

OIFN is pleased to share some of our learning about facilitating change and customizing support, in service of an ordinary, everyday life for all people.

[OIFN Key Messages](#)

OIFN's Key Messages document provides a brief introduction to the Ontario Independent Facilitation Network, outlining OIFN's Vision, Mission, and Core Beliefs.

[OIFN Scope of Practice of Independent Facilitation](#)

Drawing from learning and from OIFN documents developed over time, this OIFN resource explores the purpose, guiding principles, and work of Independent Facilitation, offering an in-depth look at what it takes and what it means to assist people with disabilities to figure out and build an ordinary, everyday life.

[OIFN Guide for Ethical Conduct](#)

Independent Facilitation is a *non-regulated practice*, which means that *there is no universally recognized local, regional, or federal authority, regulatory or accrediting body that holds the liability or provides monitoring for independent facilitators*. OIFN offers this Guide for Ethical Conduct, as a resource that outlines some of the safeguards to the practice. As a self-regulated profession, it is expected that when independent facilitators initially meet with a person, family, and/or significant others, they will review with them the Guide for Ethical Conduct as well as their relevant experience.

[Questions to Ask Your Independent Facilitator](#)

Before beginning work with an independent facilitator, OIFN encourages people, along with their loved ones (family members, friends, support circles, other people you trust), to take some time to learn about the facilitator and decide if you think that the facilitator will be a good fit.

OIFN offers these sample questions to assist you to decide if a facilitator has the experience, values, and qualities that are important to you.

When first meeting with a facilitator, you may consider asking some or all of the questions, in order to learn if the facilitator meets your needs before beginning the relationship and getting started on the work.

When beginning the search for a visit, you may also want to review the [Getting Started – Things to Consider](#) page.

Are you looking for an Independent Facilitator?

Visit [OIFN's Independent Facilitator Listings](#) to search for available independent facilitators in your area.

[Framework for an Ordinary, Everyday Life](#)

Drawing from foundational work of other provincial grassroots organizations, this framework outlines the foundation for a good life and recognizes the need to invest in opportunities that advance ongoing learning, build experience, and expand skills and knowledge, in order to promote valued roles and contributions within society as a whole.

[Impacts of Independent Facilitation - Charts and Infographics](#)

Using OIFN produced research, reports, and Collective Impact data outcomes, [the Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario \(IFCO\)](#) and OIFN have produced a number of impact charts that can be helpful for people and families in their presentations and efforts for Independent Facilitation.

You can also find a graphic showing the different in costs and investment in Independent Facilitation per year, versus group homes, long-term care, homeless shelters and hospital beds, created by the Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario.

[OIFN Response to Ministry contracted Evaluation of the Independent Facilitation Demonstration Project](#)

The Ministry of Community and Social Services (now the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services) contracted with a third-party evaluator, Power Analysis Inc. for an evaluation of the two-year Independent Facilitation Demonstration Project (IFDP). Conducting the evaluation in the start-up phase of the IFDP was indeed premature and did not look at Return on Investment over time. The process used throughout the evaluation, as well as the final report, contains some serious flaws in its data collection, analysis, comparisons, and conclusions. OIFN and the IFDP Collaborative submitted this detailed response and analysis to the Ministry regarding the limitations of this evaluation report.

Visit the Resources page on the OIFN website for more: <http://www.oifn.ca/resources2/>

[Impacts of an Independent Facilitator](#)

Created by the [Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario \(IFCO\)](#), this info-graphic illustrates the building of capacity, connections, relationships and involvement in community and the ripple effect and impact of Independent Facilitation in supporting citizenship and community contribution.

[Questions and Answers: Independent Facilitation and the Independent Facilitation Demonstration Project \(IFDP\)](#)

This Q&A document includes OIFN's responses to questions about the:

- Role of Independent Facilitation
- Outcomes and impacts of the Independent Facilitation Demonstration Project (IFDP) funded by the Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services (MCCSS) in 2015-2019
- Learning about the importance of ongoing infrastructure funding for Independent Facilitation in Ontario.

[What Difference Can Independent Facilitation Make?](#)

This series of vignettes offers a glimpse at the role that Independent Facilitation has played in the lives of different people. Through the trusting relationships build over time with an independent facilitator, people felt supported to make their own decisions and direct their own lives

[Who Can Benefit from Independent Facilitation?](#)

Excerpted from OIFN's *Weaving a Story of Change: IFDP Learnings So Far* (2017), this graphic offers an overview of the various points in people's lives where they might benefit from meeting with an independent facilitator.

[Path of Innovation](#)

Exploring the history of Developmental Services in Ontario, the *Path of Innovation* places the current experiences of people, families, and communities into a broader context of systems change.

[Fee For Service Brief](#)

This brief on Fee for Service explores why this approach is not a sustainable model for the availability of Independent Facilitation in Ontario and emphasizes the need for ongoing infrastructure funding, so that there is equitable access to Independent Facilitation and Direct Individualized Funding for all citizens in Ontario who live with developmental disabilities, along with their loved ones.

[Briefing Note](#)

Following the provincial election in June 2018, the Ontario Independent Facilitation Network saw an opportunity to contribute to the new government's perception and understanding of the robust history, current realities, and possible future of Developmental Services.

Although written with a government audience in mind, this Briefing Note serves as a two-page summary of OIFN's vision for and possible contributions to the changing landscape of Developmental Services in Ontario, which may be of interest to anyone who may be asking who OIFN is and what OIFN cares about.

[Core Elements of Independent Facilitation](#)

In April 2018, OIFN and the leads from Independent Facilitation Organizations across the province engaged in dialogue to clarify the heart and core of the work of Independent Facilitation.

[Weaving a Story of Change: IFDP Learning So Far](#)

In 2015-2017, OIFN, seven Independent Facilitation Organizations (IFOs), and the Ministry of Community and Social Services collaborated on the Independent Facilitation Demonstration Project (IFDP) to explore the possibility of making Independent Facilitation a viable support option for people with developmental disabilities and those who love them, as they pursue life as a valued citizen and contributing community member. Prepared in April 2017, this review of the first two years of the IFDP outlines the history, complexity, and possibility of creating and sustaining Independent Facilitation as one innovative option of support.

Visit the Resources page on the OIFN website for more: <http://www.oifn.ca/resources2/>

[Common Threads Reflections 2016](#)

Hosted in Toronto in November 2016, the second OIFN Common Threads Conference brought together people and families, independent facilitators, and other allies to experience where our roles, values, and goals weave together. This reflection written by John O'Brien offers a glimpse of the spirit of the conference – thinking differently, imagining new possibilities, and learning from stories of inspiration that showcased the role of Independent Facilitation in supporting people and families to create change in their lives and perceive and act upon their citizenship in new ways

[Probing the Edges of the Work of Independent Facilitation](#)

Through in-depth discussions with independent facilitators from 6 of the 7 IFOs funded by the IFDP, OIFN explored the unique and expansive offering of Independent Facilitation. This reflection is the result of these efforts to clarify the role of facilitating change.

[An Ecosystem for Growing Possibilities](#)

Emerging from an OIFN visioning session in March 2016, this reflection explores the inter-connected network of relationships needed to foster growth and change in the developmental services sector. Relationships with people and families, autonomous self-advocacy and family groups, and the Ministry of Community and Social Services are inherent to the work of Independent Facilitation.

[Common Threads Reflections 2014](#)

The Common Threads Conference hosted in April 2014 composed portraits of person-centered work. Everyone who attended had the chance to expand their understanding by reflecting on the hopes and meanings attached to doing the work. This reflections was written by John O'Brien with contributions from several conference presenters.