

J O I N T D E C L A R A T I O N

Fourth Annual Development Service Worker Appreciation Day

January 20, 2010, marks the Fourth Annual Developmental Service Worker Appreciation Day. Since first marking this day in 2007, unions and employers have come together to celebrate the contribution that developmental service workers make to the lives of individuals and their communities.

Developmental service workers expect that this recognition be reflected in a commitment to improving compensation and raising the profile of this vital work. The value placed on developmental service workers reflects the value that society places on supporting individuals who have an intellectual disability.

The government has initiated a process to develop a new HR strategy intended to address sector issues including the retention problem within this sector.

It is important that government, employers and unions come together to seek solutions that will improve services and support workers to stay in the field.

We urge the government to recognize that additional educational and training opportunities will not have a significant impact unless workers are competitively compensated and supported to make developmental services a career choice.

Today we take the time to thank and recognize the difference that workers make in the lives of those with developmental disabilities. You provide the bridge to social inclusion to people who you support across this province and we thank you.

We celebrate the commitment and professionalism of developmental service workers who provide daily, compassionate care in agencies across this province.

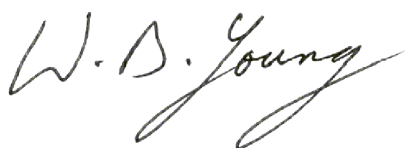
Signatories



Warren (Smokey) Thomas
President
OPSEU



Fred Hahn
President
CUPE



Brian Young
President
OASIS