

APPENDIX J

PROGRAM SUMMARIES

PROGRAM SUMMARY: MINISTRY OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES				
Programs and Services	Description	Eligibility Criteria	Ministry Comments	Consumer Comments
Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP)	Needs-based program providing education-related funding to help students access post-secondary education		OSAP is currently reviewing its policies for students with disabilities.	Learning Disabilities are not recognized as requiring flexible arrangements.
Special Needs Allocation; Accessibility Envelope	Special funding provided to colleges of applied arts and technology and to universities to assist them to provide support services and accommodations to students with physical and learning disabilities.			Mature (continuing, part-time students) do not receive the same services; despite funding, some colleges expect students to pay for their own learning assessments; At some institutions, verification of LD (and recent assessment) required. Need for more in-class accommodation.
<p>Note: Colleges and Universities provide braille transcription, audiotape and large print services for students enrolled in the post secondary system. (see Ross MacDonald entry under Ministry of Education for further program details.) Need for more links between secondary schools and colleges and universities. Problem with inter-college portability of assessments. Need for more classes in social skills; support group and academic help could be provided through specialized English Courses for LD.</p>				

PROGRAM SUMMARY: MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Programs and Services	Description	Eligibility Criteria	Ministry Comments	Consumer Comments
Employment Services	Pre-employment counselling, life skills, training, work experience services, delivered by Municipalities, and First Nation Communities to persons in receipt of; social assistance.	No specific services for persons with a learning disability.	All Ministry funded employment programs are currently under review.	
Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS)	Vocational counselling, assessment and training, and job placement services and the provision of technical and assistive devices delivered by the Ministry to persons with disabilities.	Persons with learning disabilities are eligible for services.	All Ministry funded employment programs are currently under review.	Access to services for persons with learning disabilities is limited and depends on the interest and knowledge of the intake worker. No focused services for persons with learning disabilities.
Family Benefits Assistance (FBA)	Persons with permanent physical or mental disabilities, who are severely limited in the activities of daily living, or those who are considered permanently unemployable, are eligible for an income maintenance allowance under the Family Benefits Act.	Persons with learning disabilities are not considered within the meaning of the Act.	The Ministry's income maintenance legislation is currently under review.	

PROGRAM SUMMARY: MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES (CONT'D)

Programs and Services	Description	Eligibility Criteria	Ministry Comments	Consumer Comments
Young Offenders	<p>A Plan of Care, based on a comprehensive needs assessment, must be prepared for all young offenders between the ages of 12 and 15 years. Services to Young Offenders are delivered/coordinated by Ministry probation officers and facilities and by Ministry funded agencies.</p>	<p>Special education is arranged for a young offenders when the assessment shows that he/she has a learning disability, where services exist.</p>		<p>Many young offenders have a learning disability, the services funded by MCSS do not seem to differentiate between young offenders with a learning disability and those without.</p>
Special Services at Home and Respite Services	<p>Respite and other services are provided by the Ministry, and Ministry funded agencies to assist the families of children or adults who have developmental disabilities and children with physical disabilities to maintain the family member in the home.</p>	<p>The families of people with learning disabilities are not eligible for the service.</p>		

PROGRAM SUMMARY: MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES (CONT'D)				
Programs and Services	Description	Eligibility Criteria	Ministry Comments	Consumer Comments
Child Treatment Services and Child Intervention Services	Child Treatment Services are funded by the Ministry to provide services to a child and/or to the child's family, where the child has been diagnosed by a psychiatrist as having a mental or psychiatric disorder. Treatment in both categories involves planned interventions based on multi-disciplinary professional approaches .	Services are designed to alleviate a range of social, emotional and/or behavioural problems, which may include those caused by learning disabilities, experienced by children and their families. The services include counselling, assessment and residential services.	Programs are established for the purpose of dealing with psychiatric, emotional, or behavioural problems; not with learning disabilities themselves.	There are extremely long waiting lists for Child Treatment Services and there is little in the way of crisis intervention. The programs are usually only prepared to accept children when the problem has become very serious. Even though some workers say that at least 50% of children receiving such care have have learning disabilities, learning disabilities are not recorded as a primary diagnosis.
Municipal/First Nations Employment Program	Employment assessment, employment planning, resource inventory, matching clients to training or employment, follow-up.	Persons in receipt of social assistance. No specific services for persons with learning disabilities.	All Ministry funded programs are currently under review.	

