="#">Letter from Dalton McGuinty to Nancy Morrison</a> noting that age 6 cutoff is discriminatory and noting that the Ontario Liberals support extending services to children with autism over the age of 6 years.</p>	1,100 on the waitlist 500 Children receiving funded IBI
2004	<p>Andrew Kavchak, father of son with autism, plants himself at Parliament Hill every day on his lunch, to protest lack of services for his son. Daily protest continues for months, until November 2004.</p>	<p>On the Wynberg and Deskin actions, there were three interruptions each lasting several weeks. The trial ended on September 3, 2004 with the submissions of counsel.                  The <a href="#">Fleischmann v. Toronto District School Board</a> case succeeds in making a case for the use of ABA in a classroom setting.                  5 families representing 6 children with autism file <b>class action lawsuit</b> against Ministry of Education, Ministry of Children and Youth Services, and seven school boards in Ontario for failing to provide or fund ABA/IBI in the education system or without excessive and detrimental delays. (<a href="#">Sagharian et al</a>). Motion to strike left case with possible section 15 claim against both the government and the school boards. Plaintiffs consider their next steps.</p>	<p>March 2004: Government announces plans to spend at least an extra \$120 million on autism treatment during the next three years, however, age six cut-off remains. Once children turn six they are still cut off government support.  <a href="#">School Support Program</a> (SSP) established. More than 185 Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) consultants hired to help teachers and educators better understand how children and youth with autism learn.  <a href="#">From 2004-05 to 2007-08, provincial funding for IBI increased by 24.5 per cent per year, on average.</a></p>	1027 Children waiting for IBI services

<p>2005</p>	<p><a href="#">Ontario Autism Coalition</a> founded. Grows into an Ontario-wide organization with over 1,200 members. First rally held in Orillia...rallies continue for 1.5 years on an almost monthly basis, visiting over 12 different cities.                  May 2005: First Canadian inaugural walk for autism held in Toronto. \$325 000 raised for research, over 2500 participants.                  In his 2005 report, <a href="#">Between a Rock and a Hard Place</a>, the Ombudsman found that as many as 150 families had been forced to surrender their parental rights to children's aid societies (CASs) in order to get residential care for their severely disabled children.</p>	<p>April 2005: Justice Kiteley rules in <a href="#">Wynberg/Deskin</a> that IEIP age cut-off violates the Charter equality guarantee under section 15(1)   <a href="#">Arzem</a> v. Ontario (Community and Social Services) case is launched, a Ontario Human Rights Tribunal case challenging the exclusion of persons under 18 from the protections of the Ontario Human Rights Code.</p>	<p><a href="#">Ontario Graduate Certificate in Autism and Behavioural Science</a> formed. Initially, six community colleges across Ontario deliver this course. That number has since grown substantially.</p>	<p><a href="#">753</a> children on the waiting list</p>
<p>2006</p>	<p><a href="#">Autism Speaks</a> is Since then, walks have been held on a yearly basis by Autism Speaks.                   Ontario Autism Coalition holds first province wide candle-light vigil                   Ontario Autism Coalition begins meetings with individual MPP's and ministers from all three political parties.</p>	<p>The Wynberg case is over-turned by the <a href="#">Ontario Court of Appeal</a> by Justice Gouge.                   Families sought and were denied leave to appeal at Supreme Court of Canada.</p>	<p>August 2006: EIP renamed the Autism Intervention Program "AIP" and <a href="#">Program Guidelines</a> Established                  October 2006: Ministry of Children and Youth Services establishes Expert Clinical Panel (ECP) for the Autism Intervention Program, described as an independent, arms-length panel asked to develop a set of clinical practice guidelines to enable consistent clinical decision making in delivery of Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI) services. ECP chaired by <a href="#">Dr. Peter Szatmari</a>                  A comparison of each <a href="#">province's Autism Services</a> is published by the <a href="#">federal government</a>.                  In spite of their "victory" in the Wynberg case, Ontario government bows to public pressure and Minister Chambers announces <a href="#">an end the practice of stopping IBI at age 6</a>.                  Autism Spectrum Disorders Reference Group is established "to provide recommendations about educational practices to meet the strengths and needs of students with autism"</p>	

