

## Media Release

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **New Online Resource to Help Families Caring for a Child or Adult with a Disability**

Community Living Essex County is excited to introduce the newly developed **Partners for Planning Resource Network**. It's an innovative online web-based resource designed to offer families caring for a relative with a disability a variety of interactive tools and strategies that will assist them in planning for and creating a good life and safe, secure future for their loved one. This is a pilot project supported by the Ministry of Community and Social services (MCSS) through Community Living Ontario and Partners for Planning with a focus on future planning. The Resource Network can be accessed through the Community Living Essex County homepage at [www.communitylivingessex.org](http://www.communitylivingessex.org). The site will provide resources to help families with the following.

- Develop and sustain supportive, lasting relationships.
- Understand legal issues (e.g., wills, trusts, supported decision-making).
  - Consider a variety of creative housing options.
  - Identify strategies to help build a meaningful day and life by leveraging community-based opportunities.

Develop a long-term financial plan that incorporates valuable resources like the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP).

The Partners for Planning Resource Network will give families immediate access to a variety of critical resources including: Over 20 live webcasts and webinars each year on topics ranging from wills and estate planning to nurturing supportive relationships, a provincial Professional Services Directory listing lawyers, accountants, independent facilitators, and financial advisors specializing in disability issues; an 'Ask-an-Expert' module providing families with pro-bono telephone consultations with a variety of professionals. As well, The Learning Centre will contain interactive and video-based modules on relationships, wills and estate planning, options for home, community contributions, and financial planning; and Good Life TV offering access to documentaries, video profiles, and recorded presentations.