PROGRAM SUMMARY: MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES (CONT'D)

Programs and Services	Description	Eligibility Criteria	Ministry Comments	Consumer Comments
The Integra Foundation	The Integra Foundation is a transfer payment agency that provides services which include counselling, therapeutic groups, summer day camps, and a six week therapeutic residential summer camp. Most of the services are limited to persons living in Metro Toronto, with the exception of the residential camp and some training of professional persons.	Services specifically for young persons (aged 8 to 18) and their families, who exhibit emotional or behavioural problems associated with having a learning disability.	This is the only MCSS funded service provider dealing with the problems associated with learning disabilities. It is highly valued by clients, and demand for service far exceed the capacity of the organization.	

PROGRAM SUMMARY: MINISTRY OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Programs and Services	Description	Eligibility Criteria	Ministry Comments	Consumer Comments
Provincial Schools Authority Teachers	Highly trained special education teachers provide intensive day school programs in ten adult correction facilities. Opportunities address a wide range of individual needs which can include literacy, numeracy, adult basic education, upgrading, secondary school credit courses, through to diploma completion, vocational training, and interest studies.	Any adult incarcerated at the ten facilities who requests the service. The choice to be involved and commitment to an educational program must be made with consideration of other treatment, work and interest motives of the offender.	A core program which has been in place for many years. Offenders with learning disabilities can be accommodated by the individualized and personalized programming available. A short custodial stay may hamper through diagnosis and assessment of offender with a learning disability.	Staff (Corrections and Teaching) not knowledgeable about learning disabilities.
"Section 27" Agreements	School board teachers provide a wide range of programming in academics-basic, remedial, upgrading and credit courses, as well as vocational options on a year-round basis. Program standards are consistent with all Ministry of Education policy guidelines for special education programs.	All young offenders in closed detention and custody units and those in open custody at particular locations. Adult offenders (18-21 years) at particular jail and detention centre locations.	Programs developed since the inception of Young Offenders Act and the resultant changes in Ministry of Education mandates to school boards requiring delivery of special education services and the relevant grant regulations. Over thirty programs are in place.	

PROGRAM SUMMARY: MINISTRY OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES (CON'T)

Programs and Services	Description	Eligibility Criteria	Ministry Comments	Consumer Comments
Volunteers in Literacy Programming	Community-based literacy groups provide literacy services to offenders within institutions and on community placement to deal with the needs of the functionally illiterate offender.	Any interested young adult offender may enter the program.	The various approaches and methodologies usually involve one-to-one tutoring and accommodate the wide range of learning difficulties that may be manifested by the illiterate student. The potential to increase this type of program delivery is being pursued.	
Continuing Education (Sponsored by Ministry of Education through local school boards)	Programs are focused on adult basic education (e.g., literacy, numeracy, and life skills with some academic upgrading credit courses). Programs provide part-time study opportunities at several facilities.	Adult offenders at several sites.	There is no regulatory requirement that school boards must provide these services. Currently, over one dozen programs are in place.	

PROGRAM SUMMARY: MINISTRY OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES (CON'T)

Programs and Services	Description	Eligibility Criteria	Ministry Comments	Consumer Comments
Correspondence Education	Wide range of courses for secondary school credits and of an academic nature are available. Literacy and basis English programs are available for use with students and their tutors.	Any offender of any age at any site may access these courses which are those available to the general public.	Liaison officers at institutional sites facilitate the use of these "distance education programs". Annual registration total over 1700.	

PROGRAM SUMMARY: MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Programs and Services	Description	Eligibility Criteria	Ministry Comments	Consumer Comments
School Boards	In accordance with the <u>Education Act</u> , and relevant regulations, school board in Ontario must provide or enter into an agreement with another board to provide special education programs and services for their exceptional pupils, in the English language or, where French is the language of instruction, in the French language.	All resident pupils enrolled in a school is defined in the <u>Education Act</u> .	School Boards are responsible to identify exceptional pupils and to provide special education programs and special education services in English and French first languages.	Concern about services for non-English speaking LD. Concern about the 7 to 12% of children who fall between the cracks and do not get identified.
Identification Placement Review Committee (IPRC)	At the written request of a parent, an elementary or secondary school principal must refer a pupil to an IPRC. The IPRC identifies the needs of the pupil, whether or not the pupil is an exceptional pupil and recommends the placement of an exceptional pupil in a special education program.		Decisions of the IPRC. may be appealed to a Special Education Appeal Board and subsequently, to a Special Education Tribunal.	Quality of assessments varies considerably from one board of education to the next.

