

ONTARIO INDEPENDENT FACILITATION NETWORK FRAMEWORK FOR AN ORDINARY, EVERYDAY LIFE

Independent Facilitation is a key support for people with developmental disabilities, their family and/or loved ones for identifying next steps so that they can take action on a day to day basis, customizing their supports, getting closer to their vision, and creating positive change in their lives. This support includes assisting the person and their family and/or loved ones to reflect on their valued adult roles and what it takes to develop and maintain these roles in neighbourhood and community. The Ontario Independent Facilitation Network (OIFN) believes that Independent Facilitation alone does not afford people and families power, choice, and control over their lives. It does, however, contribute to a broader, inclusive framework that acknowledges the uniqueness and the value of each person.

OIFN envisions a developmental service system where the voices of people are heard and strengthened by their family and/or loved ones. We believe that each person has the capacity to express their will and their preferences in some way and can be involved in imagining better, directing their life, and taking charge of key decisions with the support of others.

This Framework for an Ordinary, Everyday Life is comprised of a number of separate functions that work together to support people to take on valued social roles and to be engaged and contribute to their neighbourhoods and communities:

- Adequate Individualized Funding
- Customized, affordable, and accessible housing resources
- Direct support resources
- Administrative resources
- Inclusive neighbourhood and community resources
- Independent Facilitation (action-oriented support to figure things out)

This framework is rooted in beliefs around full citizenship. Every person has a right to the same freedoms, responsibilities, and opportunities. For people to live ordinary, everyday lives that gives them meaning and purpose, they need individualized supports that offer rich experiences to build from. People and their families and/or loved ones need to be supported to explore and discover neighbourhood and community resources, including those in leisure, education and ongoing learning, employment and volunteerism, cost effective and personalized housing solutions, facilitation support, and transportation. This framework outlines the foundation for an ordinary, everyday life as a contributing citizen and recognizes the inherent challenges and roadblocks that are faced by people with developmental disabilities, along with their family members and/or loved ones.

This framework draws on the foundational work of provincial grassroots organizations, including:

- Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario (IFCO)
- Family Alliance Ontario (FAO)
- People First of Ontario (PFO)
- Special Services at Home/Passport Provincial Coalition (SSAH-PC)
- Ontario Independent Facilitation Network



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Developed from: *Weaving A Story of Change*; *A Person Directed Infrastructure: Creating Structures and Resources that Support Citizenship*; *OIFN Citizen-focused Framework*.

Foundational References: *Common Vision for Real Transformation Parts One and Two, 2005* - co-authored by Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario (IFCO), Family Alliance Ontario, People First of Ontario, Special Services at Home Provincial Coalition; *IFCO Ad Hoc Paper on Direct Funding, 2011*; *Working Toward an Empowerment Model, 2004*.

A Framework for an Ordinary, Everyday Life - *DRAFT*



Independent Facilitation

Action-oriented support to figure things out



Adequate Individualized Funding

Flexibility, ease of access, portability, provision of safeguards



Direct Support Resources

Recruiting, interviewing, selecting, training, scheduling, supporting



Administrative Resources

Plain language, easy accounting, payroll support



Inclusive Neighbourhood and Community Resources

Places of belonging, opportunities for inclusive education, lifelong learning, work, volunteering, and leisure



Customized Housing Resources

Individualized, affordable, accessible, sustainable, rental and ownership options

**A Rich,
Meaningful Life**

With the same freedoms,
responsibilities, and
opportunities as any
other citizen



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