

Marland bid to fund disabled wins support of Legislature

With 85 people from Community Living Mississauga watching, Ontario's Legislature has voted to reform financing for adults with developmental disabilities.

A private member's motion by Mississauga South Conservative MPP Margaret Marland passed by a 51-4 vote Thursday.

Marland called for funding to community-based groups to be improved, for funding to be individualized to each family or person

involved, and for money to be redirected from other areas to adults with developmental difficulties.

In the past few years, funds have been slashed to programs that serve developmentally-handicapped adults. Many individuals reaching 21 no longer have any programs available.

"We cannot let hard times blind us to the fact that there are people who need support from this government simply to enjoy the

basic rights and the simple pleasures that most of us take for granted," the Tory critic for disability issues said.

"There is something very, very wrong when we cannot support the vulnerable members of our society, yet we are not doing everything possible to prevent fraud, manage our resources better, and to eliminate programs that we simply do not need," the MPP said.

In the preamble to her motion, Marland

cited savings that could be made by reducing welfare, health card and workers' compensation fraud. She also cited the \$15 million cost of providing bilingual highway signs in parts of the province as an unnecessary expenditure.

While Marland's motion represents the will of the Legislature, it does not bind the government to any action on the issue. The MPP said she will keep the pressure on the NDP government to see reform is undertaken.

The News, Dec. 5, 1993

MARLAND, Margaret December 5th, 1993 MN Keel Biography Book