

Issue 07

March 2016



Passport Post

PASSPORT QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

New Fiscal Year

A friendly reminder that we have started the new fiscal year, April 1 2016 to March 31, 2017. You may want to review your budget to ensure you are on track.

For questions about your Passport funding, contact your coordinator at **416-780-1106** and the following extension numbers:

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Venetta Tavernese X 289

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Passport and the Ontario Public Guardian and Trustee (OPGT)

Are you supported by the Public Guardian and Trustee's office?

Is the OPGT your financial substitute decision maker?

If so, the OPGT must be involved in making decisions about how your Passport funds are administered. Along with you and your chosen support network, Passport will work with the OPGT to determine the best possible way to administer your Passport funds. For example, asking an agency to manage the funds or assigning the management of the funds to someone else. If you work with the OPGT, please be sure to inform your Passport Coordinator.

Collecting Demographic Information

In our annual mail out we circulated demographic forms to better understand the people and families we support. Characteristics such as gender, age, education, occupation, income level, and marital status are asked to ensure our service is accessible.

Answering demographic questions is completely voluntary. Not answering one or more question will not affect the service you receive. Thank you for your participation!

Hiring a Support Worker

It is important when hiring a Personal Support Worker (PSW) to consider the needs, wants and desires of the service user.

Typically, Personal Support Workers are responsible for supporting the personal, medical and social needs of their client and assisting them with participating in and completing life skills or recreational activities. Because building a positive rapport is essential in order for the relationship to thrive, the person receiving the support from the PSW should be involved in the selection process as much as they are able or would like to. Input from the service user is encouraged to ensure that they enjoy the company of the person that is hired to support them and so that the relationship is mutually beneficial. Because the support offered by PSWs can be sensitive and complex, it is important that the people involved complement each other's personalities and are on the same page when working towards a goal or satisfying a need. When selecting support staff consider the following:

- What expectations are being placed on the Personal Support Worker
- The budget to pay the PSW and the amount of support time required.
- The goals, interests, likes and dislikes of the service user
- The personality type(s) that would most benefit the service user and how certain personality traits may impact their involvement in the service

Passport Testimonials

“Because it provides so much support for her, it has also helped me” – a Passport program testimonial.

I am so grateful and thankful for the Passport Program. It has given my daughter so much freedom to participate in activities and programs that SHE likes to do and not being forced to do because I cannot afford her preferences. Especially the option to choose between programs like the day program she now attends). She is improving socially, thanks to her personal workers taking her on different excursions like cooking, painting classes, appointments, day trips, sporting events, respite for holidays and some weekends etc...The Passport Program has not only helped my daughter, but because it provides so much support for her, It has also helped me. Thank you so much as this has truly been a blessing.

- Mother of a Passport client

DSTO Information Fair -

May 18th

Developmental Services Toronto will be holding their annual information fair on May 18th from 10am to 6pm at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre (6 Garamond Court, Toronto, ON, M3C 1Z5).

The day will include information from Toronto based agencies on services and supports for transitional youth (16+) and adults (18+) with a developmental disability, Agency and Community Partner presentations, and opportunities for families to speak to dsto agency staff, self-advocacy groups and family groups.

For more information please visit

www.dstorontoronto.ca or contact Matthew

Armstrong at 647-729-1158 or

matthew.armstrong@cltoronto.ca

