



**ONTARIO  
AUTISM  
COALITION**

**23 Rathfon Crescent, Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4C 5B6 (416) 451-8315**

For Immediate Release  
June 19, 2019

## **Parent Advocates Present Autism Program Recommendations**

The Ontario Autism Coalition (OAC) has released its recommendations report for changes to the Ontario Autism Program. The report incorporates the results of a survey conducted by the OAC last month which involved 1,590 people affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), including parents, service providers, educators and people with autism.

Notable survey results include:

- The top priority for therapeutic services is Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA)—89%
- There is overwhelming support have Behaviour Analysts regulated—82%
- Families are willing to accept wait times of 6-12 months if they know they will receive needs-based therapy—71%
- Respondents want the OAP to cover therapy only, not respite or technology—74%
- A large majority want the federal government to create a National Autism Strategy—82%
- There is strong support for providing more autism training for teachers and education assistants—82%

OAC President Laura Kirby-McIntosh has been appointed to the Minister's Autism Advisory Panel that will examine how to make the Ontario Autism Program truly needs-based. She will deliver these recommendations to the committee, and will continue to advocate for services that address the individual needs of each child.

"The 'one-size-fits-all' plan that the Minister announced in February was a complete failure. Now that the Ministry has conducted the extensive consultations they should have held *before* that announcement, a clear consensus has emerged about the urgency of returning to a system where families and clinicians work together to establish treatment plans. Children and youth on the autism spectrum are unique individuals, and the services and funding they receive must reflect that. Let me be perfectly clear: OAC members will not accept arbitrary age or funding caps," said Kirby-McIntosh.

The full report is available at: [www.ontarioautismcoalition.com](http://www.ontarioautismcoalition.com)

—30—

### **For further information:**

Laura Kirby-McIntosh, President  
416-315-7939

Angela Brandt, Member  
416-843-7403

---

# **#AutismDoesntEndAtFord**

---

The Ontario Autism Coalition is a non-profit Ontario corporation dedicated to advocacy and political action on behalf of people with autism.  
[www.ontarioautismcoalition.com](http://www.ontarioautismcoalition.com)