



# Dave Smith, MPP

## Peterborough-Kawartha

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### MPP Dave Smith Announces Investment to Support Children with Special Needs

Province investing \$1,487,968 to increase access to critical rehabilitation services in Peterborough-Kawartha

#### NEWS

August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Peterborough — The Ontario government is investing \$240 million over four years to increase access to critical rehabilitation services for children and youth with special needs and help them live happier and healthier lives. This investment is part of the 2021 Budget, Ontario's Action Plan: Protecting People's Health and Our Economy.

"We know when our kids thrive, our communities thrive. It's incumbent on all of us to ensure we invest in our children and youth by providing the support they need," MPP Dave Smith said. "Children with exceptionalities deserve every opportunity to learn, grow and thrive. Today's investment will build on our government's existing support so children in our community can live fulfilling and productive lives," MPP Smith added.

As part of this investment, \$60 million in new funding will be provided annually starting this year to build additional service capacity and increase access to [preschool speech and language services](#) and community-based and school-based rehabilitation services across the province.

"This announcement is wonderful news for Five Counties' kids and families. This investment will help decrease wait times for critical development and rehab services so more kids and families in our communities will receive timely support. Thank you, Minister Fullerton, MPP Dave Smith, Minister David Piccini, MPP Laurie Scott and all Ministers of Provincial Parliament for this investment in our kids."

"We know early intervention leads to better long-term outcomes for children and youth. By improving access to assessments and early intervention services, children can begin receiving the services they need sooner," said Dr. Merrilee Fullerton, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services. "We are making these investments, so every young person has the best opportunity to achieve their life goals and be set up for success."

As part of the \$60 million in new annual funding, Five Counties Children's Centre will receive \$1,487,968 to support the following:

Preschool Speech and Language New Budget Allocation:

- **\$311,723 – 2021/22 new investment (including annualization)** representing a 37% increase

Community-Based and School-Based Rehabilitation Services New Budget Allocation:

- **\$664,286 – 2021/22 new Total Annualized Investment** for School-Based Rehab
- **\$511,959 – 2021/22 new Total Annualized Investment** for Community-Based Rehab
- representing a 18.2% increase

The Total new Annualized Investment is **\$1,487,968**





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These investments will improve service experiences and outcomes for children and youth with special needs and their families across the Peterborough-Kawartha.

### **QUICK FACTS**

- When children in Ontario begin school, almost 30 per cent have at least one developmental vulnerability that could pose a risk to their lifelong health, learning, and behaviour.
- Early intervention and children's rehabilitation services are provided through [Ontario's Preschool Speech and Language program](#), community-based rehabilitation services or school-based rehabilitation services.
- In 2019-20, more than 53,000 children received services through Ontario's Preschool Speech and Language Program.
- Children's Treatment Centres also provided School-Based Rehabilitation Services for 71,000 students in publicly funded schools in 2019-20. Over 110,000 children and youth received rehabilitation services (occupational therapy, physiotherapy and speech-language pathology) through Children's Treatment Centres in community-based settings.
- Ontario's Action Plan: Protecting People's Health and Our Economy, brings total investments to \$16.3 billion to protect people's health and \$23.3 billion to protect our economy. Ontario's COVID-19 action plan support now totals \$51 billion.

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