

# Trustee Times



## Future planning is a positive process

It is the unknown that scares people. For parents with children who have a disability, the big unknown for them is the future. Often parents are frightened by what they think the future holds for their child who has a disability. To them it presents as a vague, scary, all encompassing chasm, dark and gloomy, with no hope – only worry. Instead parents need to look at the future and planning for it as an opportunity rather than a misfortune. It is an opportunity to shape their child's future, to be proactive and to take the lead in formulating a vision rather than passively accepting a result.

Future planning is a positive, proactive, goal directed process that allows parents the opportunity to take stock of where their child currently is, where they envision their child ( and where their child sees themselves) to be in the future, be it 6 months, 6 years or 20 years. With that picture in mind, parents can determine what they need to do to help their child reach those goals.

By setting goals, parents have a methodical process to follow to help their child attain those goals, and to work towards the vision of the future. By setting goals, parents take the lead when it comes to future planning. By taking the lead when it comes to future planning, parents change the connotation of the future.

Future planning encompasses several different components – day opportunities, housing, networks of support and estate planning. For each component there are a variety of resources available to parents, one being Support & Trustee Advisory Services.

## New and noteworthy:

### Web sites of interest:

[www.individualizedfunding.ca](http://www.individualizedfunding.ca) is the web site of the Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario which is a group advocating for individualized funding for individuals who have a disability. There are several resources available on the web site and current Ministry information as well.

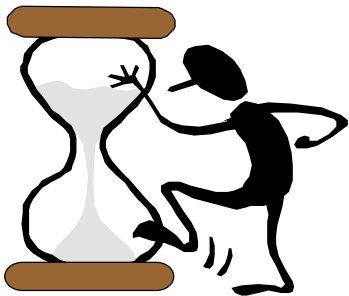
[www.archdisabilitylaw.ca](http://www.archdisabilitylaw.ca) a "legal aid" service for individuals who have a disability. The web site contains a lot of articles that have been prepared by lawyers.

### ODSP ASSET RULES:

#### **DID YOU KNOW???**

These items ***DO NOT*** affect ODSP entitlement:

1. a principal residence;
2. a second property if approved for the health and well-being of the recipient;
3. a motor vehicle of any value;
4. a second motor vehicle valued up to \$15,000 if needed by a dependant for work;
5. a prepaid funeral of any value



#### Certain funds are also exempt from being counted as an asset:

1. a trust fund created or derived from an inheritance and/or the cash surrender value of a life insurance policy, up to a cumulative total of \$100,000 for all trust funds and life insurance policies in this category;
2. a trust fund of any amount if it qualifies as a "Henson Trust" (absolute discretionary trust);
3. voluntary gifts or fund payments of up to \$5,000 during a 12 month period (not just a calendar year) for any purpose (gifts or payments from all sources are included in this limit)
4. funds used to purchase disability related items and services (no financial limit);
5. interest earned on cashable assets;
6. a compensation award of up to \$100,000 for pain and suffering, or for actual expenses;
7. business assets of up to \$20,000 for ODSP recipients who are self-employed (plus "tools of the trade")
8. loans made for an approved purpose, such as approved business expenses, and education and training.

Art work for sale~~~~STAS fundraiser~~~~Art work for sale~~~~



*Sleighride* – Joyce Betts - 34" w x 25"



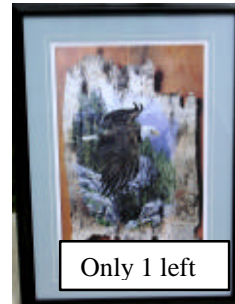
*Carousel*- Virginianne - 27" w x 33-1/2" h



*Marvin the Martian*  
–P. Vought –  
25-1/2" x 25-1/2"



*Voices from the North Shore*  
–Paul Livingston –  
32" w x 26-1/2" h



*Regal Impressions II*  
–Paul Livingston –  
25" w x 34" h

To order, simply contact the STAS office and we will be happy to assist you in purchasing a picture. These beautifully mounted and framed prints are available at the amazing price of \$250.00 each. All proceeds from the sale of these prints goes to Support & Trustee Advisory Services.

*Please note that the information provided in this newsletter is for information purposes only. Parents are encouraged to thoroughly research their options before they do anything else.*



## New members wanted!

To join STAS, simply  
complete the information  
request form at the end of

To learn more about STAS, simply complete the form below and mail or fax it to STAS at 905-542-0987. Alternately, contact our coordinator, Sue Taggart at 905-542-2694 ext. 2312 or 905-453-8841 ext. 548:

I want to learn more about STAS!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ home

\_\_\_\_\_ work

- I want to be a member! My registration form and fee are included!
- I want to purchase a print - please contact me!
- I want to be contacted regarding future planning!