



An open letter to the families who applied for the 2010 Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Respite Funding

May 12, 2010

To: All families who applied for ASD respite funding at Service Coordination des services

Thank you for applying for ASD respite funding at Service Coordination des services. This funding is provided to Service Coordination des services by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services. By this time, you have received a response letter which tells you if you will be receiving funding this year or not. As in past years, we have received numerous calls inquiring why some families receive this funding and some do not.

In April, we mailed 827 applications. We received 370 completed forms and each applicant was called to verify the information on the application. Nothing was changed or altered unless your approval was given. In all cases, the call resulted in information being added to the application. We value these calls as they give us a chance to get greater understanding of your situation.

With \$125,000 to disburse, our task is then to review the applications, each family's unique circumstances and individual needs. The review committee makes the selection. The letters are prepared and mailed out. This entire process stretches over 6 to 8 weeks to meet your request to get a quick response.

Each year, new families apply and some of the families who re-apply have new circumstances or needs, which change the evaluation of their situation. This is why some families are funded some years and others are not.

This year, as in previous years, we have been able to fund 81 families. If you have not received a response, please call us.

Once again, please accept our thanks in communicating with us through this process. We value and recognize the time it takes to do this and each one of the calls allows us an opportunity to change the process to improve it.

The children's case management team at Service Coordination des services works diligently to assist the families who were not selected. I would like to take this opportunity in thanking them as well for their dedication and professionalism.

Renée Bélanger
Case Management Services Division

Stephen Novosedlik
Executive Director