<p>2007</p>	<p>June 2007: Three party political debate on Autism policies in Ontario hosted by The <a href="#">Alliance for Families with Autism</a> (AFA).</p> <p>September 2007: AFA holds Autism Vigils across Ontario</p> <p><a href="#">Brock University</a> accredited by BACB to certify graduates in ABA therapy</p> <p>August 2007: Ontario Autism Coalition stages successful <a href="#">protest</a> at an event hosted by then Attorney General <a href="#">Michael Bryant</a>.</p> <p>September 2007: Ontario Autism Coalition (OAC) hosts a successful <b>Day of Action</b> across Ontario. Turnout of over 200 participants including family members, caregivers, educators, MPP candidates and supporters of children with Autism. Events held across Ottawa, the Greater Toronto Area, Windsor, Essex and Sarnia.</p> <p><a href="#">CASDA</a> (Canadian Autism Spectrum Disorders Alliance) is formed. Their goal to achieve a national Autism strategy.</p> <p>Ontario Autism Coalition has several meetings with Minister Mary Anne Chambers.</p> <p>Nancy Morrison runs as an NDP <a href="#">candidate</a> in the 2007 election.</p>	<p>The Supreme Court of Canada <a href="#">denies</a> leave to appeal on the Wynberg case.</p> <p>Liberal government takes NDP critic <a href="#">Shelley Martel</a> to court in order to <a href="#">prevent</a> her from finding out how much money has been spent fighting families with autism in court.</p>	<p>May 2007: <a href="#">PPM 140 introduced</a>: School boards <a href="#">must</a> offer students with ASD special education programs and services, including, <a href="#">where appropriate</a>, special education programs using ABA methods. School board staff <a href="#">must</a> plan for the transition between various activities and settings involving students with ASD.</p> <p>Government commits to more than \$12 cash injection for children and youth with autism, <a href="#">an increase of 15%</a></p> <p>Fall 2007: Liberal Party includes in its party platform document the following promise: <a href="#">“Helping more students with autism by providing \$10 million to prepare schools to deliver IBI therapy on-site for the first time”</a></p> <p>Ministry of Education creates document <a href="#">“Effective Educational Practises for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders.”</a></p> <p>Canadian Senate issues landmark report, <a href="#">“Pay Now or Pay Later”</a></p> <p>Expert Clinical Panel (ECP) for the Autism Intervention Program releases its first <a href="#">report</a></p> <p>Minister’s Autism Spectrum Disorders Reference Group publishes its <a href="#">report</a>, <a href="#">“Making a Difference: From Evidence to Action”</a></p>	<p><a href="#">1055 children on waiting list</a></p> <p><a href="#">1100 children receiving IBI</a></p>
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<p>2008</p>	<p>January 2008: <a href="#">Stefan Marinoiu</a>, 49-year old Toronto father of 15-year old son with autism, walks to Ottawa to raise awareness for Autism.</p> <p>March 2008: The Alliance for Families with Autism (AFA) hosts a <a href="#">Town Hall Meeting</a> regarding the issues surrounding Autism. Ministers from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services and Ministry of Education are in attendance and face tough questions from the audience</p> <p>May 2008: Stefan Marinoiu, Toronto father of 15-year old son Simon, who suffers from autism, camps out in front of legislature on <a href="#">hunger strike vowing not to eat until province agrees to eliminate the backlog of children waiting for a crucial but costly therapy.</a> Autism Ontario issues a report on adults living with ASD entitled "<a href="#">Forgotten</a>"</p>	<p><a href="#">Sagharian v. Ontario case loses at Ontario Court of Appeal</a>, Supreme Court of Canada refuses to hear case</p>	<p>March 2008 <a href="#">Benchmark Panel</a> formed in response to Clinical Practice Guidelines. Benchmark panel identified as a new independent and arms-length expert panel, to develop benchmarks used to support implementation of Clinical Practice Guidelines. Benchmarks intended to be used to monitor progress and facilitate decision-making regarding continuation of children in IBI. Chaired by Dr. Nancy Freeman, Psychologist</p> <p><a href="#">From 2008-09 to 2010-11 autism funding increased by just 2.9 per cent per year, on average</a></p>	<p><a href="#">1400 children receiving IBI</a></p> <p><a href="#">1148 children on waitlist for IBI</a></p>
