

Inadequate Funding Puts Kids at Risk

In 1998 the Minister of Community and Social Services established benchmarks for funding based on caseload volumes.

At that time, Ministry staff promised to review the funding formula at the end of 3 years.

It quickly became obvious to both management and front line staff that the benchmarks are inadequate.

For example, the Ministry funds the agency 3 hours a month for workers to provide parental support to older teens on semi-dependant living. That's inadequate!

The Ministry funds the agency 12.5 hours for an investigation. That's inadequate!

The Ministry funds the agency 5 hours per month to monitor children at risk in their own homes. Inadequate!

Both OPSEU and the OACAS have done workload studies, which prove that the benchmarks are inadequate.

In 2001 the Ministry went back on its promise to review the funding formula even though it has been clearly shown that the benchmarks are inadequate.

OPSEU has repeatedly asked the government to negotiate changes to the funding formula based on the reality of frontline workload. The government has repeatedly ignored these requests.

Inadequate Funding = Unmanageable workload

