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Community Living Ontario Commends Ontario Government for RDSP Exemptions
Says Clawback Exemptions Are a Positive Step in Reducing Poverty Experienced by People Who Have an Intellectual Disability

December 1, 2008 – TORONTO – Community Living Ontario, an advocacy organization for people who have an intellectual disability, welcomes the Ontario Government's decision to allow investments in the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) without it affecting people's disability income.

The RDSP was announced in the 2007 federal budget and is similar to a Registered Education Savings Plan. The RDSP allows people who have a disability, their families, and friends to invest in a savings plan over time to save for their future.

"An RDSP, in combination with ODSP benefits, will be of great benefit to families who are often overwhelmed by the added load of finding adequate dollars to support their loved ones in the midst of reduced government services," says Dave Killins, President of Mississauga Homes for Independent Living.

About half of the provinces and territories have introduced measures to ensure that funds held in an RDSP do not affect eligibility for social assistance, and that payments from the savings plan do not result in a clawback of benefits from provincial programs like the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP). Recently, Community Living Ontario joined a coalition of disability organizations in calling for similar exemptions in this province.

The new exemptions will ensure that RDSP contributions do not impact eligibility for social assistance in Ontario and that people who receive social assistance can withdraw money from an RDSP without it affecting their social assistance payments.

"We commend the Ontario Government for hearing the voices of families and advocates on this issue. These changes provide a significant opportunity for people who have a disability to save for their future," said **Gordon Kyle, Director of Social Policy and Government Relations**. "We see the exemptions as a positive first step in reducing the poverty experienced by the majority of Ontarians who have an intellectual disability."

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Media Contact: Abigail Brown, Community Living Ontario
Office: 416-447-4348 ext. 224; **Cell:** 416-735-3101; **E-mail:** abigail@communitylivingontario.ca

Community Living Ontario is a province-wide federation that promotes and facilitates the full participation and inclusion of people who have an intellectual disability. More than 12,000 people are members of Community Living Ontario through membership in 117 affiliated local associations. Community Living provides direct support and services to people who have an intellectual disability, helps communities build the capacity to support people, and advocates for social change toward the full inclusion of all people in community.

Supporting people who have an intellectual disability

Nous offrons notre soutien aux personnes ayant une déficience intellectuelle

240, ch. Duncan Mill Rd., Suite/bureau 403
Toronto, ON M3B 3S6

tel/téléphone: 416-447-4348
fax/télécopie: 416-447-8974

info@communitylivingontario.ca
www.communitylivingontario.ca