<p>2009</p>	<p>April: Toronto parent Sharon Aschaiek launches <a href="#">Autism Resolution Ontario</a></p> <p>Ontario Autism Coalition hosts a "<a href="#">Big Tent</a>" meeting for autism advocates from across the province at Holland Bloorview. Advocates discuss how to present a more united front.</p> <p>December: OAC meets with Ministers Laurel Broten and Kathleen Wynne</p> <p><a href="#">benchMARKED film released</a>, a <a href="#">documentary</a> featuring the McIntosh and Ceretti families</p>		<p>June 2009: <a href="#">Benchmark</a> Report Released; recommendations include a standardized set of benchmarks to be applied to monitoring a child's progress, 6 months progress reviews, a minimum of 1 year of intervention, a consistent review/appeals process, administrative and research review of the benchmarks, and an expansion of the continuum of evidence based interventions and services</p>	<p><a href="#">1513 Children waiting for services</a></p>

<p>2010</p>	<p>Ontario Autism Coalition releases its “<a href="#">Recommendations Report</a>”, containing 47 recommendations for government of how to deliver autism services in Ontario. Report covers everything from early intervention to adult services and is presented to a senior staffer in Laurel Broten’s office. Government does not respond. Autism Resolution Ontario releases <a href="#">Shut Out: Failing Kids in Ontario</a> Ontario Autism Co-founder Susan Fentie meets with her MPP (former Finance Minister Greg Sorbara) about challenges with her increasingly aggressive son with autism. <a href="#">He suggests that she have her son arrested</a> so that a judge can order that a treatment bed be made available. Sorbara later <a href="#">denies</a> making the comment.</p>	<p>Bunda v. Hamilton Health Sciences, 2010 HRTO 698 (CanLII), &lt;<a href="http://canlii.ca/t/290w8">http://canlii.ca/t/290w8</a>&gt; An unsuccessful case; alleged discrimination against children who were discharged for being “too severe” <a href="#">Paul Ceretti loses judicial review of IBI discharge</a> <a href="#">M.O. v Ottawa Catholic School Board</a>. Human Rights Case regarding transportation by the school to IBI. Case was decided in favour of M.O. on August 26, 2010</p>	<p>Government introduces new “<a href="#">ABA Supports Program</a>” investing \$25 million to help an estimated 8,000 kids with ASD, including those at the “higher” end of the spectrum IBI funding, however, decreased by 1.1 per cent from 2010-11 to 2011-12.</p>	<p><a href="#">1,520 on the wait list</a></p>
<p>2011</p>	<p><a href="#">Maryna Bunda protests daily at Queen’s Paark for 86-days to protest for her son, Sebastian</a></p>		<p>Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) and the Ministry of Education (EDU) have been working closely to <a href="#">improve supports for students with ASD</a> through the implementation of Collaborative Service Delivery Models (CSDM) for Students with ASD (Phase 1 and Phase 2) and the full implementation of the Connections for Students model.</p>	<p><a href="#">2,784</a> on the waitlist</p>
<p>2012</p>	<p>Toronto Star publishes groundbreaking series, “<a href="#">The Autism Project</a>” Ontario Ombudsman Andre Marin announces <a href="#">investigation</a> into services for adults with autism and other developmental disabilities. Laura and Bruce McIntosh meet with Irwin Elman, the <a href="#">Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth</a>, asking him to use the powers of his office to elevate the voices of children and youth with autism <a href="#">Autism Roadmap</a> created. Shows an 18 month wait for a diagnostic assessment in Ottawa.</p>	<p>M.Y. v. Central West Autism Intervention Service Erinoakkids, 2012 HRTO 1584 (CanLII), &lt;<a href="http://canlii.ca/t/fsdhq">http://canlii.ca/t/fsdhq</a>&gt;  <a href="#">Moore v. BC won in Supreme Court of Canada</a> (landmark case for students with learning disabilities)  <a href="#">Sagharian v. Ontario (class action) withdrawn at Ontario Court of Appeal</a></p>	<p>Government announces the creation of a new “<a href="#">Expert Panel</a>” to recommend improvements to the Ontario Autism Program</p>	<p><a href="#">1,700</a> on the <a href="#">waitlist</a></p>

<p>2013</p>	<p>Dec. 3 (International Day for Persons with Disabilities) the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth launches “<a href="#">I Have Something to Say</a>” initiative to raise the voices of children and youth with disabilities  <a href="#">Paul Ceretti launches Autism Assistance Program</a>                  Medicare for Autism Now releases <a href="#">Medicare’s Orphans</a>                  Children being pushed out of service by Kinark to <a href="#">reduce waitlists</a>.                  Mom of severely autistic teen leaves son at government office out of <a href="#">desperation</a>                  The McIntosh family calls for the creation of an <a href="#">Autism Crisis Centre</a> to help families during period of extreme stress</p>		<p><a href="#">Auditor General Report on Autism Service</a>. released                  Autism Spectrum Disorder in Ontario 2013. <a href="#">Report by ASD Clinical Expert Committee</a>. This report was used in the 2016 decision to pull service for children 5 and older.                  Parents give opinions on IBI and ABA programs through <a href="#">MCYS Family Engagement</a>. Parents strongly recommend direct funding for ABA and IBI.</p>	<p>1,701 kids on IBI <a href="#">waitlist</a></p>
