



Trustee Times Trustee Times



*Season's Greetings from all of us at
Support & Trustee Advisory Services*

In this edition.....

Exciting news from the Ontario Provincial Government regarding the Registered Disability Savings Plan and ODSP...see below for an excerpt from the Ministry of Community and Social Services web site announcing this...

Support & Trustee Advisory Services is pleased to acknowledge the receipt of a generous grant from the Pendle Fund at the Community Foundation of Mississauga in recognition of our work with and for families with a family member who has a disability. This grant will help STAS to continue and expand upon the work started over the last three years. Thank you, Pendle Fund at the Community Foundation of Mississauga for this honour. We salute your vision and look forward to reaching new heights in the year to come.

ONTARIO SUPPORTS REGISTERED DISABILITY SAVINGS PLANS

McGuinty Government Helps Families Save for Children with Disabilities

Ontario is making it possible for social assistance recipients to take advantage of Registered Disability Savings Plans (RDSPs).

Like the Registered Education Savings Plan, RDSPs allow family members and loved ones to save money tax free until withdrawal. The program helps people plan for the future needs of children and adults with disabilities.

Changes to Ontario's social assistance rules will make sure that both RDSP assets and withdrawals are fully exempt. This means:

- RDSP contributions do not impact eligibility for social assistance
- People on social assistance can take money out of an RDSP without affecting their social assistance payments.

To further help social assistance recipients with disabilities save for their future, Ontario is also increasing the amount they can receive as a gift or payment from a trust from \$5,000 to \$6,000 a year.

QUOTES

"This is about making it easier for families to save for their children with disabilities," said Minister of Community and Social Services Madeleine Meilleur. "We are making sure that people can put money in an RDSP without it affecting their eligibility for disability support."

"The message from the Ontario government is clear. It trusts families to help their relative with a disability and has opened the door for them to secure the future for their loved one. In twenty years, we'll look back on this as a watershed moment for people with disabilities." said President and Co-Founder of Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network Al Etmanski.

"What will happen when I'm no longer here is a sentiment shared by many families caring for a relative with a disability. The future for their loved ones was almost certain poverty. But with today's welcomed announcement, the Ontario government has cleared the way for families and communities to invest in a new vision for Ontario citizens with disabilities," said Ontario RDSP Working Group Chair Jeff Dobbin.

It is likely that more information will be announced in the weeks to come. As with any other program, parents are encouraged to research the RDSP thoroughly before participating.



UPCOMING SEMINARS IN MISSISSAUGA:

✓ Alison Ouellette, author of "A Place Called Home"

January 28, 2009 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Community Living Mississauga, 6715 Millcreek Drive, Unit 4,
Mississauga, Ontario

RSVP to Tiina Elder at 905-542-2694 ext.2223

✓ Financial Planning and MHIL seminar

February 10, 2009 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Community Living Mississauga, 6715 Millcreek Drive, Unit 4,
Mississauga, Ontario

RSVP to Tiina Elder at 905-542-2694 ext.2223

Information about Brampton seminars will be available
after the holidays

I want to learn more about STAS!

Name: _____

Address: _____

email: _____

telephone: _____ home

_____ work

- I want to be a member! My registration form and \$10.00 membership fee are included!
- I want to purchase a print - please contact me!
- I want to meet with the coordinator regarding future planning!
- I want to know when there will be a wills and estates seminar!