

LATEST SHIFT IS 'ENCOURAGING'

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ernment to suspend the proposed plan.

"(Therapy) is expensive. It can be up to \$80,000 per year," he told the Milton Champion. "That's why you see parents fighting so hard to sustain that therapy."

The motion says that the funding "will not address the critical need for assistance for families not only in their younger years" but also after the age of 18 and that "thousands of families currently receiving services could see drastic cutbacks."

It also says that about 1,000 students with autism will be sent to school as families lose funding, leaving educators poorly equipped with the resources required to pro-

vide specialized care and a higher level of assistance for the children.

In light of the latest shift, Cluett is "encouraged" to see that the government is "listening."

His hope is for them to continue the conversation with parents and service providers and take a multi-faceted approach to come up with a sustainable solution.

As the new action plan is being worked on, the ministry's website states that they will continue funding for families currently receiving therapy "until its end date" with a

possible six-month extension after.

Fox can't wait to see the implementation of a needs based program.

She hopes that her 15-year-old son, who is on a waitlist for applied behavioural analysis therapy, can get into the program.

She also wants to see some consistency and less of "one minute you have a program, next minute it's taken away" approach.

"We don't want another half program that in the next two or three years we have to protest and go through all this heartache all over again," she said.

STORY BEHIND THE STORY:

Melanie Fox recently spoke at council on the challenges she and her autistic son now faced. We reached out to Fox and a local councillor to get their reactions.

HOW TO HAVE YOUR SAY WITH HALTON HILLS HYDRO

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Halton Hills Hydro is inviting customers to have their say with the launch of a new customer engagement website. The site, titled Have Your Say, will gather input into the hydro company's five-year planning process for the 2021-2025 Distribution System Plan, to be submitted to the Ontario Energy Board for approval.

"Gaining input from a wide range of customers is important to us," Art Skid-

more, CEO and president of Halton Hills Hydro, said. "We realize that traditional phone surveys and public meetings can be inconvenient for customers. The online platform provides an easy way for customers to engage and share their thoughts."

Through surveys, polls and idea forums, custom-

ers will be able to comment around a number of topics including reliability, safety, automation and cost. The site will also provide information about Halton Hills Hydro projects and the rate-setting process.

"Halton Hills Hydro is demonstrating leadership in the industry through implementing an innovative, cost effective approach to customer engagement," Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette said.

The site, haveyoursay.haltonhillshydro.com, is open throughout 2019 with a final report to be published on the Have Your Say website in 2020.

Customers can also provide input by using the hashtag #HaveYourSayHHH on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

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