



# ONTARIO AUTISM COALITION

c/o Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP, 199 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5L 1A9, (647) 496-4688

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Ontario Autism Coalition: A Perfect Storm Headed for Schools Lack of Preparations Made by Ministries for Legacy Childrens' Transition to New Core Services Autism Program**

TORONTO, ON - The Ontario Autism Coalition (OAC) will hold a press conference on April 5th, 2023 at Queen's Park Toronto to discuss the situation facing thousands of autistic children who will be transitioning from the previous legacy autism program to the government's new OAP Core Services program within the next six months.

These "legacy" children are facing dramatic cuts to their therapy hours, due to funding caps. This will translate into an increased demand on the Ontario school system. School boards have not even been informed by the appropriate ministries that these children are coming into the system, nor have they been given any additional funding to ensure that these children have adequate support.

The Ontario Autism Coalition believes that it is clinically and ethically inappropriate for children to face such a sudden drop in services and there is concern that school boards are already facing funding shortages and are unable to meet the needs of current special education students. This is a recipe for a perfect storm of school exclusions.

The Ontario Autism Coalition is calling on the government to take immediate action to address this urgent situation. The Coalition will be joined by MPP Chandra Pasma and MPP Monique Taylor, who will provide their insight into the challenges facing these children as they make the transition to the new program. The press conference will begin at 9:00 a.m.

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### **For Further Information Contact:**

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# **#50KIsNotOK**

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)