

An Invitation

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Community Living Access Support Services (CLASS), you are invited to a meeting **March 1, 2012** from **5:30 – 7:30 p.m.** at the Norfolk Public Library **46 Colborne Street South, Simcoe**, to discuss the changes needed to improve Social Assistance in Ontario.

What is Social Assistance

Social Assistance includes the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) and Ontario Works (OW). A Provincial Commission is reviewing all aspects of Social Assistance to identify ways it can be improved. The questions the Commission is asking include:

- What are reasonable expectations and necessary supports to employment?
- What is an appropriate level of funding for ODSP and OW?
- How can ODSP and OW be easier to understand?
- How can we make sure ODSP and OW or some form of Social Assistance is available in the future?
- How can government departments work together to ensure income security?

Why Should This be Important to Me

Your experience with ODSP or OW means that you know what is working for you, or your family member, and what is not. If you provide supports to people on ODSP or OW your insight about required changes is very important. Your comments can help the Commission make recommendations to the Provincial Government about the changes needed. Input to the Commission is required by March 16, 2012.

How Can I Participate

You are invited to a meeting, hosted by CLASS, on **March 1, 2012** from **5:30 – 7:30p.m.**, Norfolk Public Library **46 Colborne Street South, Simcoe**. Light refreshments will be provided. Members of the Board and staff will be present to discuss your ideas with particular emphasis on ODSP because the people supported by CLASS, and other partner organizations in Norfolk and Haldimand, are usually receiving this benefit.

RSVP to Shelly at 519-426-0007, ext 212, by February 27, 2012 so the necessary arrangements for the meeting can be made. Or a message can be left on the Board of Director's line 519-426-0007, ext 203.

What Information Do I Need

Really the most important thing is to come and discuss your experience. You can also review the Commission's report "Discussion Paper 2: Approaches for Reform." It suggests ideas about the changes that are necessary. You can order a copy by calling toll free 1-855-269-6250 or by downloading it from www.socialassistancereview.ca.

If you do not have time to review the information before the meeting, do not worry. Some basic information about the report and the questions the Commission wants you to answer will be provided at the meeting. The document will also be available for reference.

Look forward to seeing you.....

Posie Ross

CLASS Chair