



## Surrey Place Centre Welcomes Minister of Children and Youth Services Autism Announcement - Transforming Ontario Autism Services

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**Toronto, June 8, 2017** – The Honourable Michael Coteau, Minister of Children and Youth Services, announced today that the Ontario government is transforming the way that children and youth with autism, and their families will receive services and supports, beginning later this month.

As part of the new Ontario Autism Program (OAP) autism services for children and youth will be delivered consistently across the province, allowing for flexibility and choice based on each child's need.

On June 26, families will begin to transition to the new OAP. The new program will include a single point of access; be based on family-centred decision making; and allow for services to be flexible and individualized.

The Minister also announced today that safe and effective autism services are a priority. The province intends to regulate practitioners in order to help ensure families receive high quality services. "At Surrey Place Centre, and at any of our partner agencies, families can rest assured and feel confident that our services are administered with the highest quality, evidence based approach," said Mr. Steven Finlay, Chief Executive Officer of Surrey Place Centre. "We know that applied behavioural analysis (ABA) strategies are being used in many other fields, so today's announcement about regulating practitioners is welcomed."

To learn more about the OAP please visit the Government of Ontario's website at [Ontario.ca/autism](http://Ontario.ca/autism).

For the official MCYS News Release and detailed information please [click here](#).

**Minister Coteau will be hosting a tele town hall on June 27 at 5:30pm to answer parents' questions. More details will be available on [Ontario.ca/autism](http://Ontario.ca/autism).**

### **About Surrey Place Centre:**

Surrey Place Centre provides specialized clinical services that are responsive to individual need and which promote health and well-being. In addition to the direct service role, the Centre facilitates system-wide access to information and supports. Our leadership in research, evaluation and education is directed toward advancing knowledge and practice in the field and building the capacity of service systems. We are committed to supporting the social inclusion of people with developmental disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, as well as young children challenged with visual impairments. For more information visit [www.surreyplace.on.ca](http://www.surreyplace.on.ca).

### **Contact**

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