PROGRAM SUMMARY: MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (CON'T)

Note: Possible changes to the special education legislation are under review. Bill 37, An Act to amend the Education Act and Certain other Acts with respect to Special Education (Special Education Statute Law Amendment Act, 1992), received first reading on June 2, 1992. In addition, the Ministry is conducting an extensive consultation on integration, including a validation of revised exceptionality identifications and definitions.

Relevant Definitions:

'exceptional pupil' means a pupil whose behavioural, communicational, intellectual, physical or multiple exceptionalities are such that he/she is considered to need placement in a special education program by a committee, established under sub-paragraph iii of paragraph 5 of subsection 10 (1), of the board.

'special education program' means, in respect of an exceptional pupil, and educational program that is based on and modified by the results of continuous assessment and evaluation and that includes a plan containing specific objectives and an outline of services that meets the needs of the exceptional pupil.

'special educational services' means facilities and resources including support personnel and equipment, necessary for developing and implementing a special education program.

PROGRAM SUMMARY: MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (CONT'D)

Programs and Services	Description	Eligibility Criteria	Ministry Comments	Consumer Comments
Residential Demonstration School Programs	<p>Three Anglophone and one Francophone residential demonstration schools provide programs to meet the needs of exceptional pupils with severe learning disabilities; provide assessment and consultation services to identified exceptional students with learning disabilities enrolled in special education programs provided by school boards; and provide a variety of teacher training/professional development workshops for teachers, administrators and other interested professionals.</p>	<p>A provincial committee on learning disabilities reviews applications and recommends exceptional pupils with severe learning disabilities who require a residential program for admission to one of the following residential schools; Centre Jules-Léger (French); Robarts, Trillium, and Sagonaskia (English), in accordance with Policy/Program Memorandum No.89.</p>	<p>Pupils are admitted the first school day in September and February. Written information regarding the programs and consultative services are forwarded to school boards each fall. Consultative staff are assigned to serve school boards with in designated geographical catchment areas.</p>	<p>An unadvertised secret? (comment from disgruntled parent)</p>

PROGRAM SUMMARY: MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (CONT'D)

Programs and Services	Description	Eligibility Criteria	Ministry Comments	Consumer Comments
<p>Educational Programs in Care, Treatment, and Correctional Facilities</p>	<p>Where pupils cannot attend local schools due to their need for care and and/or treatment or are in custody, school boards provide educational programs, in the facilities, including special education programs. The educational programs are approved and funded by the Ministry of Education in accordance with the General Legislative Grants Regulations, Policy/Program Memorandum No.85, and relevant guidelines.</p>	<p>School-age children and youth admitted to government approved care,treatment, correctional facilities by agencies operating under the Ministries of Health, Correctional Services or Community and Social Services.</p>	<p>Agreements between school-boards and facilities operated by the Ministries of Health, Corrections, and Community and Social Services are approved for funding in accordance with the General Legislative Grants Regulations.</p>	
<p>Transcript Services for Print Handicapped Students</p>	<p>The W. Ross MacDonald School, Brantford, provides audiotape, large print and braille course materials to print-handicapped elementary, secondary and post-secondary</p>	<p>A letter indicating that a student has a print disability is required for blindness, low vision, learning disabilities, or other physical impairments that affect the ability to read.</p>	<p>Special needs offices may determine and submit documentation, as appropriate.</p>	<p>Time lag in getting books can lead to student failures.</p>

PROGRAM SUMMARY: MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (CONT'D)

Programs and Services	Description	Eligibility Criteria	Ministry Comments	Consumer Comments
Ontario Community Literacy (OCL)	To enhance the development and delivery of community-based adult basic literacy programs.	(Programs vary in intensity of LD Programming. They include people with disabilities, people with learning disabilities, offenders, visible minorities, and natives. A parallel stream of Francophone literacy programs is delivered.)		
Ontario Basic Skills (OBS)	The OBS program provides basic skills training (including literacy, numeracy, science, computers, workplace adjustment, and pre-trades for women) to adults to enable them to secure worthwhile employment and to access further skills training.		Clients need access to assessment services; staff need training in LD. Woods Gordon report (to MSD, 1988) notes research indicates 30% to 50% of all basic level adult learners have some forms of learning disabilities.	

