



Community Living Toronto

A United Way Member Agency

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Staff

FROM: Bruce Rivers, Chief Executive Officer
Edgar Godoy, President CUPE local 2191

DATE: February 14, 2007

RE: Joint Association and Union Advocacy Approach

As a follow-up to the last memo dated January 30, 2007 we are pleased to communicate further information to you regarding our joint advocacy efforts.

The date of our provincial election has just recently been changed to **October 10th, 2007**. We all realize the importance of making sure that the needs of the individuals and families as well as the work of the Developmental Services Sector get on the political agenda. As part of that bigger picture, our provincial government is currently in the process of preparing its Provincial Budget. Together with other service partners in our sector, we have been actively seeking an additional \$200 million ongoing investment for developmental services province-wide to be included in this year's budget.

It is critical that our government hear clearly and repeatedly about the importance of the Developmental Services Sector. We encourage you to write, call or visit your local MPP to tell them, in your own words, how important the work in this sector is. We feel that this sends a strong and unified message to our elected officials.

Again, it is important that this contact takes place over the next few weeks in order to maximize our impact on the budget. In order to assist you in moving forward, the following may be helpful:

- CUPE has created a website <http://www.wecounttoo.ca> where you can find information about their advocacy efforts as well as the "We Count Too" postcard (hard copies will soon be available in CLToronto Regional Offices, or through your union representative);
- The attached list of Toronto MPP's with phone numbers and email addresses has been provided so that you can follow up with your local MPP directly;

As mentioned before, we are focused on encouraging the current government to provide;

- Improved access to services for families including additional funding to expand services to meet the growing unmet need;
- Appropriate training, education and compensation for staff;
- Sufficient base multi-year funding to stabilize the sector with a strong, community-based agency infrastructure;

This advocacy effort represents an important step in our ongoing commitment to address compensation issues for the staff of Community Living Toronto. With your support and individual effort we can all advocate for the funds necessary to address the emerging needs of the individuals and families we serve.

Please let us know how the calls go!

BR/ab