<p>2014</p>	<p>Toronto Star reports “Ontario <a href="#">failing</a> children with autism, reports reveal”                  Ontario Autism Coalition attends pre-budget Consultation and submits written recommendations to Charles Souza                  Provincial Advocate gathers “narratives” from young people with disabilities across the province. Continues working on the “I Have Something to Say project.”                  Toronto Star reports <a href="#">People for Education report</a> shows that Special Needs Kids (many with Autism) are often told to stay home from school.</p>	<p>David Hurd drops <a href="#">Human Rights case</a> against CHEO for discharging son with ASD and Global Development Delay. Case is settled out of court and a gag order is issued.</p>	<p><a href="#">Ontario Working Group on Mental Health and Adults with Autism</a> is established  <a href="#">Select Committee on Developmental Services</a> issues its report, “Inclusion and Opportunity: A New Path for Developmental Services in Ontario                  Government announces <a href="#">new program</a> to help students with ASD apply for &amp; succeed in post-secondary.                  Investment is \$1.5 million                  April 2014: Government promises to add <a href="#">\$810 million</a> over three years to programs and services for children and adults with developmental disabilities, eliminating waitlist for SSAH                  MCYS receives the final <a href="#">report</a> on Certification/Regulation of ABA professionals. No action follows from this.</p>	<p>IBI waitlist at <a href="#">1,748</a></p>

<p>2015</p>	<p>April - 3rd Annual <a href="#">Autism on the Hill</a> rally.                  January - <a href="#">Dee Gordon</a> walks to Ottawa from Etobicoke.                  The Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth continues consultations for the “We Have Something to Say” project—a look into the lives of children and youth living with disabilities in Ontario</p>		<p><a href="#">Auditor General Report on Autism Services</a>. 2015                  Recommendation include:                  conduct periodic program evaluations [on IBI and ABA], including parent satisfaction surveys, and consider conducting a long-term effectiveness study of children who received IBI services and children who were denied IBI services;                  Government announces \$52 million investment in <a href="#">Erinoak</a>                  Federal government appoints <a href="#">new ASD working group</a>.</p>	<p><a href="#">2,192</a> on the IBI wait list                   2,245 receiving IBI services.   <a href="#">ABA Waitlist over 13,966 children, 8,572 receiving services</a></p>
<p>2016</p>	<p>The Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth Issues his <a href="#">report</a>, “<a href="#">We Have Something To Say: Young People and their Families Speak out about Special Needs and Change</a>.”                  An Ottawa mom starts an online <a href="#">petition</a> against the government changes. Within days, it has over 15,000 signatures.                  The <a href="#">Alliance Against the Ontario Autism Program</a> forms, quickly signing up over 2,000 members                  The <a href="#">Ontario Autism Coalition</a> re-launches into the fight, issuing its first <a href="#">press release</a> in years. Calls on government to reverse the age 5 cut-off policy immediately.                  Ontario Autism Coalition organizes <a href="#">province-wide</a> rallies, <a href="#">press conferences</a>, a targeted MPP outreach campaign, a <a href="#">poster campaign</a> and <a href="#">two</a> Queen’s Park <a href="#">Rallies</a>.</p>	<p><a href="#">Baker law</a> announces new legal actions to challenge both the lack of proper services for children with autism in schools, and the new IBI cutoffs, inviting families to contact their office.                   Families make inquiries with the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal about taking <a href="#">legal action</a> against the age 5 cutoff.</p>	<p><a href="#">Government announces changes</a> to the AIP including a \$333 million dollar investment, but one which involves removing children 5 and older from the IBI waitlist. Children in IBI service 5 years and older will be transitioned to new enhance ABA program. New program not currently available. New flexible combined ABA/IBI program expected to roll out in 2018.</p>	