PROGRAM SUMMARY: MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (CONT'D)

Programs and Services	Description	Eligibility Criteria	Ministry Comments	Consumer Comments
Ontario Basic Skills in the Workplace (OBSW)	Provides grants to unions and employers (and employer associations and their non-profit delivery agents) to improve basic skills of workers.		No real recognition of LD in the program development and delivery; no training on LD for literacy workers.	
Financial Support Allowance	Provides funding for participants in literacy courses in OBS programs to cover costs of transportation and childcare.			
Youth Employment Counselling Centres	Programs are designed to help unemployed young people who are socially, economically or educationally disadvantaged to develop the skills needed to gain employment.		No focussed programming for LD clients; limited training of professionals.	
Futures	Programs are designed to provide pre-employment preparation to disadvantaged young people with counselling, basic life skills and work placements to enhance their skills and employability.		Research shows high incidence of LD in client group but no special training on LD for staff.	

PROGRAM SUMMARY: MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (CONT'D)

Programs and Services	Description	Eligibility Criteria	Ministry Comments	Consumer Comments
Summer Experience in the Trades	Programs match high school students with employers in a trades related job.			
Youth Hotline	Provides no cost telephone access to information regarding all programs		Concern about the 7% to 12% of children who fall through the cracks and do not get identified mandatory screening in early years. Concern about services for non-English speaking children with learning disabilities. Quality of assessments varies considerably from one board of education to the next.	

PROGRAM SUMMARY: MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Programs and Services	Description	Eligibility Criteria	Ministry Comments	Consumer Comments
Assistive Devices Program (ADP)	Funding assistance (usually 75%) for communication and visual aids, prosthetic and incontinence aids, hearing aids, ostomy supplies, orthotics, wheelchairs, mobility and seating aids, respiratory equipment, and internal feeding supplies.	Some categorise have age limits on eligibility.	Persons with learning disabilities are ineligible.	
Community Mental Health Programs	Community-based mental services to reduce admissions to psychiatric facilities, replace in-patient with out-patient treatment, reintegrate discharged patients, increase interventions and reduce the risk of mental disorder in high risk groups.		Services will deal with people disabilities, but workers often not trained in recognizing LD: training is needed. Sometimes LD goes ignored because "this is for behaviour problems." Long waiting lists and not enough crisis.	
Alcohol and Drug Dependency Program	Funds institution but also community-based programs by non-profit community boards.			

PROGRAM SUMMARY: MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Programs and Services	Description	Eligibility Criteria	Ministry Comments	Consumer Comments
School Health Support Services	Allows local home care programs to provide health care to students in special education classes and those with special needs who could not otherwise attend school. Services are a shared responsibility of school boards, local Home Care Programs, and agencies under the aegis of the Ministry of Community and Social Services.	Resident pupils of school boards as described in Reg.452 of the <u>Health Insurance Act and Policy and Program</u> Memorandum No.81.	This program is provided to ensure that no pupil is denied access to a publicly-supported educational program due to a health need.	Children with learning disabilities must also have some other disability to be eligible (must meet "physical malformation" criteria). Children with learning disabilities excluded from most of these services their needs are not viewed as physical or developmental. Many children with learning disabilities desperately need speech services and occupational therapy.
Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP)	Plan underwrites all or some of the costs of eligible insured health services for all residents of Ontario.		Despite its neurological nature, LD assessments are not covered by OHIP and are left to psychologists. Recent findings are directing identification more to medical services (ie. EEGs, CAT and PET scans, etc.)	Family doctors should have knowledge about learning disabilities; need for education of school and public health nurses and VON. Hospital clinics typically do not do assessments on adults with learning disabilities.

PROGRAM SUMMARY: MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Programs and Services	Description	Eligibility Criteria	Ministry Comments	Consumer Comments
Centre for Disability and Work	Referral and advice to job-seekers who are disabled, as well as informal job brokerage. Program seeks to increase job opportunities for people with disabilities by working with key participants such as job seekers, employers, labour organizations, educators, health and rehabilitation professionals and consumer organizations.		Does provide for persons with learning disabilities. Staff person with specific responsibility for learning disabilities.	
Transitions	Skills training program that provides up to \$5000 for training over two years to laid off employees aged 45 and over.		No specific focus on learning disabilities.	

PROGRAM SUMMARY: MINISTRY OF SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Programs and Services	Description	Eligibility Criteria	Ministry Comments	Consumer Comments
Apprenticeship	This program provides structured, on-the-job and in-school, specialized training in 68 regulated occupations, and approximately 400 employer-established occupations in the construction, industrial, motive power and service sectors.		Ministry staff require information concerning learning disabilities and the employment needs of persons with disabilities. Colleges also require this information.	
<p>Note: MSD has reviewed these concerns, and subsequently has agreed to provide training sessions on learning disabilities for consulting staff, and to share information from Learning Disabilities Association with appropriate staff. MSD is also flexible in administering examinations and supporting in-school training for those with learning disabilities on an "as-needed" basis.</p>				